

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD October 23, 2017**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 A.M. on the 23rd day of October, 2017, in the Commissioners Court in the Noble County Courthouse, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

Present were:

Gary Leatherman, President
Dave Abbott, Member
Dave Dolezal, Vice President

Also present were:

Jacqueline L. Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts from KPC Media
Derek Faulk, Wilcox Environmental Engineering
Diane Scott- West Lakes Association
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector
Doug Keenan, Extension Agent
Kim Carson, Assessor
Norm Lortie, Building Inspector
Scott Minick and Jen Grawcock, United Consulting.
Lesley Derbeck and Allen Howard, Star Insurance

Gary Leatherman, President of the Commissioners, brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:30AM

LANDFILL

Derek Faulk, Wilcox Environmental Engineering was present to discuss the following landfill information:

- Derek is reporting back to the commissioners his findings about land applying leachate from the landfill. Derek indicated that the leachate must be tested prior to even submitting the application to allow land application. Derek reported that the testing was not too expensive. He feels that it would – if allowed – would pay for itself through less hauling and no cost for leachate disposal.
- On the recent inspection, it was discovered that 2 wells had issues. One where the cap wouldn't close and the other had a cap that was broken.
- 2 other wells – there were loose casings and would needed to be filled with dirt or pea gravel.
- The commissioners are looking to possibly purchase part of the property to the west of the landfill and was asking Derek questions about requirements for leachate if purchased. Derek indicated that he thought that IDEM would require a pump to be installed but also thought that since the property was outside the actual landfill that the land application – if allowed by IDEM could take place on that ground.
- November will be the last month for methane monitoring and if the levels continue to be low as they have been we will be able to go back to bi-annual testing.
- Derek is also wanting to know if the Commissioners want to pursue the insurance issue for the landfill. Derek has a contact for the commissioners if they wish to go this route.
- Dave Dolezal asked Derek about the information for Karen Platt. Derek indicated that all of the information that he had sent to the commissioners was of public records and could be sent to Karen to satisfy her request. Jackie will send this information to the e-mail address provided by Dave Dolezal. (sent to Karen 10/23/17 at 1:02pm).

WEST LAKES

Diane Scott, president of the West Lakes Homeowners Association, was present to give an update on the progress of the association since the flooding that occurred earlier this year. Diane reported the following information:

- Diane reported on the 3 meetings that were held July 12, 18 and 26th and reported that all were well attended and that a lot of good information came from the meetings.

- Aid & Recovery was provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, United Way Day of Caring, Noble County EMA, etc...
- Diane reported that there were many residents involved in the many river clean- up days that occurred July through October.
- She also reported on the repairs and remodels that have happened in the West Lakes area as well as some demolitions.
- Diane also reported on the USACE meeting that included multi-agency discussions.
- She finished her presentation with 10 action plans that have now become projects with project leaders being appointed.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers was in attendance in the absence of Mark Goodrich, who is on vacation. Richard has the following information for the commissioners:

- Utility Permits – this is from NIPSCO and is a resubmission with the company moving the line per the request of the department. Permission to issue the permit was a motion from Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Driveway permit - a request for a second drive came from a resident on 400 S. This is less than 100 feet from the current drive but poses no sight distance or drainage concerns according to Richard. Dave Abbott moved to approve the permit. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Crack sealing should be complete the end of this month or the 1st of next month and 18 sub divisions were completed this year.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to report to the commissioners:

- Bridge 147 – Zack reported that this bridge is in the process of securing right of way permits.
- Bridge 136 – Zack reported that all contracts have been submitted – just waiting on the notice to proceed.
- Bridge 134 – this bridge had a condition rating of 4 and will now be on the yearly inspection list. Zack has a quote from Blakley's out of Indianapolis who can do a fiber wrap casing system in the amount of \$25,000.00. Once this process is complete, this will take the bridge off of yearly inspections. Zack indicated that he has money in the bridge fund to pay for this expense. Dave Dolezal moved to allow the repair work to Blakley in the amount of \$24,463.00. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Baseline Road / 600 E project - with the notice to proceed being received on this project, surveying has begun in the area.
- Bridge 77 – the survey work on this bridge is complete
- Bridge 16 - work is complete on this bridge and work has begun on Bridge 24. Zack committed that - in the first project by this company, RL McCoy – he was very pleased with their work and professionalism.
- LPA Call for projects – Zack said that the bridge project and road project were both submitted the first week that the call for projects opened. He is unsure how soon we will know if either or both of those projects will be accepted.
- Concrete recycling project is complete and this product will be used for road construction next year in Green and Swan townships.
- Knapp Lake Speed Ordinance – this has been advertised and is set for public hearing with the commissioners on November 13, 2017
- Tires – Zack has a request for permission to purchase tires for the shop. This is a purchase in the amount of \$12,548.80 and will allow tires to be stocked rather than purchased when needed. Dave Abbott moved to approve the purchase. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- The new Ford pickup that was purchased for the highway is in and Zack reported that he would be picking it up sometime this week.

4-H WEEK

Doug Keenan, 4-H Extension Agent, is present to request that the week of October 22-28, 2017 be proclaimed 4-H Week in Noble County. Doug reported that 4-H reaches over 600 young people in Noble County and includes over 200 adult volunteers. Motion to proclaim October 22-28 as 4-H week came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.
ASSESSOR

Kim Carson, Noble County Assessor, is present to open the only bid received by Noble County for trending. Kim indicated that bids were to be received by October 20, 2017 and that only one was received by her office. The bid was opened by the commissioners and reviewed by County Attorney Dennis Graft. Motion to accept the bid from Equalval Tax Solutions in the amount of \$32,500.00 was made by Dave Dolezal and seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Norm Lortie, Noble County Building Inspector, is before the commissioners for a review of 3 properties discussed earlier as unsafe structures.

- A property owned by the Secretary of Housing is first on the list and Norm has been in contact with HUD and indicated that they are actively seeking quotes for demolition of the property. Norm feels that this is going to be taken care of by the owner and will no longer involve the County. The commissioner set a date of December 18, 2017 to make sure progress is being made. This motion came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.
- The next property is owned by Middleton and the commissioners have set April 23, 2018 at 10:00AM as the review hearing.
- The last property is owned by Rockey. Norm indicated that he has never been able to contact the property owners and has went through all of the required channels to do the notifications. Norm is suggesting that since the property was on tax sale and did not sell so the county needs to proceed with the demolition. Dave Abbott made a motion to begin the bid process for demolition. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Bid opening will be held December 18, 2017 at 10:00AM.

BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT

Scott Minick and Jennifer Grawcock, United Consulting, are both present to give the commissioners a summary of the recent bridge inspection. A full report will be delivered to Zack soon. Scott reported that there are no new critical bridges to be added and that the bridges that were in this situation have all been scheduled for demolition of replacement. With Bridge 135 removed, Bridge 136 scheduled and in process and Bridge 135 being submitted for a future LPA project. All bridges are holding their own and Scott committed that if the bridge is open - they are safe for travel. The company would not allow the bridge to be open to travel if evidence showed the probability of failure. Scott also indicated that we are completing the final phase of the inspection process and that we would be going out to bid next year. His warning was that there will be an increase in bids as now the federal government required the testing for at least 15 types of vehicles rather than the required 3 types in prior years. This is estimated to increase data entry time from ½ hour to 4 hours which will increase costs.

RECESS 10:55PM

BACK IN SESSION 1:30PM

STAR INSURANCE

Allen Howard, Leslie Derbeck, Julie Imel and Nick, CEO of Star Insurance are all present for the proposal for the county's health insurance. The company is reporting that overall the county has had a good year with the exception of a couple of claims which were excessive. We had 4 individuals that have exceeded the \$60,000.00 stop lost and 2 of those have now been lasered up to \$200,000.00. The company came to the county will some options of deductibles, out of pocket increases and employee premium increases. The stop loss carrier was put out to bid with some companies declining the opportunity to bid and 2 coming back with bids those being HCC Life (Tokio Marine) and Gerber Life (Excess Re) – with both of these have significant increases. Using these 2 bids suggestions and quotes were given based on a \$60,000.00 \$65,000.00 and \$70,000.00 stop loss situation. Dave Dolezal made the motion to stay with Excess RE at the \$60,000.00 with a compromise as proposed by Nick to be negotiated. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The decision as to cost to the employee etc.... will be made at the November 13, 2017 meeting and open enrollment sessions will be scheduled.

FLOOD PLAIN BUYOUTS

Rod Renkenberger, Mick Newton, Diane Scott and Randy Sexton are all present for this session. The Commissioners requested this meeting to be more informed and know the processes involved with a buyout program for homeowners that apply for the buyout program. Mr. Renkenberger has been involved in these types of programs in other counties and was a great source of

information. At this time the county only had two applications – one from Waldron Lake and one from Steinbarger Lake. The first suggestion that Rod made is that buyouts be an area of homes and not one sitting here and over here etc. This process will eliminate the issue of people claiming discrimination because of buying one and not the other. Also he indicated that he didn't feel that any application to FEMA for federal funding would have a chance if there was no local Flood Mitigation Plan. After continued discussion, it was the decision of the commissioners to send letters to the two applicants that had applied to Noble County for assistance and begin the process of a Flood Mitigation Plan not just for the West Lakes Area but for all of Noble County. Dennis Graft will prepare a letter for the applicants and a committee will be developed including one commissioner, Randy Sexton and help from Rod Renkenberger with others added as necessary.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dave Baum, IT Director, was asked to come to the meeting to discuss a request from the county's plan director to use Facebook as a tool of notification to the public. The commissioners had fears of using Facebook for this type of county notification because of lack of control. Comments can – at times – get out of hand. Dave felt that the usage of Facebook would have to involve a county policy as well as monitoring early on. Dave reminded the commissioners that a few years ago, the county had a committee to work on a web page for the county and to clean up the existing webpage. Several key people who were on that committee have now left county employment and the committee fell apart. Dave would be committed to forming another committee to explore webpage and / or Facebook as a source of information to the public.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 10/26/17 for the time period of 09/29/17 through 10/12/17 containing 6 pages and totaling \$370,294.42 were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

REGULAR CLAIMS

Twelve pages of regular claims were reviewed by the commissioners. These claims totaled \$529,066.66 and were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MISC. CLAIMS

There were a couple of pages of misc. claims that were also presented to the commissioners. These mainly consisted of tax sale redemptions and surplus taxes. Motion to allow these claims came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0. The total on these claims was \$331,417.99.

COURT CLAIMS

Court Claims were also reviewed and discussed. 5 pages totaling \$80,403.02 were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. A second came from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Monthly report of the Noble County Clerk – duly entered
- Closure/ post closure plan for former Dalton Foundry for Garrett LLC. – duly entered

KPC MEDIA REQUEST

A request letter from KPC Media group was received to allow road closures on Waits Road, Southbound lane of 1000E and northbound lane of South Main St in the Kendallville area for July 21, 2018 for the annual Sprint Triathlon. Motion to approve the request was made by Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

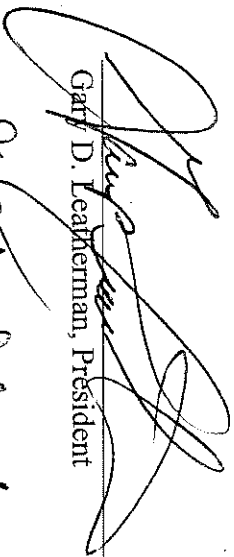
Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

QUOTES

Quotes for vehicle purchases in 2018 were received from BZ Auto for Chevy and Ford Vehicles, from Shepherds for Chevy vehicles, from Max Platt for Ford vehicles and then Enterprise Leasing for a variety of vehicles. A spreadsheet was prepared and sent with the commissioners for review.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 5:15 P.M. recessed from day to day until November 13, 2017.



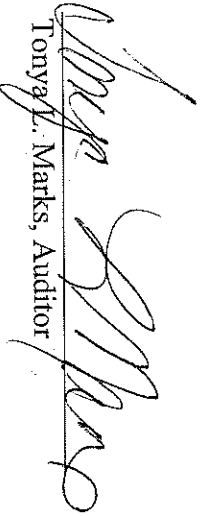
Gary D. Leathernan, President



David J. Dolezal, Vice President



David Abbott, Member

ATTESTED: 

Tonya L. Marks, Auditor