

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 4, 2022

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, were also present. Others present were Craig Buche, County Attorney; Jeff Taylor, County Administrator; Patricia Pickens, County Auditor and Anita Mock, Administrative Manager.

***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.

Auditor, Patty Pickens, opened the floor for nominations. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, Suzie Weirick was nominated as President of the Board.

On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, Frank Lucchese was nominated as Vice President of the Board.

On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the various assignments as follows:

President – Suzie Weirick
Vice President – Frank Lucchese
MACOG – Suzie Weirick
St. Joseph River Basin – Brad Rogers
Drainage Board – Frank Lucchese
Plan Commission - Frank Lucchese
Oaklawn – Brad Rogers
Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) – Brad Rogers
CCPC – Personnel Liaison – Brad Rogers
Affirmative Action (EEOC) – Frank Lucchese
Economic Development Commission – Suzie Weirick
Emergency Management Board – Suzie Weirick
South Bend - Elkhart/Regional Partnership – Suzie Weirick
Public Defender Board – Brad Rogers
Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council – Suzie Weirick

On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried the Board approved the Minutes of the December 13th, December 20th & December 23rd, 2021 meetings and placed them on file.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Planning & Development Building Inspector, Kevin Williams, received Bids for Nuisance Cleanup Services in Elkhart County, Indiana. The Bids received are as follows:

- Jerry Reed Excavating in the amount of \$250.00 per hour.
- Turn Row Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$105.00 per hour.

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

On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointments to various County Departments as follows:

Director, Buildings & Grounds – Don Tubicsak
Veteran's Service Officer – James Snowden
County Highway Engineer – Tom Rushlow
Manager of Transportation – vacant
Director, Human Resources – Kirt Hunsberger
Chief Information Officer – Tony Peffley, Interim
Weights & Measures – Todd Barrows
Emergency Management Director – Jenn Tobey
County Administrator – Jeff Taylor
County Attorney – Craig Buche

On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved appointments to various County Boards and placed them on file. The appointments will be published at a later date.

Commissioner's additional appropriation request from the General Fund in the amount of \$60,000 for funds requested for services rendered from BIG IDEA Company for the calendar year of 2022 was tabled.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of additional appropriation request from American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$1,250,000 for the following:

- Funds requested for Rate Study Foraker & Southwest in the amount of \$50,000.
- Funds requested for Survey Design Construction Inspection for Foraker & Southwest in the amount of \$1,200,000.

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

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Positively Elkhart Representative, Jess Koscher, requested approval of Elkhart County Drug-Free Partnership, 2022 Drug-Free Community Fund Allocation Recommendations in the amount of \$278,411.00. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Positively Elkhart Representative, Jess Koscher, requested to have additional appropriation from 2021 reapproved for 2022 in the amount of \$50,000. The amount was not carried over from 2021. 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 additional appropriation from Cumulative Bridge Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for funds to design the replacement of Bridge 233 – County Road 36 west of County Road 11 over Yellow Creek. This is a federal aid project and is 80% reimbursable. 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 Highway Department to purchase two (2) 2022 Chevrolet Silverado's to replace 2005 and 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazers. 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 Financial Commitment Letter for Community Crossings Matching Grant 2022-2 Application. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Humane Society Director, Rob LaRoy, requested approval of Contract for Animal Shelter Management & Animal Control Services by and between the County of Elkhart, Indiana and The Humane Society of Elkhart County in the amount of \$220,000. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Humane Society Director, Rob LaRoy, requested approval of Interlocal Agreements with the City of Elkhart, City of Goshen, Town of Middlebury, Town of Wakarusa, Town of Bristol and Town of Nappanee for Animal Services provided by the Humane Society. Communities are responsible for the following reimbursement amounts: Elkhart - \$139,150, Goshen - \$85,400, Middlebury - \$5,940, Wakarusa - \$6,600, Bristol - \$4,400 & Nappanee - \$11,535. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Knights of Columbus request use of Elkhart Courthouse Property on January 22, 2022 from noon to 1:00 p.m. for a walk carrying pro-life signs on the sidewalk to promote life in conjunction with the National Right to Life March being held in Washington D.C. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Weights & Measures Report from November 16th to December 15th, 2021.

BOARD ITEMS:

County Attorney, Craig Buche, requested approval of Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Thomas W. Stump & Council Member, Dave Hess, Disclosure of Family Member's Proposed Contract with 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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AUDIENCE ITEMS:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Mock