

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 12, 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; Patricia Pickens, County Auditor; Jeff Taylor, County Administrator and Anita Mock, 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 and remote electronic participation.

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:

County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of Elkhart County, Series 2022 Bonds Disbursement of Funds from Project Fund #1001026397 Requisition #6 Pay App #7 for the Courthouse Construction in the amount of \$2,056,585.38. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Page 539)

County Highway, Charlie McKenzie, requested approval of Maintenance Bond for Milestone Contractors North, Inc. to construct the Johnson Street Bridge #383B Overlay Project. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Page 540)

Redevelopment Program Coordinator, Natasha Kauffman, requested approval of Independent Contractor Agreement by and between the Board of Commissioners and Commonwealth Engineering previously approved however the agreement has been revised. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

(Page 541)

County Attorney, Steve Olsen, requested approval of Ordinance to Update the Elkhart County Code by Amending the Stormwater User Fee Ordinance for the County of Elkhart, Indiana. MS4 Stormwater Manager, John Heilinger, spoke in reference to his concerns if the Stormwater Fee is not raised. Brad Rogers objected to passing a fee increase. Suzie Weirick requested an explanation of difference between a fee and a tax. Steve Olsen explained in reference to Stormwater if is a fee for services rendered, not a tax. City of Goshen Representative, Jason Kauffman, explained that the current Stormwater needs constitute a current fee of \$36.10 however, the Stormwater Partnership wanted to phase in the increase. Jim Kuhlenschmidt voiced his concerns over where the Stormwater funds have been spent over the years. City of Elkhart Representative, Joe Foy, advised that Stormwater Funds for Elkhart City are used to offset the cost of utility services and drainage issues. Frank Lucchese advised that Stormwater has been operating in 2022 on a budget that originated in 2006. Suzie Weirick advised that raising fees is difficult to consider however the public is entitled to %100 clean water. On a motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Suzie Weirick the Board approved this request. A roll call vote followed: Brad Rogers, Nay; Frank Lucchese, Aye; Suzie Weirick, Aye. The vote passed 2 to 1.

(Page 542)

BOARD ITEMS:

County Highway, Charlie McKenzie, requested approval of accepting a quote from KC Tree Service for clearing of trees for the County Road 18/County Road 15/County Road 13 Project in the amount of \$82,500.00. On motion made by Frank Lucchese, seconded by Brad Rogers and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of Goshen City BZA zoning change for the Work Release Center located at 201 North Cottage Avenue, Goshen, Indiana. On motion made by Brad Rogers, seconded by Frank Lucchese and unanimously carried, the Board approved to support the ratification of the zoning change.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Mock