

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday May 1, 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  
Matt Getts, KPC Media

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

Mary Wysong thanked the council for all that everyone did for her at the recent loss of her husband.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee reports were made by Max Franklin, Brandon Chordas and George Bennett and Doug Harp, reporting on various meetings and compliance visits with companies with abatements.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ron Raypole, REMC CEO, was present to talk to the council about a grant proposal. Ron explained that the REMC will be a subrecipient through the state for a grant that will allow them to upgrade a substation around Ege. The upgrade will allow the substation to tie into 3 other substations and allow REMC to provide better service. Ron is asking for a letter of support but no financial commitment from the county. Mary Wysong moved to have council president sign the letter of support. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0 with George Bennett abstaining from the vote due to his membership on the REMC Board.

**HIGHWAY**

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

- Richard reported that the department is continuing spring work in preparation for the summer construction season. Patching, culvert work grading etc.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering update for the council:

- CCMG - the state awarded Noble County \$1,000,000.00 for the HMA project again this year. Since the award from last year was late in coming that will combine with this years award and will allow the county to do 23-25 miles of paving in 2023. The grant money from last year will be used mainly on the east side of the county with this years award being used for the roads in the south central Noble County.

- Zack was awarded one LPA project on a 90/10 split. This was for the safety project on 100 N at 50 W.
- All of the other LPA projects are running smoothly with Bridge 136 and Bridge 44 set for October letting.
- 400 N – the county has completed the right of way clearing and now it is up for REMC for utility relocation.
- Zack reported that road rating work will begin soon with a report to follow.

#### ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update for the new annex

- Zack reported a few punch list item such as signage still needing done
- The blinds have been shipped so that work should be complete soon.
- The acoustic panel have been installed in the main lobby and Zack is reporting a huge improvement.
- Shell space – a contract has been signed with Weigand for the shell space finish and work should begin shortly.
- Zack reported that the new annex project was awarded the Public Works Project of the Year with an award presentation to be made on May 18 at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Indianapolis.

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, talked a little bit about the additional appropriation that the council will be approving at the public hearing at 2:00PM. He also reported that the county attorney and himself were working on an advertisement for the local banks for the BAN as the additional money needed for the renovation of the courthouse.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anne Lowe, Noble County Health Nurse, came before the council to request permission to include a per diem for the employee who will be the lead risk assessment manager. The blood test level has been lowered from 10 to 5 and consequently there are more cases being reported. The case reported includes home visits to determine the cause of the lead risks. Anne indicated that the per diem would be \$2,500.00 and come from the Tobacco Master fund. Doug Harp moved to approve the per diem to be paid to the blood risk assessor out of the grant fund. Brandon Chordas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Anne's second request was for her school liaison nurse go from part time to full time. Anne indicated that the schools have really opened up and are very appreciative of the help that the health department is offering through this program. Anne calculated the cost of the PERF, SS and Health insurance, along with cost of living raises over the next 7 years and has enough money in the grant funds to fully fund this position for the next 7 years. The council would like to see something added to the job description that would indicate that this is a "grant" funded position and that when grant money is no longer available – this position will no longer be in place. Tom Janes moved to allow the hiring of this position and make it a full-time position contingent on grant funding for all costs of the position. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

An ordinance of Noble County appropriating the proceeds of its general revenue bond anticipation notes was held. This will allow the county to use these BAN funds once secured from the bank. The total appropriation was done in the amount of \$4,350,000.00 for the Courthouse renovation to be used in conjunction of ARP money. Mary Wysong moved to approve the appropriation. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

#### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The plan commission is asking for an additional for professional services in the amount of \$1,700.00 to incorporate the solar ordinance into the complete UDO ordinance. Max Franklin moved to approve the additional for 1000-32202-027 in the amount of \$1,700.00. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

There was also an additional for the security cameras and panic buttons to be installed at the Weber Road facility during the temporary housing of the probation department. The equipment will then be moved to the courthouse once the renovation is complete. Motion to approve the \$33,000.00 for 1186-31002-548 for this project was made by Doug Harp and seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 7-0.

#### TRANSFER

Noble Superior Court I is requesting a transfer of funds:

Decrease 1000-14713-038 Mediation \$2,500.00

Increase 1000-31202-038 Physicians \$2,500.00

Motion to approve this request came from Doug Harp and was seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 7-0.

#### CCD CLAIMS

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is requesting that repairs to the over<sup>head</sup> doors at the jail be paid for from the CCD Fund. The amount of the claims was \$16,550.00 and was approved with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Trey Forbes. Motion carried 7-0.

Max also is giving the council members a "heads up" for an additional that will come before them next month. He is asking for \$170,000.00 in part time overtime pay. Max told the council that there have been a large amount of hospital duties this year and that along with the jail staffing has a need for this increase. Max tries to keep the comp time at 24 hours for his department and once that is reached has decided to pay the overtime. No decision is needed at this meeting as the additional will be advertised and come before the council at the June 5 2023 meeting.

#### RAINY DAY

George Bennett had asked that Jackie explain the rainy day fund to the council members. This fund was set up in 2008 with no particular revenue stream until 2015 when there was an ordinance done to put all interest proceeds into the Rainy Day fund. At this time, we are planning to pay back the BAN out of the Rainy Day fund. Currently we are on track to make more than \$500,000.00 a year in interest income. The council also decided to watch this fund carefully and monitor receipts and expenditure with the hope of maintaining a million-dollar balance at all times.

#### CF-1

The council members had made visits to the industries that they had granted abatements to over the years. This was to make sure that the industries were in compliance with the promises made at the abatement meeting. Most of the CF-1's were in and Mary Wysong made the motion to allow George Bennett to sign the CF-1's that were in and any future one that was received by May 15, 2023. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday, June 5, 2023

Dated this 5 day of June, 2023

ABSENT  
Trey Forbes

[Signature]  
Max Franklin

[Signature]  
Mary Wysong

[Signature]  
Brandon Chordas

[Signature]  
Tom Janes

[Signature]  
George Bennett

[Signature]  
Doug Harp

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor