

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 5, 2026

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. Bob Barnes and Suzie Weirick 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 of the December 29, 2025, meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 1)

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:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026 & COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2026.

Election of Officers for 2026. The floor was open for nominations. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, Brad Rogers was nominated and elected President of the Board.

A motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, Suzie Weirick was nominated and elected as Vice President of the Board.

A motion made by Suzie Weirick, to uphold the current assignments as listed, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried; the Board approved the various assignments as follows:

President – Brad Rogers

Vice President – Suzie Weirick

St. Joseph River Basin – Bob Barnes

Drainage Board – Bob Barnes

Plan Commission – Brad Rogers

Community Mental Health Center – Brad Rogers

Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) – Brad Rogers

Emergency Management Board – Suzie Weirick

Public Defender Board – Brad Rogers

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council – Suzie Weirick

MACOG – Suzie Weirick

Economic Development (EDC) – Brad Rogers

Commissioners' Appointments to County Positions 2026

A motion made by Suzie Weirick to appoint or support appointment of the following list, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried; the Board approved the various appointments as follows:

Director, Buildings & Grounds – Joe Leichtman

Veteran's Service Officer – James Snowden

County Highway Engineer – Tim Jackson

Manager of Transportation – Kyle Wagner

Director, Human Resources – Kirt Hunsberger

Chief Information Officer – (Vacant)

Weights & Measures – Mike Pennington

Emergency Management Director – Jennifer Tobey

County Administrator – Jeff Taylor

County Attorney – Steve Olsen

Director, Solid Waste – John Bowers

Appointments to various County Boards for 2026 per County Manual (see attached document)

A motion made by Suzie Weirick and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried; the Board approved the various appointments listed on the attachment.

(Item 2)

Jess Koscher, Drug Free Partnership, presented a request for an Additional appropriation from Drug Free Community Fund in the amount of \$139,641.00 for funds on programming for Criminal Justice, Prevention, Treatment, and Administration. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 3)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented for Consideration an Ordinance Repealing the Goshen Dam Pond Economic Improvement District. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing on this Topic. The following people spoke Kirt Stiffney, Goshen, Stuart Meade, Goshen, Dale Kempf, Goshen, Bill Reith, Goshen, Bud Wulliman, Goshen, Jeff Shenk, Goshen, Larion Swartzendruber, William Mateer, Goshen, Nancy Brown, Syracuse, Jonathon Schram, Keith Miller, Goshen, Tim Hoogenboom, Goshen. 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 and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried by the board, for an Ordinance to repeal the Goshen Dam Pond Economic Improvement District. The decision on where the money will go will be decided later.

(Item 4)

Brad Rogers presented for Consideration an Agreement for Engagement of Elkhart County Attorney. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved to accept the agreement.

(Item 5)

Andrew Bylsma, Health Administrator, presented the Introduction of the ECHD Proposed Changes to the Fee Schedule for 2026. On motion made by Suzie Weirick seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried the board approved to advertise the new fee schedule to the public.

(Item 6)

Kyle Wagner, Highway, presented a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure for Jeff Hershberger. He is a drainage foreman for the Highway. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried. The Board approved this request.

(Item 7)

Kyle Wagner, Highway, presented a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure for Katie Niblock. She is a project engineer for the Highway department. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried. The Board approved this request.

(Item 8)

BOARD ITEMS:

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ralph Spelbring, Elkhart, spoke.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ATTACHMENT A

BOARD APPOINTMENTS PER THE COUNTY APPOINTMENTS MANUAL

Board or Commission	Name of Nominee	Term	Begin Term / End Term Date
Alcoholic Beverage Commission	Greg Barberio	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Board of Zoning Appeals	Randall Hesser	4 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029
Board of Zoning Appeals	David Miller (alternate)	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Board of Zoning Appeals	John Gardner (alternate)	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Community Mental Health Center	Brad Rogers	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Convention and Visitors Commission	Rick Jenkins	2 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027
Convention and Visitors Commission	Hursh Patel	2 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027
Convention and Visitors Commission	Dan Boecher	2 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027
Convention and Visitors Commission	Dan Shoup	2 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027
County Corrections Complex Building Corporation	Philip J. Hahn	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
County Corrections Complex Building Corporation	Robert E. Cripe Jr.	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
County Corrections Complex Building Corporation	Jeffrey D. Showalter	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
County Health Board	Paul Shetler Fast, MPH, DrPH	4 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029
County Health Board	Susan Stiffney, BSN	4 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029
Drainage Board	Lynn Loucks	3 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028
Drainage Board	Barry Kauffman	3 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028
Elkhart County Indiana Building Corporation	Philip J. Hahn	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Elkhart County Indiana Building Corporation	Robert E. Cripe Jr.	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Elkhart County Indiana Building Corporation	Jeffrey D. Showalter	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Plan Commission	Brian Dickerson	4 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	Harrison Haines (D)	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	Iverson Grove (R)	2 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	Laurie Sumpster	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Redevelopment Commission	Ron Norman	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Redevelopment Commission	Jon Hunsberger	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Redevelopment Commission	Rick Gentle	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026
Redevelopment Commission	Gregg Eash	1 year	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026