

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 29, 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, 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 of September 22, 2025, meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 418)

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:

Jeff Siegel, County Sheriff, presented a request for approval for Out of State Travel for Laura Sliva to attend Basic Shooting Analysis & Reconstruction Training Course in Clearwater, Florida from November 16th to 22nd, 2025. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this Out of State travel request.

(Item 419)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented for consideration an Ordinance Establishing Rules and Requirements for Nongovernmental Use of the Historic Goshen Courthouse Lawn and the New Elkhart County Judicial Center Property. Suzie Weirick made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Bob Barnes seconded the motion. Brad Rogers opened for public comment. Doug Graham of Elkhart, Glenn Null of Goshen, Jennifer Shell of Goshen, and Julia Gautsche of Goshen spoke. On the motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board then approved Ordinance CO 2025-35.

(Item 420)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented for consideration an Ordinance Establishing Fees and Parking Regulations for Electric Vehicles Charging Stations at the Elkhart County Judicial Center. Brad Rogers opened for public comment. No audience members wished to speak on this matter. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved Ordinance CO 2025-36.

(Item 421)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented for consideration a Resolution to Approve Two Lease Agreements and a License Agreement Between Elkhart County and the City of Goshen. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution CO 2025-37.

(Items 422A – 422D)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented for consideration a Resolution Authorizing a Loan to the Treasurer's Office for a 2025 Copier Purchase and Maintenance Project. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution CO 2025-38.

(Item 423)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from the General Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00 for independent accounting assistance when required. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation.

(Item 424)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from the Lease Revenue Bonds Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00 for new courthouse expenses. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation.

(Item 425)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from the General Fund in the amount of \$600,000.00 for County's self-insurance expenses. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation.

(Item 426)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from the General Fund in the amount of \$200,000.00 for renovations to the Old Historic Goshen Courthouse. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation.

(Item 427)

Jenn Tobey, Director of Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of the AEP Foundation Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 for improving the communities where AEP plays a significant role. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this grant.

(Item 428)

Jenn Tobey, Director of Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of the State Homeland Security Program Grant in the amount of \$130,000.00 for Cybersecurity enhancement and support. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this grant.

(Item 429)

Jenn Tobey, Director of Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of the State Homeland Security Program Grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 for supporting emergency response preparedness capacity. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this grant.

(Item 430)

BOARD ITEMS:

Jenn Tobey, Director of Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of the Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for promoting overall community safety across Norfolk Southern's 22 State network and is intended to support organizations that directly provide safety services or operate programs that promote safe behavior. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this grant.

(Item 431)

Jenn Tobey, Director of Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of the NIPSCO Safety Grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 for promoting safety across the NIPSCO area network and is intended to support organizations that directly provide safety services. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this grant.

(Item 432)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke.

Glenn Null, Goshen, spoke.

ADJOURNMENT:

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