

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 20, 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. The other Board members, Suzie Weirick and Bob Barnes were also present. Others present were Steve Olsen, County Attorney; Tiara Jackson, 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 April 13, 2026 meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 171)

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:

Joe Leichtman, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented a recommendation to award the Historic Goshen Courthouse Window Replacement to Schrock Commercial for \$1,063,000.00. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this recommendation.

(Item 172)

Kevin Williams, County Building Commissioner, presented a request for approval to release bids for demolition of 27575 County Road 24, Elkhart, Indiana, and 30495-3 County Road 24, Elkhart, Indiana with bid opening to be May 26, 2026. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved to release bids.

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented a request for use of the Historic Goshen Courthouse Lawn by Downtown Goshen, Inc. First Fridays on Friday, July 3, 2026 for Street Festival. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request subject to the Certificate of Insurance being submitted.

(Item 173)

Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, presented a request for approval of River Bend Development Group, LLC, represented by Wightman for a zone map change from A-1 to DPUD R-3 and for primary approval of a 1-lot major subdivision to be known as Riverbend Townhomes DPUD, north side of CR 16, 550 ft. west of CR 116 in Middlebury Township. Terry Lang, Wightman, spoke. Marlin Schwartz, Riverbend Development Group, spoke. Mary Cripe, Middlebury Town Manager, spoke. Terry Lang, Wightman, spoke again. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. The following audience members spoke against this request:

Tom Carney, Middlebury
Dora Miller, Middlebury
Rick Miller, Middlebury
Steph Kauffman, Middlebury
Ben Dorr, Middlebury
Marcia Imel, Middlebury
Cindi Hajicek, Goshen
Mike Eash, Middlebury
Janelle Benjamin, Middlebury
Pam Keyser, Middlebury
Sarah Sumrall, Bristol
J.D. Vandermeer, Middlebury
Anna Dorr, Middlebury
Mike Eash, Middlebury, asked about a study for a buggy lane.
Daniel Miller, Middlebury
Shannon Robinson, Elkhart
Ed Imel, Middlebury
Scott Bunger, Middlebury
Jennifer Albertson, Goshen

On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. Terry Lang, Wightman, spoke again. Each member of the Board then spoke. Suzie Weirick then made a motion to approve the request, and Brad Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Bob Barnes, NO; Suzie Weirick, YES; Brad Rogers, YES. With a vote of 2-1, the Board approved the request.

(Item 174)

Danielle Richards, Planning and Development, presented a request for approval of the Emerald Chase Land Development LLC represented by Abonmarche Consultants for secondary approval of a 35-lot minor subdivision to be known as Luxe Granger, Phase One, south side of CR 1, 2,445 ft. west of CR 5 in Cleveland Township. Crystal Welsh, Abonmarche, spoke. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No audience members wished to speak. 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, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Item 175)

Mae Hope, Planning Director, presented a request for approval of Town of Bristol represented by JPR for amendment to the text of the Elkhart County Development Ordinance to add the Town of Bristol Overlay, located within the limits of the Town of Bristol. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. Angela Smith, Jones Petrie Rafinski, spoke. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. Suzie Weirick then made a motion to approve the request, and Brad Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Bob Barnes, NO; Suzie Weirick, YES; Brad Rogers, YES. With a vote of 2-1, the Board approved the request.

(Item 176)

Mae Hope, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from CR6 & CR17 Improvement TIF Fund in the amount of \$450,000.00 for funds to cover a portion of paving package costs associated with roadways affecting the TIF area. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation request.

(Item 177)

Mae Hope, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from Northwest Gateway TIF Fund in the amount of \$650,000.00 for funds to cover a portion of paving package costs associated with roadways affecting the TIF area. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this additional appropriation request.

(Item 178)

BOARD ITEMS:

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, made a point of clarification for the Board regarding the request for use of the Historic Goshen Courthouse Lawn by Downtown Goshen, Inc presented earlier in the meeting. He clarified for the Board and public that the request will be in consistency with the ordinance, that being the 9:00 p.m. cut-off time which will include the close up.

ADJOURNMENT:

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