

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
March 19, 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, and Darryl Riegsecker. Also, present was Tiara Jackson, County Auditor, and Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office. Absent was Randy Yohn.

** 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 February 19, 2026.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 495)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: Suzie Weirick spoke about items highlighted in the legislative session that just ended, including matters involving township assessors, the new housing bill, updates to last year's SEA 1, and other matters. Suzie Weirick further discussed working with the State Legislature during the upcoming budget year.

COUNCIL: Steve Clark added comments about the HEA 1210 and SEA-1 updates. Steve Clark proposed that he be the Council member under HEA 1210 that works with the city and town fiscal offers to develop an agreement for addressing the LIT distribution under SEA-1 for submission to the DLGF. The Council unanimously agreed that Steve Clark would serve in that role. Doug Graham asked people to volunteer to help run the election polls this year and to contact the Clerk's Office for more information. Doug Graham also commended Steve Clark for holding a town meeting with the League of Women Voters to discuss SEA-1. Doug Graham further noted that Bristol paid off its Major Moves Fund loan. Finally, Doug Graham thanked Brad, Suzie, Bob, and Jeff for the excellent job they're doing managing the Old Historic Goshen Courthouse project. Adam Bujalski mentioned serving on the Boys and Girls Club Board and congratulated Kristina Petkova, a Senior at Goshen High School, who was awarded Elkhart County Youth of the Year.

SHERIFF: None

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Egbert Dijkstra presented the Nomination and Approval of Mike Swallow to the PSCC Commission for a four-year term that will expire on February 28, 2030.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the nomination with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 496)

STATE REP. DOUG MILLER ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL:

State Rep. Doug Miller provided an update on this year's General Assembly. He identified his work in the housing space this year including his work on House Bill 1001. He noted that housing will continue to be a priority for the General Assembly and the Braun Administration. He discussed a housing shortage in the

state of Indiana and discussed the increasing age of first-time homebuyers. He stated that local and state government need to have a good, clear definition of what property rights are. In addressing the cost of housing prices, he noted a key component in his mind for our state would be the manufactured housing industry. He told the Council that factory-built homes now are built every bit as good as stick-built homes. He also expressed his thoughts on the benefits of accessory dwelling units for housing different people on the same parcel. Council discussed land development infrastructure awards and concerns with limited builder arrangements.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. AUDITOR'S INELIGIBLE (#1216)

1. Auditor's Office (102) requested \$25,000.00 in funds to cover invoice related to Homestead Audit.

Tiara Jackson 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 497)

B. PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPPLEMENT (#1200)

1. Public Defender (980) requested \$30,349.00 for an employee that will be moving from full-time to part-time when they return from FMLA.

No one from the Public Defender's Office was present to present this request to the Council.

On motion to deny this request made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the denial of the request with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 498)

C. LILLY GIFT VIII GRANT (#9173)

1. Health Dept. (981) requested \$33,597.00 in funds to pay part-time staff to support Case Management Services for high-risk parents in Elkhart County.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Hess, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 499)

D. JUSTICE PARTNERS ADDICTIONS GRANT (#9146)

1. Judiciary (980) requested \$60,000.00 for grant setup for the FY2026 Supreme Court Interpreter Grant award.

Ross Maxwell 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 500)

E. LARE GRANT (#9105)

1. Parks & Recreation (980) requested \$79,175.00 for the reimbursable IDNR Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE) that will be utilized to stabilize the shoreline at Treasure Island County Park.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Doug Weaver,

Elkhart, spoke.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 501)

F. CFEC PLACEMAKING GRANT (#9179)

1. Parks & Recreation (980) requested \$25,000.00 to be appropriated into Acct. #9179 for restoration of the Historic Log Cabin at the River Preserve County Park.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 502)

G. CUMULATIVE VOTING SYSTEMS (#1143)

1. Clerk's Office/Election Board (190) requested \$283,100.00 to purchase new Express Poll System poll books & all necessary items to go along with the purchase agreement signed by the previous Clerk.

Patty Pickens 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 503)

H. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$1,000,000.00 in funds required for contribution towards demolition of former Elkhart County Courthouse in reference to the Interlocal Agreement with the city of Elkhart.

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

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Graham, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – No, Graham – Yes, Hess – Yes, Riegsecker – No, and Stump – Yes. With a vote of 4 to 2, the request was approved.

(pg. 504)

I. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$405,000.00 in funds for preliminary engineering design & associated costs for the replacement of Bridge 336 on CR 31 over the Elkhart River.

Kyle Wagner 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 505)

J. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$65,000.00 in funds for 2026 traffic signals upgrade at 28 intersections.

Kyle Wagner 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 506)

K. LOCAL ROAD AND STREET (#1169)

- 1. Highway Dept. (222) requested \$650,000.00 to cover additional expenses that have been needed for excess snow events in early 2026 & State of Emergency from 1/20 – 1/29/26.

Kyle Wagner and Jeff Taylor 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 6 to 0.

(pg. 507)

Total Appropriations Approved: \$2,625,872.00

TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

L. WIC BREASTFEEDING GRANT (#8102)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Health Dept. (980) | |
| From: 41135 Paraprofessional Full-Time | <u>\$434.00</u> |
| To: 43140 Telephone | \$434.00 |

M. JDAI GRANT (#9160)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Judiciary (981) | |
| From: 43050 Data Processing Services | <u>\$400.00</u> |
| To: 42310 Food | \$400.00 |

Total Transfers: \$834.00

Tom Stump presented these requests to the Council.

On motion to approve both transfers made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a vote of 6 to 0.

(pg. 508)

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor’s office)

OTHER BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE ITEMS: Doug Weaver, Elkhart, spoke.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Bujalski and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:21 PM.

Tiara Jackson
Elkhart County Auditor