

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 8, 2021

President Suzie Weirick 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, Frank Lucchese and Brad Rogers was also present. Others present were Craig Buche, County Attorney; Patricia Pickens, County Auditor; Jeff Taylor, County Administrator and Anita Mock, Executive Assistant.

***This meeting commenced pursuant to public notice under the Indiana open door law and Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders. This meeting was made available for the public and press to attend in person or engage in remote real-time observation and remote electronic participation.

On a motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Allowance of Claims as presented by the County Auditor's office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Purdue Extension Representative, Robert Kelly, requested approval of Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Government of Elkhart County, Indiana. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Surveyor, Phil Barker, requested approval of appointment of Matthew Morehouse to the Drainage Board replacing Glen Showalter for the remainder of 2021. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Planning & Development Director, Chris Godlewski, requested approval of additional appropriation from County Road 6 & County Road 17 NE TIF Fund in the amount of \$3,650,000 for funds for County Road 4 construction west of County Road 17, County Road 4 tree/row clearing between County Road 17 & County Road 19 and County Road 4 utility material purchase to be reimbursed by developer. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Planning & Development Director, Chris Godlewski, requested approval of additional appropriation from North/West Gateway TIF Fund in the amount of \$50,000 for North/West Gateway Mobility Study, to be reimbursed by St. Joseph County. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of Lawson-Fisher Associates Contract Amendment No. 2 for Road Reconstruction and Added Buggy Lanes on County Road 40 from Wakarusa Town Limits (State Road 19) to County Road 7. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, received Bids for County Road 4 Extension between County Road 17 and County Road 19 Clearing and Grading Contract. The Bids received are as follows:

- C & E Excavating \$259,500.00
- Selge Construction \$292,000.00
- HRP Construction \$354,650.00
- Beer & Slabaugh Inc. \$342,000.00
- Niblock Excavating \$298,945.00
- Rieth Riley Construction \$548,134.00
- Miller Brothers Construction \$247,540.81

On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved to accept and review the Bids.

County Administrator, Jeff Taylor received Bids for County Road 4 Extension between County Road 17 and County Road 19 Materials Contract. The Bids received are as follows:

- Underground Pipe & Valve \$330,674.00 Several line items.
- Core & Main \$1,234,027.50 All line items.
- Ferguson Waterworks \$1,232,017.50 All line items.

On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved to accept and review the Bids.

County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of Drainage Easement in Emerald Downs Subdivision for Construction and Maintenance of Drainage Infrastructure. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approval this request.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of 45 mph speed limit Ordinance of County Road 35 between County Road 14 and US Highway 20. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of initial acceptance of Evergreen Ridge Subdivision on County Road 35 between County Road 14 and US Highway 20. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Auditor, Patty Pickens, requested approval of GUTS Master Subscription Services Agreement/PVDNet Cloud Agreement. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Emergency Management Director, Jenn Tobey, requested approval of the following grants:

- 2021 SHSP ECSO Drone \$60,000
- 2021 EMPG Salary \$69,827.63
- 2021 EMPG Vehicle \$40,000
- 2022 HMEP EMA \$5,500
- 2022 HEMP LEPC Phase 1 \$15,000
- 2022 HEMP LEPC Phase 2 \$15,000
- 2022 HEMP LEPC Training & Exercise \$14,000

On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

BOARD ITEMS:

County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of additional appropriation from the Economic Development Fee Fund in the amount of \$5,000 for funds needed for Northern Indiana Advocacy 2021 membership dues. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Information Technology Director, Matt Dietz, requested approval of additional appropriation from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for funds to cover upgrades for Highway and other projects. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Information Technology Director, Matt Dietz, requested approval of additional appropriation from the Cumulative Capital Fund in the amount of \$150,000 for funds needed due to increased costs to backups for Aanalytics.

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County Attorney, Craig Buche, requested approval of Interlocal Agreement with Redevelopment Commission for the County Road 4 from County Road 17 to County Road 19 Project. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Attorney, Craig Buche, requested approval of Ordinance Amendment for the American Rescue Plan Fund on administering the funds and the plan. County Surveyor, Phil Barker, discussed how these funds could impact sewer/water quality. Brad Rogers wished for his comments to be reflected in the minutes. His comments are as follows: "I recognize this is not a request for appropriation to spend the money; it is merely a plan. With that I express the following concerns:

- No public meeting for input.
- No joint Council/Commissioner/Auditor meeting
- No plan for lost revenue, something that can put money into our general fund due to COVID problems; and really should be a priority IMO
- Additional suggestions received by the Council have not been universally discussed
- The plan, although intended to be general, is too vague on how the money will be proposed to be spent, for what purpose, and who or what entity receives the funds and there are items missing that should be considered. So, since ordinance provides us to make adjustments to this plan and does not lock us in I can generally support this plan. However, I will need specificity on any appropriation in the future so I can explain to the public how the money is spent and what entity receives it."

Frank Lucchese added that he agreed with Brad Rogers and that the new Ordinance does give flexibility to move money where needed. Suzie Weirick added that staff has been regularly involved. The Auditor and Council Members have had opportunities to speak up in the plan and the budget, specifically regarding the loss of revenue. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

On a motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned their meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Mock