

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday November 6, 2023
1:00 PM NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

Mary Wysong
George Bennett
Trey Forbes
Tom Janes
Brandon Chordas
Doug Harp
Max Franklin

ALSO PRESENT:

Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney via telephone
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Max Franklin and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 7-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to provide the following information for his department:

- HMA 2023-01 - this project is complete with close paperwork to be completed soon.
- HMA 2023 – 02 – this will start in the spring of the year, with Zack planning to encumber the money from this year.
- Bridge 136 and Bridge 44 - these two bridges went out for letting again in October. With the bids coming in so much higher than the engineering estimate this was a second attempt to get bids. Bridge 136 2020 projected cost was \$3.5 million with today's bid being \$6.2 million. Zack has now been able to secure additional funding up to the 80% at this time. This is over \$3.0^{K2-JK} in additional funding. Bridge 44 – Zack secured full funding for this project so both projects will proceed according to the revised schedule.
- LPA Call for Projects- Zack is planning to submit three projects for consideration – that being Bridge 61 in Elkhart Township. Bridge 56 in Perry Township and Baseline Road from 600 E to 800 E. Zack is requesting that Financial Commitment letters be signed for these projects. Trey Forbes moved to sign the 3 commitment letters. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried ~~6-0~~ 5-1.
- Zack provided a copy of the Transportation asset Management for Bridges plan to the council and reviewed the replacement plan with the council. Zack is concerned about funding. To go for federal projects that is a great way to replace especially large structures, but you still have the 20% local match and if that is not there you can not get the grant. Discussion was had about the CCD fund going 100% to bridges or creating a cum bridge fund. Zack reportedly has reached out to Jeff Peters, our financial consultant, for his options as well, but wants the council to be thinking about how funding will happen especially if grants are less or go away.
- Software permitting – Zack has talked in the past about on-line permitting. He talked with other departments about this and at this time – they are showing no interest. While the on-line permitting would be a big asset to his department the cost outweighs

the income at this time. This project will be dropped until permitting income can support the cost.

- Zack is asking that someone else take care of the SAM requirement. The suggestion would be that the Auditor take on that responsibility.
- ADA and Title VI Coordinator - this is another responsibility that Zack took and would like to pass this on to someone else.

VACANT BUILDING DEDUCTION

Melanie Kellogg from the EDC along with Dalen Zuehsow are present to request a vacant building deduction for the buildings located on 400 S where the old Moose Lake Christian Village was located. He is wanting to make this into an adolescent treatment facility with 28-33 beds. There was a lot of questions, comments, and discussion about rezoning, how many buildings it would involve, and public comments from surrounding landowners. With so many questions left unanswered, the council tabled this discussion until their next meeting with a motion from Trey Forbes and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 7-0

ABATEMENT

Jerry Busche, from SSM Implants in Noble Township is wanting to do a resolution to change the name. There was a lot of confusion about how it is listed now and what they are changing it to. There was no information received prior to the council meeting and no information was provided such as a new resolution to clarify the issue at the meeting. Mr. Busche was asked to contact the assessor to resolve the issue and to provide the necessary document at the next meeting scheduled for December 12, 2023. Mr. Busche was contacted by phone on 11/16/2023 and scheduled for 2:45 PM that day.

ADDITIONALS

911 Dispatch has requested additional for the 2023 budget. Shellie Coney, 911 Director, is requesting \$20,000.00 in here part time / hourly line 1222-13700-345 and \$6,000.00 in service contracts line number 1222-36200-345. Motion to approve the additional came from Doug Harp. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFER

Ann Kline, Noble County Extension, was present to explain the need to transfer money within the Extension budget. Money had been budgeted for the copy machine and that is no longer needed, however there are other supplies needed for the office and for the 4-h program. Ann is asking for the following transfers:

- Decrease 1000-37100-026 rents and leases \$4,500.00
- Increase 1000-24602-026 equipment and supplies \$4,500.00
- Decrease 1000-12407-026 secretary \$500.00
- Increase 1000-13301-026 Education & Training \$500.00

These requests were approved with a motion from Tom Janes and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 7-0.

CCD

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is request that the following claims be paid from the CCD fund:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| • Equiparts | \$780.33 |
| • Equiparts | \$156.18 |
| • Equiparts | \$327.55 |
| • Equiparts | \$559.13 |
| • Equiparts | \$269.10 |
| • Shambaugh & Son | \$2,236.00 |
| • All Phase | \$280.50 |

All claims were approved for payment from the CCD fund with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Brandon Chordas. Motion carries 7-0.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had information about the courthouse renovation. Bids were received and opened. American StructurePoint has reviewed all bids for completion and accuracy and Zack is reporting that the bids came in at \$11,562,854.00 This is considerably higher than the construction estimate given by Weigant and the 3rd party estimate. These bids did include the findings of the issues with the 1st floor flooring as well as the 3rd floor flooring. Zack reported that he, along with Gary Leatherman, Weigant, and American StructurePoint were going to sit down on December 10 and try to trim the cost in any way possible, but he was doubtful that much would be accomplished. He would like the council to discuss whether to proceed and how to fund the additional expense. Many things were talked about, including CEDIT, Rainy Day and even the Lake City loan who has indicated additional money to be available if needed. Zack reminded the council that putting a "pause" on the project would only delay the project and completion date. This will also add expense due to the rent being paid for probation and the clerks leased buildings. Also delays could potentially increase cost if materials keep increasing in price. With financial information in hand, the council are confident that funding will be able to be figured out and that the project should proceed as scheduled.

NEXT MEETING

With 2 of the council members going to be absent at the December 4, 2023 meeting an alternative date was discussed. A final decision was made to have the meeting on Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM. This will be the last meeting for the council for the 2023 calendar year.

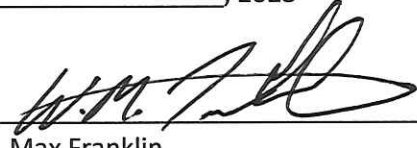
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being December 12, 2023.

Dated this 12 day of December, 2023



Trey Forbes



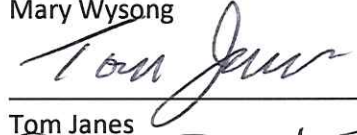
Max Franklin

ABSENT

Mary Wysong



Brandon Chordas



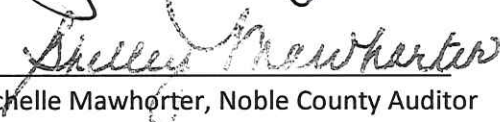
Tom Janes



George Bennett



Doug Harp

ATTEST: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor