

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD September 26, 2016**

Comes now the hour of 7:30 A.M. on the 26th day of September, 2016, 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
David J. (Dave) Dolezal, Vice President
Dave Abbott, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L. Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Steve Garbacz, KPC Media
Michele Bricker, Noble County Treasurer
Jarrod Ramer, Black & Ramer Insurance
CJ Mills, Vice President of Business Development
Patton Cox, Chief Marketing Officer
John Morr, Independent Consultant
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent
Kenneth Hughes, Plan Director
Norm Lortie Building Inspector
Eric Blackman, Prosecutor
Suzie Pippenger, Victim Advocate
Teri Skinner, Assistant
Kim Miller, Noble County Assessor
Steve Hook, GIS Director

Gary Leatherman, Commissioners President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 7:33AM.

INSURANCE PROPOSAL #1

Jarrod Ramer, Black & Ramer Insurance, along with Patton Cox from AGA as the TPA and CJ Mills were present. Jarrod furnished background on his insurance company and his recent ability to offer health insurance. Jarrod has been a part of the community and most of his employees are also a part of the community. AGA is Jarrod's third party administrator of choice and is based out of Fort Wayne. Mr. Cox told a little about his company and some of the suggestions for providing health insurance to Noble County employees at the best cost possible. A unique thing with their company was the ability to bill the stop loss company minutes after the county is billed for a claim in excess of \$60,000.00 so that the county never has to pay the entire bill upfront. Jarrod commented on some of his proposals for Noble County Government and his commitment to a long term relationship with the county.

HIGHWAY

Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent, presented the following construction issues:

- Mark shared a note of appreciation from a Green township resident – thanking the employees for the work done in his area.
- Mark had a request for the purchase of underbody blades. The expected cost for 14 sets of dual carbide blades would be around \$30,000. The dual carbide blades are expected to last 6 months to a year vs the current blades lasting sometimes only a week. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the purchase with a second coming from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.
- Mark had a request from Ligtel for permission to put in a fiber optic line on Union Street in Ligonier. Authorization to sign came in a motion from Dave Abbott and was seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

- Utility permit were also received from Ligonier Telephone Company, United Telephone Company and Noble REMC.
- Mark also had a request for a driveway variance. A Smith property on 650 N already has an existing drive and is wanting to add a second drive. The Highway department has been to the area and has no issues with sight distance. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the variance. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering business to discuss with the commissioners:

- Zack presented a Bridge Inspection voucher for signature. Dave Abbott moved to approve the signing of the document. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 147 – Zack reported no update and the Stage 2 submission is pending.
- LPA Call – Zack has no timeline at this point but is assuming there may be an announcement next month.
- Zack is reporting that the new highway garage is proceeding on schedule.
- Bridge 82 is on schedule for a November 5 completion.
- Hold Harmless agreement was presented for commissioner’s approval from AEP. This is for maintenance lines and new fiber optic line. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the hold harmless agreement. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack also reported that he has received a request to remove a Stop Sign at 900 E and 200 N. Zack indicated that they are still investigating the area but at this point the highway department has a sight issue and feels that this would be safety issue. Zack will have a full report at the next commissioner’s meeting.

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PLAN COMMISSION AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Kenneth Hughes, Plan Director and Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, are both present to discuss the possibility of purchasing a new truck for their departments. Kenneth had quotes for new vehicles in the range of \$22,900.00 - \$25,900.00. Sheriff Doug Harp was also present and the Commissioners discussed the possibility of a vehicle from the Sheriff’s department might be up for trade and using it for the Plan and Building departments. Doug wanted to discuss this with Chad Willett and will report back to the commissioners.

PROCLAMATION

Eric Blackman, Noble County Prosecutor, Suzie Pippenger, Victim Witness Advocate, Teri Skinner, Victim Witness Assistant were all present to request that the October be proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The group is asking permission to “Chalk it up” on the courthouse square sidewalks and well as put banners up on the fence area. This is all in an effort to send the message of the importance of healthy relationships. Dave Dolezal moved to proclaim October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Thirteen pages totaling \$246,863.00 were reviewed by the commissioners. Dave Abbott moved to approve the claims with the exception of a \$2,000.00 claim to US Geological Survey pending some questions to be answered. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was back before the commissioners having just received a quote for a new technique he would like to use on the county roads. The quote came in at \$1.10 per square yard. Dave Abbott moved to approve the purchase with a second coming from Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

ASSESSOR

Kim Carson, Noble County Assessor, was present to request permission to purchase mats for under the desks for her office. The purchase will exceed the \$500.00 maximum. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the purchase. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

GIS

Steve Hook, GIS Coordinator, is present to an upgrade for Auto Cad which will benefit his office as well as the Surveyor’s office. This will cost an additional \$75.00 a month. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the upgrade for Auto Cad. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

RECESS – Drainage Board

INSURANCE PROPOSAL #2

Star Financial Insurance Company was present to discuss their proposal for the county's health insurance. Allen Howard, Leslee Derbeck, along with their team were here to discuss their background in health insurance and their all-inclusive package that have for every aspect of insurance including health, short and long term disability, life, accident etc.... They have reached out to Parkview Hospital and have been told that if the county decides to go back to the traditional plan that they will be interested in talking for a conclusion to the balance billing now being such an issue with many of our employees.

MINUTES

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

ORDINANCE

Michele Bricker, Noble County Treasurer, presented the ordinance for a service fee to be assigned when a payment made for tax is disallowed due to insufficient funds etc.. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the ordinance. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Dave Abbott moved to approve the executive session minutes as presented. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

INSURANCE PROPOSAL #3

Apex Benefits was present for the final insurance presentation of the day. Eric Dreyfus, Bill Sylvester and Rebecca Leeman were present for the presentation. This is our current carrier and the three pointed out savings with being with a cost plus or Medicare plus system. There estimation is that we have saved close to a million dollars over the previous PPO system that we had with ProClaim. The question of balance billing and the speed of EOBs were discussed and the group have implemented changes to their system to better serve the Noble County employees.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Criminal Justice Training Seminar
- IDEM – Avilla Town Sanitary Sewer Permit
- IDEM – Garrett LLC AKA Dalton Foundry Site Visit
- Weights & Measures Monthly report
- Noble County Clerk – Monthly Report
- IDEM – City of Ligonier Land Application Permit
- IDEM – Her Dairy Farms confined feeding renewal
- Health Department – Nixle Engage information

OLD BUSINESS SIGNATURES

Ordinance vacating unimproved roadway west of the current Noble County Highway maintained portion of 1100 N. This was approved at the last meeting with the ordinance to be signed today. Findings & Facts were also signed as previously approved for Buckhardt, Ringler, and Gries for unsafe housing.

PAYROLL

Payroll for 09/02/16 – 09/15/16 payable 09/29/16 was reviewed. The report contained 5 pages and totaled \$344,217.07. Payroll was approved with a motion from Dave Abbott and was seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

SOUTH COMPLEX

The south complex facility is in need of a new air conditioning unit. A quote had been received from Hoover's Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$5,335.00. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the new unit for the south complex. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:30 P.M. recessed from day to day until the 10th day of October, 2016.

Gary D. Leatherman, President

David J. Dolezal, Vice President

David Abbott, Member

ATTESTED: _____
Tonya L. Marks, Auditor