

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
August 21, 2025

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council President, Thomas W. Stump at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Council Vice President David L. Hess, Adam M Bujalski, Steven E. Clark, Douglas S. Graham, Darryl J. Riegsecker, and Randall D. Yohn. Also, present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office, and Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor.

** 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 and virtually in remote real-time observation via YouTube.

MINUTES: Approval of CC Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2025.

On motion to approve the July 17, 2025, minutes by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 274)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: None

COUNCIL: Graham spoke about positive feedback on the new courthouse tours. Clark spoke about Senate Bill 1 and recent discussions with state representatives. Graham and Clark remarked on recent news articles involving Senate Bill 1.

SHERIFF: None

AUDITOR – Pickens presented the estimated levy limits provided by the department of local government finance and information from the department of local government finance regarding how each taxing unit's distribution of property taxes will be reduced by specific credits.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

1. Approval of Reappointment of Kevin Bullard to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. One (1) Year Term. Term Expires: 8/31/25. Reappointment Term Now Expires: 8/31/26.

President Stump presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to Reappoint Kevin Bullard to the Alcoholic Beverage Board Commission, by Bujalski, and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Re-appointment with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 275)

2. Approval of Reappointment of Cathryn Schaefer to the Bristol Library Board. Four (4) Year Term. Term Expires: 8/31/25. Reappointment Term Now Expires: 8/31/29.

President Stump presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to Reappoint Kevin Bullard to the Alcoholic Beverage Board Commission, by Yohn, and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Re-appointment with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 276)

3. Approval of Reappointment of Darlene Byland to the Wakarusa Library Board. Four (4) Year Term. Term Expired: 8/10/25. Reappointment Term Now Expires: 8/10/29.

President Stump presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to Reappoint Kevin Bullard to the Alcoholic Beverage Board Commission, by Riegsecker, and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Re-appointment with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 277)

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Planning & Development (132) requested \$72,000.00 for additional funds to cover implementation of online permitting through EnerGov Citizen Self-Service.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 278)

B. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$302,199.00 for additional funding for services provided by Moser for open payroll positions for 2025.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 279)

C. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$1,000,000.00 for associated costs for Bridge 253 rehab.

Tim Jackson presented this request to the Council. Clark asked how long the bridge would be closed and Tim answered approximately 3 months.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 280)

D. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY - RESTRICTED (#1173)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$1,000,000.00 for associated costs for Bridge 193 rehab.

Tim Jackson presented this request to the Council. Clark asked how long the bridge would be closed and Tim answered approximately 3 months.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 281)

E. CR 6 & CR 17 IMPROVEMENT TIF (#4511)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$7,200,000.00 for associated costs for CR 17 Phase 1A – CR 38 to CR 42 Project.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

(pg. 282)

F. SELF-INSURANCE: PROPERTY & LIABILITY (#4715)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$300,000.00 in funds required for the County's self-insurance fund expenses.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 283)

G. SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM GRANT (#4925)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$80,000.00 in funds from the Federal School Lunch Program Reimbursable Grant Setup for FY2026.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 284)

H. HPAI AVIAN INFLUENZA (#8204)

1. Health Department (980) requested \$100,000.00 to prepare the County to respond to H5N1 infection in the community.

Andrew Bylsma presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 285)

I. COURT INTERPRETER GRANT (#9142)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$30,000.00 for grant setup for FY2026

Chris Anderson presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

N. WIC GRANT (#8101)

1. Health Department (612)

From: 41310 Group Insurance	\$ 2,647.00
To: 42195 Other Operating Supplies	\$ 2,647.00

TOTAL TRANSFERS \$272,647.00

Auditor Pickens presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 290)

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Steven Olsen presented the following item:

1. Consideration and Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Construction of Public Utilities and Roads

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 291)

Robby Kelly, Mark Evans, and Kathryn Jennings presented the following item:

1. Highlights of the Purdue Extension AG Program.

AUDIENCE ITEMS: Cindy Hajicek, Goshen, spoke.

Following audience items, Clark raised additional concerns related to Senate Bill 1. The Council discussed the matter collectively and sought additional information from Commissioner Weirick regarding anticipated actions by the Association of Indiana Counties. The Council let the public know that there may be a special meeting scheduled by the Council to address this issue.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:33 pm.

Patricia A. Pickens
Elkhart County Auditor