

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday May 6, 2024 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

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 Doug Harp and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 5-0 with Brandon Chordas and Mary Wysong abstaining because of their absence at the April meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Tom Janes reported on the salary committee meeting. There were 3 jobs refactored that came to the salary committee for salary review. Tom brought before the council members the suggestion for the Highway controller salary being set at \$48,953.00; the highway operators' salary being set at \$50,799.00 and the Chief Deputy Auditor salary being set at \$52,692.00. Motion to approve the recommended salaries for these positions came from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
- Max Franklin reported on his CF-1 visits to B & J Medical and B & J Specialty.
- Doug Harp reported on his CF-1 visit to Color Master.
- Doug Harp also reported to the council on the recent Solid Waste Management Board meeting. Doug reported that they are in search of a new Director.
- George Bennett talked about abatements and the process that is in place at this time. George is asking that the council members do some research on the abatement process and that this be a discussion for the June meeting.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, brought the following information to the council:

- Road Evaluation Report – Zack summarized the Road Evaluation Report with the council, reporting that overall ratings were up slightly from 6.81 in 2023 to 6.88 in 2024. Primary roads were rated 6.74; residential came in at 6.92 which was down from 2023 at 7.08.
- Gravel Roads were discussed and Zack indicated that Noble County has one of the lower percentages of gravel roads in the area. The department is continually working to upgrade these roads with the 5-year plans in place.
- CCMG Grants- Zack reported that Noble County was awarded the maximum amount of \$1.5 million for 2024. This will be used for asphalt paving as well as concrete repair.
- LPA Project – 400 N – Zack reported that earth work continues in this project with ditch work, culvert work and piping all in progress.

- Bridge 136 – the large culvert has been completed with dirt being trucked in from Kimmell area. Zack reported that there will probably be about 2 more weeks of fill dirt work at this site. Completion of this project is expected by early fall.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following courthouse renovation report:

- Zack presented pictures for the council to see reflecting the progress being made.
- With mechanical, plumbing/heating and electrical work being done, there are many sub-contractors on site daily.
- Cement work is now complete and plaster repair is being done.
- Zack reported that expected time of completion is January 2025.
- Zack discussed the wiring for the courts. Quotes were received for the pre-wiring in the amount of \$25,597.90; Superior Court II in the amount of \$69,743.60; Superior Court I in the amount of \$72,945.10 and for Circuit Court in the amount of 77,674.04. None of these costs were in the total project costs. While the 3 court projects are not a “right now” need, the pre-wiring is something that needs to be addressed and funds dedicated to this project. After some discussing, the Cum Courthouse Fund was identified as a source of payment for the pre-wiring at the cost of \$25,597.90. Mary Wysong made the motion to pay this from the Cum Courthouse fund. Brandon Chordas seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

PROBATION UPDATE

Danyel Wagner, Asst Chief Probation Officer, was present for the probation update.

- Danyel talked to the council about the general fund – from this time forward picking up the minimum salaries of the probation officers in the general fund. In the past the user fees, and other funds shared in the cost of the salaries. This will be a continuing discussion with the council, all prior to budget times.

CF-1's

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, reported that very few of the CF-1's had been received from the companies that had council approval for abatements. Jackie told the council that she had reached to the EDC on several occasions, but several CF-1's had not yet been received. Jackie will reach out directly to the companies to see if she can get some results. Most visits had been completed either by the council members or by the EDC. With that information, Mary Wysong moved to allow Council President, George Bennett, to sign all Cf-1's received by May 15th. Tom Janes seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Jackie will contact George once the forms are received.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is present for the approval of the CCD Claims. There was only one claims being requested at this time and that was for Kendallville Glass in the amount of \$3,910.00. Motion to approve the CCD Claim came from Tom Janes and was seconded by Max Franklin. Motion carried 7-0.

Max reported 233 inmates in the jail at this time with 33 of them being DOC inmates.

ADDITIONALS

- CEDIT – Motion to approve the additional in the amount of \$88,000.00 for the sewer grinder at the South Complex was made by Doug Harp and seconded by Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 7-0.
- Superior II – Judge Hagen is requesting an additional for his petit juror's line item in the amount of \$4,200.00. Motion to approve this additional came from Trey Forbes. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

- Auditor – Shelley Mawhorter is requesting an additional for the chief deputy in her office in the amount of \$5,557.44. Brandon Chordas moved to approve. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Statewide 911 had also requested additional in 3-line items. The council had several questions and Director Shellie Coney was unavailable so the additional were tabled until the June 3, 2024 meeting. Tom Janes moved to table, with Max Franklin seconding the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFERS

The Noble County Extension Office is requesting a transfer of funds for part time help this summer. The request is to decrease 1000-12400-026 (secretary) in the amount of \$2,500.00 and then to increase 1000-13700-026 (part time overtime) in the same amount. Motion to approve the transfer of funds came from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

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 June 3, 2024

Dated this 3 day of June, 2024

ABSENT FOR SIGNING
Trey Forbes

Max Franklin

Mary Wysong
Mary Wysong

Brandon Chordas
Brandon Chordas

Tom Janes
Tom Janes

George Bennett
George Bennett

Doug Harp
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Shelley Mawhorter
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor