

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD September 13, 2021

Comes now the hour of 8:30 a.m. on the 13th^h day of September, 2021, 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

Absent:

Dave Dolezal

Also present were:

Jacqueline 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDOT – Rome City improvement to Northport Road
- IDEM – Notice of Public Comment for Colwell Inc.
- IDEM - Receipt of Air Permit – SEI Manufacturing Inc.
- County Treasurers Monthly report for the month of August
- Matt Brooks Consulting – Information concerning consulting service for mental health and addiction.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

CLAIMS

- Regular claims were reviewed by the commissioners. This was a 17-page report totaling \$1,780,776.83 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Utility/Misc. claims were also reviewed. The 4-page report totaled \$329,036.85. Anita Hess moved to approved this report. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.
- The last report was that of claims paid by Credit Cards. This was 4-page report that totaled \$1,116,291.94. Anita Hess approved this report with a second coming from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 09/09/2021 was reviewed by the commissioners. The 4-page report was approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. The report totaled \$429,724.45

OLD BUSINESS

After discussion at a previous meeting and the resignation of Leslee Robinson from Star Insurance, the commissioners had spoken with Cheryl Lee from Gibson who also works with Unified Insurance. An "agent of record" was received for signature. Anita Hess moved to sign the letter. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present to update the commissioners on the construction at the Highway department:

- Utility Permit – Precision Utilities Group – UP-019-21
- Utility Permit – NIPSCO - UP-023-21
- Driveway Variance – Alvin Moore on Mapes Rd is requesting a variance for a driveway permit due to a shortage in sight distance. Richard reported that even with this issue it is the best possible location. Anita Hess moved to approve the variance. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – William Routsong on Waits Road had a similar situation with the driveway being 30 feet short of sight distance. This being the best location for the drive, Anita Hess moved to approve the variance. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – Loren Hochstetler is requesting a variance for a second drive at his residence. This will be a field entrance. The property is located on 450 W and is approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – Luke Sicui on 500 E is also requesting a variance for a driveway that is 70 ft short of sight distance. Richard reported no other issues with the drive and it was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carries 2-0.
- Fiber Optic – A utility permit was approved for Ligtel for Fiber Optic in the areas of Bear Lake, Wawaka and Cromwell with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.
- Richard is reporting that Pulver's started the HMA project last week.
- Spraying of the road right of way will be done today.
- Ditching and berming continues
- Anita Hess moved to approve a sign request for the Augusta Hills Community Center on 300 N where 330 N and Long Lake Rd comes together. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- Zack and Richard reported that the new chip/seal method that they are using worked very well and was a cheaper process. With the money saved from this the department would like to transfer that money to the equipment line and purchase a new loader. The current loader is over 25 years old. They have a quote for \$244,000.00 and with a \$60,000.00 trade in offer would bring the cost to \$184,000.00. Anita Hess moved to approve the purchase. Gary Leatherman seconded and it carried 2-0.
- Zack is also requesting permission to purchase a couple of pieces of equipment for the shop. The lift quote was for \$22,131.96 and the tire changer came in at \$13,863.82. Motion to approve these purchases as well came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to update the commissioner on the engineering part of the department:

- The Community Crossing project – as reported above – has begun and should be completed within the next few weeks.
- Bridge Repairs- this work is complete except for Bridge 60 which will be repaired in late fall.
- Funding – Zack again discussed options for increased funding. He discussed the option in increasing wheel and sur tax as well as the option for increasing the departments percentage of the CCD fund.
- The CCMG project of Brookside Estates is now closed out. There has been no word – to date – about the award for 2021-2.
- 400 N – there are 17 parcels that the company is dealing with as far as right of way goes for this project. For some parcels it has been a challenge to contact the owners and the work continues. Zack has an LPA voucher for the preliminary engineering for right of way in the amount of \$34,515.65 which was approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0. Anita Hess approved another LPA voucher for Road Reconstruction for this same project in the amount of \$1,214.52. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carries 2-0.
- Baseline Road – this project started back up last week according to Zack, with the highway department doing some tree removal and construction hopefully to begin October 1, 2021.
- Ball Road – this LPA project held the preliminary field check on August 26, 2021.

- Bridge 134 – Zack has an LPA voucher for approval on this project in the amount of \$11,721.00. Motion to approve the voucher came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Bridge 69 – An LPA voucher for Stage 1 submission was received for this project in the amount of \$12,632.88 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second coming from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Old State Road 3 - The IDOT contract has been submitted – waiting for the Notice to Proceed as the next step.
- Baseline Road from 600 E to Old State Rd 3 - this is a new project and Zack reported that soil boring should be done today.
- Little Long/Round Lake – the final plans on this project are due 10/15/21 with all permits being submitted to date.

ANNEX

- Zack Smith, Project Manager, is reporting that the FEE project is pretty much finalized. This is a bit over budget but some departments have additional funds that they can use to help with this phase of the project.
- Construction – Zack provided a map for traffic flow around the construction sight and the crews prepare for sidewalk/asphalt and parking construction for the building.
- Zack also had a proposal for the Courthouse Renovation prepared by American StructurePoint. Funding is in place for the 2022 budget to help pay for the design phase of this project.

NOBLE TRAILS

- Representatives of the Noble Trails came before the commissioners to explain their current project for the trails and to ask for funding for this project. There is a section of the trail that needs paved and in this area the users are having to walk along the road at 450 E and 850 N. This creates a safety issue and the group have applied for a \$35,000.00 grant which is a matching grant. To date, the group is reporting that they have raised almost \$27,000.00. There is another section up by Limberlost that is the same situation and trail system is an on-going project that they can always use funds for. The group would like to have the county use ARP money to help with this project. Gary explained that that group would need to submit their request in writing and as the committee reviewed the requests, a determination will be made.

PROJECT MANAGER

Zack Smith has been the project manager of the new courthouse annex project since its' inception. Paperwork was finalized to officially name him as such and a "consent to perform additional services" was signed with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0. Also signed with a motion from Anita Hess was the Independent Contractor Agreement with Zack Smith for this project. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. recessed from day to day until September 27, 2021.

Dated this 27TH day of Sept, 2021



 Gary D. Leatherman, President



 Anita Hess, Vice President

ABSENT

 Dave Dolezal, Member

ATTESTED:



Tonya L. Jones, Auditor