

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
November 20, 2025

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council Vice President David L. Hess at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council Vice President David L. Hess, Steven E. Clark, Douglas S. Graham, Darryl J. Riegsecker, and Randy Yohn. Also, present was Tiara Jackson, County 1st Deputy Auditor, and Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office. Absent was Tom Stump, Adam Bujalski, and Patty Pickens, County 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. (YouTube recordings will be available for a period of 90 days.)

MINUTES: Approval of CC Minutes for October 16, 2025 and October 15, 2025 Budget 1st Reading Minutes.

On motion to approve all of the minutes listed above by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 5 to 0.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: None

COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF: Sheriff Siegel spoke about their department's 12th CALEA Accreditation.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$675,000.00 to appropriate bed rental money received from the IDOC to cover medical & food costs through the end of 2025.

Jeff Siegel presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

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B. GENERAL (#1000)

1. IT (141) requested \$306,435.00 for software renewals, licensing, service, and support.

Jeff Taylor presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council, and explained that the \$205,380.00 line item has been reduced to \$68,460.00, making the new total \$169,515.00.

On motion to approve **\$169,515.00** made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the reduced amount with a vote of 5 to 0.

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C. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Auditor's Office (983) requested \$1,400,000.00 in funds required for arbitrage for 2020 Bonds.

Tiara Jackson presented this request to the Council and Hess explained the request to the audience.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

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D. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$350,000.00 in funds for preliminary engineering design & associated costs for Bridge 362 partial rehab. on Division St. over the Elkhart River.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

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E. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$80,000.00 in funds for engineering assessment & associated costs to develop alternatives for the replacement/rehab. of Bridge 254.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions raised by 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 5 to 0.

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F. LIT – SPECIAL PURPOSE (#1114)

1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$112,305.00 to appropriate funds for two Intensive Case Manager positions previously paid for by the DOC Grant.

Jeff Siegel & Suzie Weirick presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Blake Doriot and his stepson Ryan, Derek Boss, & Cory Martin, Executive Director of Jail Ministry, from the audience spoke in support of the program.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

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G. CLERK PERPETUATION (#1119)

1. Clerk's Office (980) requested \$20,000.00 for purchase of new copy machines & desktop printers.

Christopher Anderson & Brad Rogers presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

On motion to deny the request until it is approved by the IT Dept. made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council Vice President called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Clark - Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess - No, Riegsecker – Yes, and Yohn - No. With a vote of 3 to 2 the appropriation was denied.

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H. CUMULATIVE BRIDGE (#1135)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$80,000.00 in funds for engineering assessment & associated costs to develop alternatives for the replacement/rehab. of Bridge 407 on Cottage Ave.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote.

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I. CUMULATIVE DRAIN (#1141)

1. Surveyor's Office (980) requested \$200,000.00 for maintenance projects on County-related drains.

Phillip Barker 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 5 to 0 vote.

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J. SOUTH BENTON TIF (#4505)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$14,313.75 to cover legal fees from extended TIF expansion process.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote.

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K. MIDDLEBURY EAST TIF (#4510)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$500,000.00 as the Town of Middlebury requests support for engineering design of their wastewater treatment plant.

Mae Kratzer & Steve Olsen, County Attorney presented this request and answered questions and concerns raised by the Council. Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke about her concerns.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote. The Council noted that apart from the appropriations approved today, they will only approve future appropriations related to this project after an Interlocal Agreement is established that includes a total project cost split with 60% paid by Middlebury and 40% paid by the County.

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L. SR 13 INTERCHANGE TIF (#4514)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$1,000,000.00 as the Town of Middlebury requests support for engineering design of their wastewater treatment plant.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote. The Council noted that apart from the appropriations approved today, they will only approve future appropriations related to this project after an Interlocal Agreement is established that includes a total project cost split with 60% paid by Middlebury and 40% paid by the County.

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M. JAIL TREATMENT HEA GRANT (#9158)

1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$35,534.38 to repay unspent grant funds from FY24.

Jeff Siegel 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 5 to 0 vote.

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N. FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW (#9164)

1. Health Department (980) requested \$132,323.00 in pass-through funds to community organizations to maintain Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Team in Elkhart County.

Andrew Bylsma 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 5 to 0 vote.

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O. AEP FOUNDATION (#9176)

1. Emergency Management Agency (980) requested \$30,000.00 in funds to purchase 800 Mhz radios for EMA.

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P. NIPSCO SAFETY GRANT (#9177)

1. Emergency Management Agency (980) requested \$4,000.00 in funds to purchase 800 Mhz radios for EMA.

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Q. NORFOLK SOUTHERN SAFETY FIRST GRANT (#9178)

1. Emergency Management Agency (980) requested \$10,000.00 in funds to purchase 800 Mhz radios for EMA.

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Jennifer Tobey presented requests O, P, & Q and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve items O, P, & Q made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote.

Total Appropriations Approved: \$4,792,991.13

TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

R. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Coroner (107)

From: 43080 Autopsies \$9,305.00

To: 42195 Other Operating Supplies \$9,305.00

Total Coroner \$9,305.00

S. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Extension (145)

From: 43640 Rent – Data Processing Equipment \$1,400.00

To: 44515 Office Furniture \$1,400.00

Total Extension \$1,400.00

T. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Judiciary (172)

From: 43020 Medical Services \$ 100,000.00

To: 42380 Capital Supply Items \$ 20,000.00

44510 Other Equipment \$ 80,000.00

Total Judiciary (T) \$ 100,000.00

U. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Judiciary (172)		
From: 46200 Equipment Lease (P)		\$ 9,000.00
46500 Equipment Lease (I)		\$ 2,000.00
To: 44510 Other Equipment		<u>\$ 11,000.00</u>
	Total Judiciary (U)	\$ 11,000.00
V. HEALTH EDUCATION (#1159)		
1. Health Department (340)		
From: 43110 Sustenance		\$ 1,250.00
43805 Subscriptions		\$ 964.00
43130 Mileage		\$ 3,000.00
To: 44530 Copier Machines		<u>\$ 5,214.00</u>
	Total Health (V)	\$ 5,214.00
W. LOCAL ROAD & STREET (#1169)		
1. Highway Department (222)		
From: 44500 Motor Vehicles		\$ 30,000.00
To: 43590 Equipment Repairs – Labor		\$ 10,000.00
43540 Vehicle Repairs – Labor		<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
	Total Highway	\$ 30,000.00
X. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT (#9157)		
1. Community Corrections (980)		
From: 41120 Professional		\$ 20,000.00
41130 Protective		\$ 12,000.00
To: 43090 Professional Services		<u>\$ 32,000.00</u>
	Total for ECCC	\$ 32,000.00
Y. TOBACCO PREVENTION ECDFP (#9168)		
1. Health Department (980)		
From: 43835 Training		\$ 800.00
To: 44545 Other Office Equipment		<u>\$ 800.00</u>
	Total Health (Y)	\$ 800.00
	Total Overall Transfers:	\$189,719.00

Dave Hess presented these requests to the Council. Robby Kelly and Andrew Bylsma answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve Items R, S, T, U, V, W, X, & Y made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved all of these requests with a 5 to 0 vote.

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TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Steven Olsen presented the following items:

1. Approval of CC-2025-22: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the AEP Foundation Grant Fund for the Elkhart County EMA Department (9176).

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2. Consideration and Approval of CC-2025-23: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the NIPSCO Safety Grant Fund for the Elkhart County EMA Department. (9177)

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3. Consideration and Approval of CC-2025-24: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant Fund for the Elkhart County Emergency Management Department. (9178)

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On motion to approve Items #1, #2, & #3 made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 5 to 0 vote.

4. Consideration and Approval of CC-2025-25: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the CVET FIT County Distributions Fund for the Elkhart County Portion of Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax (CVET) and Financial Institution Tax (FIT) Distributions. (4932)

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 5 to 0 vote.

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5. Consideration and Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Reconstruction of the Bridge on College Avenue Crossing Horn Ditch.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 5 to 0 vote.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS: Yuliona Rivera Arce, Elkhart, spoke and made introduction. Kristen Edson, Elkhart, spoke and made introduction. Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke. Ralph Spelbring, Elkhart, spoke. Glenn Null, Goshen, spoke.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:57 pm.

Tiara Jackson
Elkhart County First Deputy Auditor

Patricia A. Pickens
Elkhart County Auditor