

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD March 13, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 13th day of March. 2023 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, 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
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

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

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

TREASURER

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Treasurer, was present to talk to the commissioner's concerning policy when it came to county credit cards. She is only allowing Tim Lock to use hers at this point and is not allowing others. She is wanting to know if the commissioners want every department to have their own card or whether we should closely monitor what we purchase with a credit card. The commissioners asked that she contact other surrounding counties to see what their policy is for credit card use.

AMBASSADOR ENTERPRISES

Nicki Venable, Director of Civic Engagement, was present to introduce herself to the commissioners and inform them of the company's mission. Ambassador Enterprises is based in Fort Wayne and is privately owned and NOT politically driven. She told the commissioners that the company wants to engage people involved in running for office for the "right reasons" and have "heart for the community". They will help individuals through the process and help them learn the foundation of the office. They are mostly in Northeast Indiana at this point but plan to branch out in the future.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following construction report for the commissioners:

- Richard told the commissioners they are working with 4 seasons right now. One day it snows, then it rains, then it is 70 degrees. Then it snows again. They deal with what is happening on any given day.
- Patching and grading happen when it is possible.
- Richard reported that he has hired an individual for the right of way crew and is trying to finalize a truck driver position.
- Richard has a driveway variance for approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the 2nd drive for Bontrager. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

- Zack has the contract with Pulver's for the HMA overlay project. Pulver's were the low bid at \$1,025,090.00. Gary Timmerman moved to sign the contract. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Community Crossings award – Zack is thinking that the county may know as to whether or not we received any of the grant money by the end of March or early April.
- Bridge Inspection - Zack indicated that after all of the delays and problems that he had encountered submitted everything - that all was "back on track" as far as this project goes.
- 400 N – the site visit is complete and Zack feels that only right of way clearing will happen this year and the project construction will be a 2024 project.

- Bridge 136 – due to the large increase from engineering estimates to the actual bidding, this project is on hold and will be rebid in October.
- Weather permitting – grass seeding will be done on the Baseline Road/600 E project and this will complete this project.
- Bridge 44 – this project is also set for October letting.
- Bridge 69 – Zack has an LPA voucher for \$3,854.40 which is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Riley Road is still in the design phase of the project.
- Little Long/Round Lake culvert project is starting today.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Engineer, had the following update for the commissioners:

- Working on the final plans for completion of the shell here at the annex--- according to Zack the judge had a few changes to the original design of which they are working through those changes in the design.
- Zack also has a PCO-84 for various things that were asked to be done at the annex. This is in the amount of \$3,018.47 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carries 3-0.
- The blinds have been ordered for the dispatch unit. They are expected to take 4-6 weeks.
- There are a couple of punch list items yet to complete and the acoustic panels will be coming soon.
- The water softener has been installed so cold water has been taken care of.
- The video of the progression of the new annex will be coming soon to play of the various TVs in the annex building.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack reported that the agreements for Peters Franklin and Ice Miller were signed by the council at their last meeting so both agreements were sent to the consultants.

- Zack also has the lease agreement for the rental property on Jefferson St. The Council had approved it at their last meeting. Gary Timmerman moved to approved the agreement as well with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0. The agreement is for monthly rent in the amount of \$2,500.00 a month with a \$30,000.00 payment for upfront cost for renovation to be done by Brad Ebey or sub-contractors of his choice and the remainder of the \$59,151.00 to be paid by invoice. This will be paid from the Rainy-Day fund.
- The elevator inspection has been completed and Zack is currently waiting on the report and the cost that could bring this up to date.
- Weigand did a roof assessment of the courthouse and will be providing a scope of repair along with the cost.

STATEWIDE 911

Shellie Coney, 911 Director, came before the commissioners to request permission to pay for training for the dispatchers. It is now mandated that all dispatchers have a required amount of training. Shellie told the commissioners that she has been able to get 4 out of the 6 training sessions completed on line by all dispatchers however there is additional time that is required and Shellie is wanting to purchase software a cost of \$3,996.00 associated with that training. She has money in her budget to cover the costs. Gary Timmerman moved to approved the purchase over \$500.00. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Noble County Clerk – monthly report for February
- Indiana and Michigan – flyer concerning Energy Management Tools.
- Noble County Suicide Prevention – notification of a “Hope Walk” coming up April 2023
- Noble County Surveyor - notice of need for major tile replacement Weimer #179 hearing on March 13, 2023 11:00 am
- IDEM – Forest River permit

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

The Commissioners reviewed the claims dated March 13, 2023. The 14-page report totaled \$522,243.34 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

MISC. CLAIMS

Misc. claims were also reviewed by the commissioners. This was a 5-page report including utility payments, monthly allocations, surplus payments, etc. and totaled \$1,561,986.90. Gary Timmerman moved to approve these claims. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll is reviewed by the commissioners. This is a 3-page report that totaled \$491,389.55 and dated 03/09/2023. Motion to approve payroll is made by Gary Timmerman with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

SOUTH COMPLEX FURNACE

Rawles Services had gotten a proposal to the commissioners for one of the 5 high efficiency furnaces at the South Complex. The proposal was for \$8,000.00 with half being paid down and remainder at time of installation. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the quote for service. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

LAWN CARE

Shawn Kimmell had contacted Jackie concerning Lawn Care this year. Jackie discussed this with the commissioners and as it has been difficult in the past to even get quotes for lawn care, it was decided to allow Shawn to do the work again this year. He will be asked to again submit his proposal for all for all of the services we need provided. Jackie will contact him for that information. Gary Timmerman moved to allow Shawn Kimmell to provide lawn care services for the sheriff's department and the south complex for the 2023 season. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Natasha Zizelman, Noble County Treasurer, had provided a copy of a contract for Autoagent to handle on-line tax payments, When coming to the meeting, she indicated that she now has a meeting with her current provider and will talk with them about issues she is having and about the current price. She will report back to the commissioners about the results of that meeting but is asking that nothing be done with this contract at this time.

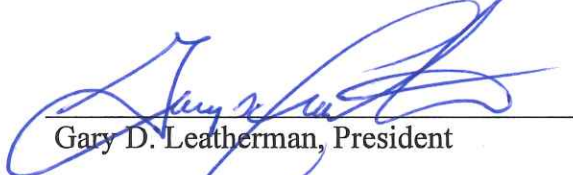
LAND

Anita Hess reported that she had spoken with the appraisers that did the appraisals on the acreage across from the landfill. They had done the appraisals almost 2 years ago and will be taking another look at the results of those findings. Gary Timmerman suggested Facebook marketplace for advertising of this land and have sealed bids. Another suggestion was to hire a realtor. We will revisit the appraisal again prior to any decision to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 10:30 am recessed from day to day until March 27, 2023

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: 
Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor