

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday March 6, 2023
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

Max Franklin
Brandon Chordas
Mary Wysong
George Bennett
Tom Janes
Trey Forbes
Doug Harp

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners
Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Steve Garbacz, KPC Media
Zack Smith Highway Engineer 2024
Richard Rogers, Highway Supervisor

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

George Bennett reminded the council members of correspondence received from the Noble County Assessor concerning a webinar on Maximum Levies. He thought this might be helpful as the council deals with budgeting.

MINUTES

Max Franklin moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0. With Doug Harp abstaining due to the fact that he was not in attendance at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, asked the council to begin thinking about the county approved abatement visits. There is a new director at the EDC and she was unsure if they would be spearheading this year's visits. The Council asked Jackie to contact the EDC and talk to the director as to their plans for 2023. Jackie contacted the EDC after the meeting and spoke with Lori Gagen as the director was not in the office. Lori thought that they plan to do this again this year but will speak with director when she is back in the office. Lori will get back with the county once she has verification from the director.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present to update the commissioners on the construction side of the Highway department:

- Richard said that the department was dealing with everything the last couple of week. First with water and flooding and then with the snow on Friday/Saturday. Now back to water issues with the melting of the snow.
- The department continues with patching and grading of the dirt roads.
- Richard reported that there are a number of training sessions set for the crews at the highway such as pipe line training and chip and seal equipment training.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, updated the commissioners on the engineering portion of the department:

- Application has been submitted for HMA for this year. Zack is hoping to hear some time in April if the county received the award.
- Pulvers Asphalt got the bid for the 2nd half of 202³ for the HMA projects. Their bid was just over \$1,000,000.00

- 400 N – the engineering estimate for this project was at 2.5 million. Bids came in at 3.89 million. Zack was able to still get this fully funded to the project will proceed.
- Bridge 136 – however – was estimated to be 3.8 million and came in at 6.4 million. This project is on hold until further work can be done to either lower the cost or get this fully funded. Zack is hoping for an October letting at this point.
- Zack had sent a funding update presentation to all council members. This shows how funding is done at the state level and how the apportionment to the county is derived.

ANNEX UPDATE

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following report for the commissioners:

- Blinds – Zack reported that they would be upgrading the blinds in dispatch and adding some blinds at the assessor's office.
- Acoustic paneling will be installed in the lobby area
- Weigant will be working on finishing the shell – at an approximate cost of \$200,000.00 + - on the first floor to accommodate the courts.
- American StructurePoint is submitting the New Annex for the "project of the year" award. A video was provided to the councilmen to review.
- Zack, along with American StructurePoint, have been working on a memorial plaque for Dave Dolezal. There was a suggested sample sent to the council for review.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following information for the council:

- Zack is reporting that if everything comes together concerning this project - that being funding, temporary spaces, and timely moves that this project should begin sometime in August.
- Zack has a consulting service agreement with Peters Franklin LTD for this project. The Commissioners have approved and signed the agreement pending Council approval. Motion to approve the agreement came from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
- Max Franklin also moved to approve the bond counsel of ICE Miller to handle financing. Doug Harp seconded and motion carried 7-0.
- The county, along with council, Zack and County Attorney Dennis Graft, will be negotiating with local bank as to funding of this project.
- Temporary housing for the clerk. Zack has a lease agreement for the council to review for TBE -113 Investments for leasing of a building at 113 W Jefferson St. Zack told the council that originally the probation department had agreed to move to the Hazel St leased building for the duration of the renovation. He told the council that they had a walk through of the building that housed 21 employees of the prosecutor's office and were okay with their employees – numbering 23 – at this location. Subsequently, the lease of the drug court building with John McGill was terminated and they moved to the Hazel street location. After that – Gary Leatherman and Zack were informed that there were partitions removed and that this space was no longer going to be big enough. At that time, they began looking for more space to house the rest of probation that was at the courthouse. The original plan had the clerk's office going to Weber Road. Now the rest of probation will be moving to the Weber Rd facility which left no where for the clerk to go. Gary and Zack indicated that there was little to choose from that would be in close proximity to the courts which will be temporarily housed at the new annex. The building at 113 Jefferson meets the space requirements for the 10 staff at the clerk's office but does need upgrades to become efficient for the needs of the clerk. An upgrade to the building was estimated to cost \$99,930.00. In speaking with the owner, he indicated that he could do the work for around 89,151.00. A copy of the lease agreement is contained in this file. Council members were highly irritated by the fact that we had given up a rented building that cost around \$900.00 a month and because the planned space was no longer acceptable by Probation, the county was now going to have to pay to get a leased building up to standard at a cost of \$59,000.00 plus and pay \$2,500.00 a month rent for the property. Much discussion continued about this situation including again renting the space of McGills and moving the department back to that location. This also comes with a price of moving. This too would then delay the project. Finally, a decision was made to proceed with the lease as present pending commissioner approval. The motion came from Doug Harp and was seconded by Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 7-0.

- Jackie brought up the fact that the probation department was paying the rent for the McGill property and thought that this might be a way of lessening the burden – if probation would continue to pay the \$900.00+ that they were paying for rent out of Community Corrections. Doug Harp moved to approve the request to the Community Corrections Board. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
- Zack also had an estimate for the cost of cameras and panic buttons at the Weber Road facility. Brandon Chordas asked if these could be relocated once we were done with the Weber Road building. Zack told the council that these were the ones used at all facilities and could be relocated. The estimate for this service came in at \$8,493.48 and was approved and seconded by the council with the vote at 7-0.
- Weigand had been asked to look at roofing issues that have been happening at the courthouse and two recommendations were made:
 1. Repairs to the metal roof that consist of flashing repairs along with reapplication of sealant joints should be considered
 2. Replacement of EPDM membranes over the low slope roofs should be anticipated. No cost estimates were given at this time.
- The last thing discussed was the elevator. Zack told the commissioners that the elevator at the courthouse was “old” and that parts and even people to work on the older models of these elevators were hard to find. This is the old pulley system which today’s elevators have motors to run them. Zack has an estimate to explore options for the elevator at the courthouse. This is at a cost of \$2200.00.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present to update the council on his department:

- CCD Claims - Max is requesting that the following claims be paid from the CCD Fund
 1. Big C Lumber \$135.36
 2. Equiparts \$1,087.26 for a total of \$1,222.62.

Motion to approve the claims came from Doug Harp and was seconded by Max Franklin. Motion carried 7-0.

- Max is telling the council that the grants that he receives for special operations such as “operation pull over” and OWI grants would like to pay double time rather than just the traditional time and one half. He wanted to make sure that there was nothing needed as far as approval to do so. Dennis Graft, County Attorney, indicated that the grants would determine the amount paid and that anyone receiving those grants would have to comply.
- Max had received a copy of the sheriff’s pension recommended payment for sheriff’s pension for 2024. This is \$381,000.00 and will need to be budgeted for 2024. This is typically paid from Riverboat, public safety, rainy day and the police pension fund that is funded through fines and forfeitures.
- Max reported that the repairs at the jail were coming along nicely with the company is finishing up the water lines. He reported that the company is still waiting on the chiller and some pump racks.

TRANSFER

Superior I has submitted a transfer request to transfer \$4,000.00 from 1000-14703-038 special appointments to 1000-31202-038 Physicians. Motion to transfer came from Doug Harp. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

- There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday April 3, 2023

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2023


Trey Forbes


Max Franklin

Mary Wysong
Mary Wysong

Tom Janes
Tom Janes

Doug Harp
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Michelle Mawharta

Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor
Michelle Mawharta

Brandon Chordas
Brandon Chordas

George Bennett
George Bennett