

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:00 PM**  
**1:00 PM NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

Mary Wysong  
George Bennett  
Trey Forbes  
Tom Janes  
Brandon Chordas

**ABSENT:**

Doug Harp  
Max Franklin

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Correspondence has been received from the auditor concerning KSN Kammerer not turning in their 322 RE form in a timely matter. According to the Assessor, the auditor will notify KSN of the denial and then the company will need to file an appeal to the council. At this time, an appeal has not been filed.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Tom Janes. Brandon Chordas seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None to report

**HIGHWAY**

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present for the following report:

- HMA 2023 -01 is in progress with Drake Rd from 500 E to State Road 3 complete. Pulver's are working on Waits Road with 900 N and 900 E to be done yet this year.
- Pulver's also received the contract for HMA 2023-02 but will not get the second phase completed until next year.
- Zack reported that all 12 LPA projects were proceeding on schedule.
- Bridge 136 and Bridge 44 will be rebid this fall (October) and hopefully come in at a much more affordable cost.
- Right of Way work is going on with a number of the other projects.
- Future LPA projects will be submitted when appropriate and plans for those applications would be a couple more bridge projects and phases of Baseline Road.
- Highway Engineer Contract - the contract for the engineer was discussed as well. The council had decided at budget time to only increase the salary for the engineer 5% - the same as most other employees – and then let the commissioners negotiate any other increase through a contract with the commissioners. Zack had discussed this with the commissioners and presented a contract for the council's review. After much

discussion, the council decided to table this since 2 of the members were absent at this meeting. It will again be discussed at the October 2, 2023 council meeting.

#### COURTHOUSE

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following update for the courthouse renovation project:

- Demolition work is in progress at the courthouse with most ceiling tiles removed at this point.
- Bids will be received in October for the renovation so should see some major movements this fall.

#### B & J MEDICAL ABATEMENT

Melanie Kellogg, EDC Manager, and Kerry Leitch, B & J Medical, were present to request a personal property abatement 8 pieces of equipment totaling \$4,033,800.00. B & J is hoping to add 10 new jobs with this expansion. Total number of employees at the facility at this time stands at 189. The company is requesting a 7-year abatement with this abatement. Motion to approve the B & J Medical Abatement for 7 years in the amount of \$4,033,800.00 was made by Mary Wysong and seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 5-0.

#### 2024 KENDALLVILLE LIBRARY BUDGET

A public hearing was held for the Kendallville Public Library 2024 budget. Mindy Patterson, Kendallville Library Director was present along with the financial secretary, and Noble County Auditor Shelley Mawhorter. No information was supplied for the council file, but the library is requesting to use rainy day funds to pay for roof repair in 2024 at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00. Budgeted amount is at \$280,000.00 so that if there are any unexpected issues that come up during the repairs, they will have plenty of money to cover expenses. There was no public comment during the public meeting either for or against the project or use of rainy day funds.

#### 2024 NOBLE COUNTY BUDGET.

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, was present for the public hearing for the 2024 Noble County budget. There were no public comments on this budget. With that the public hearing was concluded.

#### PROBATION UPDATE

Jared Owen, Asst Chief Probation Officer, updated the council members on the problem-solving courts in the department. Jared gave the following information:

- Problem Solving courts started in 1989 in Indiana. Noble County's started their first court in 2006.
- There are 150 courts in Indiana which are conducted in 63 of the 92 counties.
- Noble County has a drug court and a veteran's court
- The state conducts audits every 3 years and there were 0 audit finds for Noble County.
- Jarod told the council that there is a problem-solving team that monitors individuals through this process. That team includes law enforcement individuals along with representatives from probation, the prosecutor's office, public defenders' office and treatment and half way house reps. The team meets every Wednesday prior to the 10:00AM court.
- Over the last 17 years, Jarod reported over 1400 referrals of which only 300+ were accepted into the court. To date, there have been 171 graduates of the courts with a 26% recidivism rate, which is 1 out of 4 that might "fall back" into those old habits.
- The program normally takes between 12 and 36 weeks. There can – on occasion – be extensions granted.
- Jarod indicated that there is a lot of focus during these sessions on housing, employment and budgeting to help the offenders with transitioning to a new life.

CCD CLAIMS

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the CCD claims. He is asking that claims totaling \$1,802.28 for Equiparts and \$93.13 for Sentry Security Fasteners be paid from the CCD fund. Motion to pay these claims came from Brandon Chordas with a second from Trey Forbes. Motion carried 5-0.

Max reports 225 inmates this morning with 15 of these being federal inmates.

ADDITIONAL

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, is requesting an additional in the amount of \$500,000.00 to pay claims out of the American Rescue grant for repairs to the roof and HVAC system at the jail. Motion to approve the additional came from Tom Janes. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carries 5-0.

TRANSFER

Superior Court I Judge Steven Clouse is requesting a transfer of funds. They are wanting a decrease in 1000-32300-038 Mileage of \$5,000.00 to increase 1000-14703-038 Special Appts by that same amount. Motion to approve the transfer came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Brandson Chordas. Motion carried 5-0.

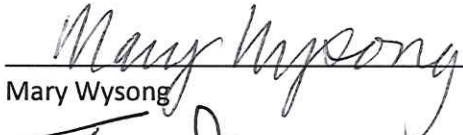
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being October 2 2023

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2023

  
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Trey Forbes

  
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Max Franklin

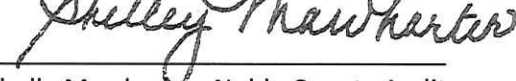
  
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Mary Wysong

  
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Brandon Chordas

  
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Tom Janes

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Bennett

ABSTAIN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Harp

ATTEST:   
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Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor