

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD February 28, 2022

Comes now the hour of 8:30 a.m. on the 28th day of February, 2022, in the Commissioners Room 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
Anita Hess, Vice President
Dave Dolezal, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zach Smith, Highway Engineer
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent

Gary Leatherman, Commissioner President, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30a.m.

PROBATION

Danyel Wagner, Asst Chief Probation Officer, along with Stacey Beam, Chief Probation Officer, are present to discuss a contract with a company to interpret for people in their system. This is a call-in situation with a "real" person and the county will be charged per hour. There is no monthly fee involved. Danyel indicated that it is \$.74 for Spanish and \$1.80 for other languages and \$2.95 for video sign language situations. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the contract and to allow Danyel to sign the contract. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.

In other business for the department, Stacey talked to the commissioners about a \$10,000.00 grant that will be available to the department. There are no employees associated with the grant – it will be used for "problem solving", drug screening costs, and training. Stacey indicated that this has nothing to do with a new program or a new employee. She also informed the commissioners that this had the judge's approvals. Motion to approve the department to proceed with the grant process for the \$10,000.00 came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is present to discuss an interlocal agreement with the Town of LaGrange. One of their deputies, will begin work with Noble County and has a K-9 dog and a car equipped for the K-9. The Town of LaGrange is willing to transfer both the dog and the vehicle to Noble County through this agreement. The County will pay \$20,001.00 to the town of LaGrange as a part of this agreement which Max indicated he will be paying out of the commissary fund. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the interlocal agreement based on the conditions stated above. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0

Max also had a discussion with the commissioners about a moisture test that was be conducted on the roof at the Noble County Jail. Based on the findings of this test, Austin Paperbrock, Garland Corp, will be able to obtain firm bids for the repair work at the jail Dave Dolezal moved to approve the work from IRT in the amount of \$2,250.00 to be paid from the ARP money. Anita Hess seconded the motion. 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 Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – Sanitary Sewer Construction Permit application - Town of Avilla duly entered
- Plan Commission / BZA - Fry Family Revocable Trust variance – notice of hearing.

- Thrive – Noble County Early Learning Coalition – request for ARP funds

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 02/24/2022 was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Anita Hess. Motion Carried 3-0. This was a 4-page report totaling \$455,600.16.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, is present for an update on construction business at the highway:

- Richard has a fiber optic request on 650 N needing approval. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the request. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The work on the roads due to the recent snow storms went very well. Crews were able to clear highways in good times.
- Now that those events are past, patching and intersection improvement work will continue in preparation for the construction season.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering update for the commissioners:

- Zack reported that the buggy plate ordinance has been advertised as part of the process for passage.
- The next round of the call for projects has been submitted – that being Bridge 59, Riley Road and Baseline Rd – Zack made his presentation on 2/1/22.
- HMA 2022-02 – notice to proceed is still pending
- 400 N – Condemnation hearing has been held.
- Bridge 136 – Zack has a couple of LPA Vouchers for approval for Bridge 136
 1. The first is for right of way services in the amount of \$23600.00 and is approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carries 3-0.
 2. The second is for professional services in the amount of \$1505.00. Motion to approve came from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- An LPA voucher was also received for Construction Engineering for the Baseline Rd/600 E project. This is in the close out phase of the project and the amount of the voucher is for \$16381.95. Motion to approve the voucher came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack reported that the contract has been received for the Ball Road project. He will review and have it at the next commissioner's meeting for signing.
- Old State Road 3 - Zack has an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$30,834.00. Motion to sign the voucher with USI came from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- Advertisement for bids for the Little/Round Lake bridge project where to be in Friday by 2:30 PM. No bids were received. Zack indicated that there are options for proceeding and advised the commissioners of those options. Zack thought that because we had chosen a summer project that most contractors already had projects in place. He thought that possibly a winter project might be more practical and even to allow the contractor to present an alternative bid design if the desired. Zack will work on a new bid package with these alternatives in place.
- Buena Vista - Anita is to meet with resident this week to discuss options.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update for the commissioners:

- Furniture has been ordered but still department heads coming in with some changes.
- Appliances have been ordered and should be delivered on time.
- Storage -- the storage areas in the basement have been sent to department heads for their comments. Recorder is wanting to make changes to the storage area in her office - this would carry some additional costs and she has been advised that this will be at her expense.
- Lastly, Zack has a letter from Weigand for their financial audit. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the letter of audit. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Construction Management – Zack reported that flooring construction continues and that close out items or a punch list will be coming in April. Possession is set for May 11, 2022

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack reported that American StructurePoint will have a finalized scope for the initial plan design.

EXTENSION

Ann Kline, Extension Agent, was present to update the commissioners on the happenings at the Extension office:

- The department has received a \$10,000.00 grant (Cooking Matters) and the department is working with the Community Learning Center to help low-income families learn more about nutrition. Cooking classes will be focused on one meal and at the end of the session the family will be provided with the groceries to fix that meal.
- The department is also focusing on "women in agriculture" with having attorneys come in for information on setting up trusts etc. also, sessions on fire safety on the farm have been reviewed.
- 4- H enrollment is complete and although Ann did not have numbers indicated that there are a number of changes being made to enhance the programs.
- She also indicated that the department is watching the area for "bird flu". Although it has not been detected in Noble County at this time – it is in the area.

CLAIMS

A report containing 12-pages and totaling \$323,288.29 was reviewed by the commissioners and approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

DISPATCH

Shelley Coney, 911 Director, was present to discuss the Motorola move and the cost associated. The original cost was just over \$30,000.00 and this quote stands at \$41,260.56 which is an increase of over \$10,000.00. Shelley was unfamiliar with what all was included in this quote as Misc. Equipment & Parts was over \$6000.00. The commissioners ask that she have Nate Jones from the IT department along with a representative from ERS come to the next meeting to explain the breakdown of costs and why there is such a dramatic increase in cost.

WEATHER PROCLAMATIONS

The weather proclamations dated 2/17/22 were signed with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

VOTING LOCATION

Tammy Bremer, Noble County Clerk, provided a copy of the voting places that she had secured for the upcoming election. She is wanting commissioners' approval for the location. After review, Dave Dolezal moved to approve the 8 locations being:

1. Bridgeway Church
2. Stone's Hill Community Church
3. Crosspointe Church
4. Blessed Sacrament Church
5. Avilla Library
6. Orange Township Fire Department
7. Cultivate Church
8. Merriman Christian Chapel

Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS BUILDING

A quote had been received from the Parkview Property Management director concerning repair to a door at the Kendallville EMS location. According to the agreement between Parkview and Noble County, Parkview will pay the first \$1,000.00 and Noble County is responsible for the rest. The quote came in at \$4,800.00. Dave Dolezal moved to approve Noble County paying \$3,800.00 of the bill to repair the employee entrance to the EMS building in Kendallville. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.

CLOSE OUT GRANT HEARING REGION 3-A

Matt Brinkman and Sandra Tamez from Region 3-A along with Gary Gatman from the EDC were present for this close out hearing for the Community block grant helping small businesses. A letter allowing

Region 3-A to conduct and transcribe the minutes for this hearing was presented for signature. Dave Dolezal moved to sign the letter and Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Sandra conducted the hearing and she explained the process in distribution of the grant dollars. Dollars went to small business and in most cases were businesses that employed less than 10 people. These dollars allowed this business to continue and retain employees. These were restaurants, salons, farms, movie theatres etc. In total \$300,000.00 was distributed to Noble County businesses. There was no public comment nor had and written comments been received by the Auditor's office. With that the public hearing was closed.

Gary remained after the public hearing and informed the commissioners that the EDC continues to work on the needs of residents in particular- Child Care for families, broadband and housing needs. When asked about the spec building, Gary indicated that he has interest from 7 individuals for the space but was unable to disclose any other information.

ST JOE RIVER BASIN

Matt Meerson, St Joe River Basin, was in attendance to discuss work that his agency is doing to reduce flooding in flood prone areas. The agency is always looking for new ways to reduce or eliminate flooding and study after study have been done. Recommendations are made and depending upon available funding every effort is being made to make changes and do what can be done to reduce impact to residences as well as prevent increase flooding downstream. Matt spoke of retention areas but that would involve land purchases. Matt did suggest updating the flood ordinance as well as the Storm Water Ordinance. Matt thought that moving the "compensatory storage" language from the flood plain ordinance might be a smart move and would alleviate some pressure from the state. Matt suggested moving that wording to the Storm Water ordinance which might add more work onto the surveyor's office. Matt indicated that his agency is looking at adding a couple of gauges upstream and hoping that the information gathered from the gauges will assist in figuring out a solution to the West Lakes area.

ADJOURNMENT:

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m. recessed from day to day until March 14, 2022.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2022



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Dave Dolezal, Member

ATTESTED: 

Tonya L. Jones, Auditor