

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
January 15, 2026

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council President, Tom Stump 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 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.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026:

1st Deputy Auditor, Tiara Jackson, opened the nominations for Council President for 2026. Doug Graham nominated Tom Stump for President.

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

No other nominations were brought forward. Dave Hess made motion to close nominations and was seconded by Riegsecker.

President Stump opened the nominations for Vice President. Darryl Riegsecker nominated Dave Hess for Vice President and was seconded by Yohn.

No other nominations were brought forward. Steven Clark made motion to close nominations and was seconded by Bujalski The Council unanimously carried and approved the nomination with a vote of 7 to 0.

President Stump recommended to keep the Department Appointments the same as in 2025.

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

President Stump recommended to keep the Budget Department Assignments the same as in 2025.

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

MINUTES: Approval of CC Minutes for December 18, 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: None

COUNCIL: Graham spoke to thank Suzie Weirick for representing our County with the State and mentioned that people he's spoken to at the new courthouse have nothing but good things to say about the courthouse. Yohn commented on how well the streaming service worked for the new courthouse, and later

mentioned his decision to retire from the Council at the end of 2026. Hess spoke about his plans to retire from the Council at the end of 2026. Clark spoke about SEA-1. Bujalski spoke about the State Legislature.

SHERIFF: None

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Assessor's Office (109) requested \$143,208.00 for 3 new positions added to the Assessor's Office to cover Concord Assessor responsibilities.

Cathy Searcy presented this request and answered questions 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 7 to 0.

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B. DRUG FREE COMMUNITY (#1148)

1. Auditor's Office (980) requested \$139,641.00 for funding programming allocated to Criminal Justice, Prevention, Treatment, & Administration.

Jessica Koscher presented this request to the Council.

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

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C. HEALTH OPERATING (#1159)

1. CHN/Health (982) requested \$4,222.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to 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 7 to 0.

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D. HEALTH OPERATING (#1159)

1. CHN/Lobley (983) requested \$2,776.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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E. LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE (#1168)

1. Health Dept. (982) requested \$5,707.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore 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 vote of 7 to 0.

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F. AUDITOR INELIGIBLE (#1216)

1. Auditor's Office (102) requested \$49,000.00 in funds to cover an invoice for services related to the Homestead Audit.

Tiara Jackson presented this request and answered questions by 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.

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

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$4,950,000.00 in funds to construct water mains & connections in Prairie Creek Run.

Mae Hope and Brad Rogers presented this request and answered questions by the Council. She also explained that the amount was reduced to \$3,500,000.00 due to bids received. Glenn Null, Goshen, spoke. Melanie Sizemore, Bristol, spoke.

On motion to approve \$3,500,000.00 made by Bujalski and seconded by Yohn, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – Yes, Graham – No, Hess – Yes, Riegsecker – No, Yohn – Yes, and Stump – No. With a vote of 4 to 3, the reduced amount was approved.

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H. PARKS & RECREATION DONATIONS (#4909)

1. Parks & Recreation Dept./Park Board (980) requested \$78,780.00 to set up accounting from the Community Foundation DeFries Endowment for payroll.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions by 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.

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I. PARKS & RECREATION DONATIONS (#4909)

1. Parks & Recreation Dept. (980) requested \$175,000.00 to be appropriated for designated park donations for County Park projects, special events, & programs.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke.

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.

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J. WIC GRANT (#8101)

1. Health Dept. (982) requested \$2,339.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

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

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K. CHILDHOOD LEAD POISON (#8120)

1. Health Dept. (980) requested \$60.53 in funds from 2012 to help pay for supplies associated with lead poisoning.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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.

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L. DENTAL PROGRAM INCOME (#8178)

1. Health Dept. (982) requested \$3,206.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

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

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M. LOCAL GRANT HEALTHY BABIES (#9122)

1. Health Dept. (981) requested \$36,873.00 to appropriate funds for the Healthy Babies Program for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore 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.

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N. LOCAL GRANT HEALTHY BABIES (#9122)

1. Health Dept. (982) requested \$1,027.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2026.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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O. PCR ADAMS ST. COMMUNITY FUND (#9154)

1. Planning & Development/PCR Water (980) requested \$159,560.14 in funds for owner-occupied water connections from Community Foundations & Osolo Township.

Mae Hope presented this request to the Council.

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.

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P. LILLY GIFT VIII (#9173)

1. Health Dept. (981) requested \$166,000.00 from the grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to support Case Management Services for high-risk parents in the county.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Bujalski commended all the departments on turning in fewer appropriations this January compared to last January.

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

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Total Appropriations Approved: \$4,467,399.67

TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

Q. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT (#9157)

1. Community Corrections (980)

From: 41120 Professional	\$22,000.00
41125 Technicians	\$3,400.00
41130 Protective Service Workers	\$10,400.00
41165 Excess Hours	\$3,100.00
To: 43090 Professional Services	<u>\$38,900.00</u>
Total ECCC:	\$38,900.00

TOTAL OVERALL TRANSFERS = \$38,900.00

Tom Stump presented these requests to the Council.

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

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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. Grant Ordinances:

- a. Approval of CC-2026-01: An Ordinance Establishing the 20.703 HMEP LEPC Training Exer. Grant Fund for the Elkhart County Emergency Management Department. (8206)

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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- b. Approval of CC-2026-02: An Ordinance Establishing the 20.703 HMEP Decontamination EX Grant Fund for the Elkhart County Emergency Management Department. (8205)

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

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- c. Approval of CC-2026-03: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the CFEC Placemaking Grant Fund for the Elkhart County Park and Recreation Department. (9179)

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.

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2. Encumbrances:

- a. Approval of CC-2026-04: An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Encumbering 2025 Funds for 2026 Budget Year.

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. Ordinances:

- a. Approval of Ordinance CC-2026-05 An Ordinance Amending the 2026 Elkhart County Salary Ordinance.

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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AUDIENCE ITEMS: Pam Keyser, Middlebury, 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 Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:25 PM.

Tiara Jackson
Elkhart County 1st Deputy Auditor