

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
December 18, 2025

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council Vice President, Dave Hess at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Tom Stump, Council Vice President Dave Hess, Steven Clark, Adam Bujalski, Douglas Graham, Darryl Riegsecker, and Randy Yohn. Also, present was Patty Pickens, County Auditor, Tiara Jackson, County 1st Deputy Auditor, and Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office.

** 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 November 20, 2025.

On motion to approve made by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: Brad Rogers spoke on behalf of the County Commissioners regarding the Concord Township Assessor and a plan proposed by the County Commissioners for potential cost savings. Brad Rogers recognized that both the County Council and the Board of Commissioners are searching for ways to reduce budgets in light of SEA 1. Similarly, Brad Rogers recognized the State legislature's ongoing efforts to evaluate township operations for cost savings measures. After the recent resignation of the Concord Township Assessor on December 15, 2025, the Commissioners coordinated with the County Assessor to see if intergovernmental cooperation could achieve greater efficiencies and to evaluate possible means to assist in streamlining operations. The Commissioners recommended reducing the 2026 salary of the Concord Township Assessor, and proposed a reduction and reorganization of the Concord Township Assessor 2026 budget to the minimum amount needed for the County Assessor's team to perform day to day work that would be reviewed and approved, as appropriate, by the Concord Township Assessor. Commissioners estimate that this approach could allow for approximately \$300,000.00 in savings and would include a reduction in force at the Concord Township Assessor office. This budget reorganization could be addresses as agenda items during future Council meetings. Steven Olsen answered questions from the Council. Dave Hess acknowledged the Council's collective desire to consider the Commissioners proposal and include applicable agenda items in future Council meetings. Suzie Weirick confirmed that the Commissioners received the Commissioner Team of the Year award at the Indiana County Commissioners' Annual Conference.

COUNCIL: Graham and Bujalski spoke.

SHERIFF: None

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

- (a) Reappointment of Shane Blotkamp to the Redevelopment Commission. 1-Year Term. New term expires 12/31/26.
- (b) Appointment of Terry Rodino to the Redevelopment Commission was not approved.
- (c) Appointment of Brian Hollowell to the Redevelopment Commission. 1-Year Term. Term expires 12/31/26.
- (d) Reappointment of Mike Settles to the Elkhart County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. 2-Year Term. New term expires 12/31/27.

- (e) Reappointment of Jerry Weaver to the Elkhart County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. 1-Year Term. New term expires 12/31/26.
- (f) Reappointment of Darryl Riegsecker to the Redevelopment Commission. 1-Year Term. New term expires 12/31/26.
- (g) Reappointment of Jon Hunsberger to the Redevelopment Commission was not approved.

On motion to reappoint Shane Blotkamp (5a) and Darryl Riegsecker (5f) and appoint Brian Hollowell (5c) to the Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission made by Clark and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the appointments with a vote of 7 to 0. As such, no further action was required on the remaining candidates for appointment to the Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission (5b and 5g). Steven Olsen answered questions for the Council. Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke.

On motion to reappoint Mike Settles (5d) and Jerry Weaver (5e) to the Elkhart County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the appointments with a vote of 7 to 0.

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ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

- 1. Buildings & Grounds (140) requested \$985,000.00 for an emergency appropriation for the cost of boiler repair and rental fees at the jail.

Jeff Taylor and Bob Barnes presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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Total Appropriations Approved: \$985,000.00

TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

B. GENERAL (#1000)

- 1. Coroner (107)

From: 43080 Autopsies	\$48,000.00
To: 44500 Motor Vehicles	<u>\$48,000.00</u>

Total Coroner: \$48,000.00

(Merv Miller and Jeff Taylor answered questions by the Council on this request.)

C. EDIT (#1112)

- 1. Highway Department (980)

From: 41310 Group Insurance	\$200,000.00
To: 43090 Other Professional Services	<u>\$200,000.00</u>

Total Highway: \$200,000.00

D. INFRACTION DEFERRAL (#2525)

- 1. Prosecuting Attorney (155)

From: 43090 Professional Services	\$2,000.00
43120 Postage	\$1,000.00
44535 Data Hardware	\$1,000.00
43500 Building Repairs	\$250.00
43110 Sustenance	\$250.00
To: 41310 Group Insurance	<u>\$4,500.00</u>

Total Prosecuting Attorney: \$4,500.00

TOTAL OVERALL TRANSFERS = \$252,500.00

Dave Hess presented these requests to the Council.

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

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TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jeff Taylor presented the following items:

1. Approval of Interest Rate Committee Recommendation for Major Moves Loan.

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.

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Steven Olsen presented the following items:

2. Approval of CC-2025-26: Ordinance Adopting Amendment to Elkhart County Government Personnel Policy and Standard Procedures Manual.

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.

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3. Approval of CC-2025-27: An Ordinance Amending the 2026 Elkhart County Salary Ordinance.

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

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4. Approval of CC-2025-28: An Ordinance Amending and Restating the Elkhart County Local Major Moves Construction Fund Ordinance.

Steven Olsen requests to table this request.

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

AUDIENCE ITEMS: Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke and Doug Graham responded.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Patricia A. Pickens
Elkhart County Auditor