

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY August 2, 2021
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present:

Jerry Jansen
Mary Wysong
Denise Lemmon
Tom Janes
George Bennett
Doug Harp
Bernie Lawson

ALSO, PRESENT:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

- Denise Lemmon, Council President, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00PM.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Jerry Jansen. Motion carried 6-0. Tom Janes did not vote as he did not attend the July meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jerry Jansen reported that the Salary Committee had met and discussed the job that had recently been factored. After review of the factored jobs and the points scored with in the existing matrix system and the salaries requested fall within those guidelines.

George Bennett reported on a meeting that he had attended concerning regional development. He is reporting that the following topics were discussed:

- Remote work --- broadband infrastructure
- Workforce training
- Housing crisis
- Downtown district ---- repurposing old buildings

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present to update the Council on construction items at the highway:

- Chip Seal – Richard reported that they are down to about 1 mile of chip sealing yet to do.
- Reconstruction – they have about 3 more miles of reconstruction to do.
- Mowers are on the 2nd round of mowing in townships.
- Crack sealing is complete with about 25-30 being completed.
- The department had order 3 new mowing tractors and are still waiting on the 3rd tractor to arrive.

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

- As far as ARP funds go there is still no official guidelines as to what they can be spent for at a county level. The commissioners had a presentation for roofing at the jail and are indicating success with outside repairs to buildings (building envelope) and the usage of ARP money for these types of repairs. Also, Zack has around \$200,000.00 of lost revenue for the highway department that he plans to recover.

- Bridge Repairs – Zack told the council that he has around \$100,000.00 in bridge repairs that need to be addressed and without a cum bridge fund it is getting harder and harder to meet those expenses. Zack is lobbying for a 100% of the CCD fund to use for bridges and suggested public safety revenue as a possible place for the 25% of the CCD fund now used by the council on jail repair etc...
- LPA Project – Baseline Rd/600 E has been delayed due to “bat nesting season”. The project slated to start in July has now been moved to September/October.
- Zack reported that there are 27 parcels in the 400 N Project. All appraisals are now completed.
- The state board of accounts has begun the county audit and Zack reported that he has records digitally stored and all requested information has been sent.

COURTHOUSE ANNEX

- Zack is working with American StructurePoint on the FFE for the new annex. He is working with the 15 departments that will be moving to that location to finalize the FFE concerns.
- Zack continues to work on the low voltage systems concerning security system and IT related wiring. Dave Baum is heavily involved in this phase as well.
- A tower will be needed for the EMA radio system so that is another area to work through
- Masonry work has started along with interior work.
- Zack is hoping for some funding for moving expenses when the move occurs next spring.
- As soon as the move occurs, Zack is hoping to take the unoccupied space available at the courthouse to start the renovation process for the courthouse. Currently the plan is to house probation, the clerk and the courts at the Noble County Courthouse.

ADDITIONAL

Additional requests were requested by the health department and CEDIT.

- Public Health Vaccine

1. 7352-17211-742 perm part time nurse	\$21,840.00
2. 7352-12600-742 social security	\$ 1,671.00
3. 7352-13301-742 education & training	\$ 339.00
4. 7352-21100-742 office supplies	\$ 1,000.00
5. 7352-32101-742 contractual professionals	\$11,800.00
6. 7352-32931-742 medical supplies	\$ 3,000.00
7. 7352-32933-742 vaccines	\$35,000.00
8. 7352-35100-742 trash removal	\$ 350.00

Motion to approve the above additional requests was made by George Bennett and seconded by Jerry Jansen. Motion carried 7-0

- CEDIT

1. 1112-47826-312 Little Long/Round Lake project	\$85,000.00
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Motion to approve this additional request came from Tom Janes with a second coming from Bernie Lawson. Motion carried 6-0 with Jerry Jansen abstaining due to his residency.

- Local Health Maintenance

1. 1168-13700-210 part time/ hourly /overtime	\$17,500.00
2. 1168-12600-210 social Security	\$ 1,300.00

Motion to approve the above additional requests came from Jerry Jansen and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFERS

The Highway is requesting that \$107,136.02 be transferred from line item 1173-36000-116 (chip and seal) to 1173-23100-116 (sand and gravel). Motion to allow the transfer came from Jerry Jansen. Doug Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Ben Castle, Assessor, is requesting a transfer in his reassessment budget of \$1,600.00. This will decrease 1188-13301-234 education and training and increase his technical assistance line 1188-32002-234. Motion to approve this transfer came from Tom Janes and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0.

BUSCHE DBA MOBEX ABATEMENT

Time was assigned for an appeal 60 days after a non-compliance determination was made for the Busche (DBA Mobex) property located at 1584 E State Road 8 Albion Indiana. Notice was sent to the address provided on the CF1 turned into the Council in late May. No one from the company contacted

the Assessor or the Auditor's office to acknowledge the denial and or the appeal notice. No one was in attendance at today's hearing from the company. Non-Compliance and denial of the abatement for 2022 stands.

STATEWIDE 911

Shelley Coney, 911 Director, was in attendance to request a raise in part time pay for newly hired dispatchers. She indicated that she currently pays \$12.00 an hour. Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, informed the group that the current salary ordinance provides for a \$10- \$14.00 an hour pay for part time employees. Shelley indicated that she was unaware of this. She is wanting to pay \$17.00 an hour. For dispatchers, the salary ordinance indicated \$10-14 dollars an hour for untrained and once trained go to the hourly rate of full time lowest paid dispatcher which is currently 19.16 an hour. After some discussion the council members suggested paying \$14.00 rather than the \$12.00 and they would further discuss this at the upcoming budget hearings.

TAX UNIT REVIEW OF LEVY AND TAX CAPS

The Noble County Council reviewed the Noble County taxing units estimated Maximum Levies as well as the Tax Cap impacts for 2022. Units reviewed were: Albion Township, Allen Township, Elkhart Township, Green Township, Jefferson Township, Noble Township, Orange Township, Perry Township, Sparta Township, Swan Township, Washington Township, Wayne Township, York Township, Kendallville City, Ligonier City, Albion Town, Avilla Town, Cromwell Town, Rome City, Central- East and West Noble Schools, Kendallville, Ligonier and Noble County Libraries. With a motion from Jerry Jansen and a second from Doug Harp, all units will be sent a letter signed by Council President with the following statement: "Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-17-3.6, the Noble County Council hereby recommends that your taxing unit stay within the maximum tax levy as set forth in the attached Calculation of the estimated maximum levy for budget year 2022 from the Indiana State Department of Local Government Finance". Motion carried 7-0. Letter and copy of the DLGF estimated maximum levy along with the unit's tax cap impact report was sent to each unit by 1st class mail on 8/10/2021 by Jackie Knafel.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Tuesday September 7, 2021.

Dated this 7 day of Sept, 2021

Bernie Lawson
Bernie Lawson

ABSENT
Jerry Jansen

Mary Wysong
Mary Wysong

Denise Lemmon
Denise Lemmon

Tom Janes
Tom Janes

George Bennett
George Bennett

Doug Harp
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Tonya L Jones
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor