

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 16, 2025

President Brad Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in room 104 in the County Administration Building, 117 North Second Street, Goshen, Indiana. The other Board members, Suzie Weirick and Bob Barnes were also present. Others present were Steve Olsen, County Attorney; Patricia Pickens, County Auditor; Jeff Taylor, County Administrator and Kelly Ropp, Administrative Manager.

***This meeting commenced pursuant to public notice under the Indiana open door law. This meeting was made available for the public and press to attend in person or engage in remote real-time observation.

On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes for the June 9, 2025, meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 266)

On a motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Allowance of Claims as presented by the County Auditor's office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Brad Rogers, County Commissioner, presented for consideration the appointment of Dan Holtz to the Elkhart Public Library Board. Bob Barnes made a motion to approve Dan Holtz, and Brad Rogers seconded the motion. The Board opened a discussion on the appointment. Suzie Weirick voiced concerns regarding this appointment. Dan Holtz, Elkhart, spoke on his own behalf. A roll call vote followed: Bob Barnes, YAY; Suzie Weirick, NAY; Brad Rogers, YAY. With a vote of 2 to 1, the Board approved this appointment.

(Items 267A and 267B)

Joe Leichtman, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented for consideration the completion of the Maintenance Bond for Elkhart County Jail Kitchen Floor Replacement. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the maintenance bond.

(Item 268)

Andrew Bylsma, Health Administrator, presented a request for approval of a Grant for Tobacco Cessation and Prevention. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved the grant.

(Item 269)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, presented a request for approval for Out of State Travel for Mae Kratzer & Natasha Kauffmann to attend the Congress for New Urbanism event in Providence, Rhode Island. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this travel request.

(Item 270)

Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, presented a request for approval of Jonas & Mary Ellen Zimmerman represented by Creative Design Solutions for an Amendment to an existing DPUD known as Zimmerman DPUD for a building addition, north side of CR 40, 2,780 ft. west of SR 19, common address of 27481 CR 40 in Harrison Township. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No audience members wished to speak on the matter. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this amendment.

(Item 271)

Danny Dean, Planning, presented a request for approval of Miller-Silver LLC represented by Innovative Communities, Inc. for secondary approval of an 18-lot major subdivision to be known as Falcons Lair at Barrington Phase IV, east end of Falcons Lair Ct., 100 ft. east of Falcons Lair Ln., south of Barrington Dr. in Jackson Township. Tim Sailer, Nappanee, spoke on behalf of Miller-Silver LLC. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No audience members wished to speak on the matter. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Item 272)

Danny Dean, Planning, presented a request for approval of Miller-Silver LLC represented by Innovative Communities, Inc. for secondary approval of a 17-lot major subdivision to be known as Falcons Lair at Barrington Phase V, north end of Falcons Lair Ln., 480 ft. north of Barrington Ln., west of CR 25 in Jackson Township. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No audience members wished to speak on the matter. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Item 273)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from SR13 Interchange TIF Fund in the amount of \$880,000.00 for final design and bid documents to construction the sewer to server the SR 13 Middlebury Interchange TIF south of 80/90. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this appropriation.

(Item 274)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from CR6 & CR17 Improvement TIF Fund in the amount of \$165,000.00 for final design section to complete PCR water project. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this appropriation.

(Item 275)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from CR6 & CR17 Improvement TIF Fund in the amount of \$125,000.00 for final design and bid document creation to bid Lily Creek Greenway for construction in 2026. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this appropriation.

(Item 276)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, requested to table an additional appropriation request from South Benton TIF Fund in the amount of \$250,000.00 for initial payment from the South Benton TIF towards the reconstruction of Bridge 332. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved to table this appropriation.

(Item 277)

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request for approval of the INDOT-LPA contract for the Construction Phase of CR 17 Phase 1a between CR 38 and CR 42. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this contract.

(Item 278)

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request for approval of Contract Amendment No. 3 with Lochmueller Group for design services on the CR 17 Phase 1 from CR 38 to CR 142 project. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this contract amendment.

(Item 279)

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request for approval of Contract Amendment No. 2 with Lochmueller Group for design services on the CR 17 at US 33 Multi-Use Path project. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this contract amendment.

(Item 280)

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request for approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. for Engineer Services required for the Elkhart Countywide Bridge Inspection and Inventory Program. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this supplemental agreement.

(Item 281)

BOARD ITEMS:

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Bradley D Rogers. A motion was made by Suzie Weirick and seconded by Bob Barnes to approve the disclosure statement; Brad Rogers abstained. With a vote of 2-0, the Board approved the disclosure statement.

(Item 282)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented a Notice to Proceed with Elkhart Project LLC. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this notice to proceed.

(Item 283)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented a task order for WJO Chicago LLC. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this task order.

(Items 284A and 284B)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Kevin Kilmer, Goshen, spoke.

Bob Kindel, Bristol, spoke.

Cindi Hajicek, Goshen, spoke.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting.