

# MINUTES

## ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 17, 2023

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 Craig Buche, County Attorney; Patricia Pickens, 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 Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> & January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 meetings and placed them on file.

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:**

Planning & Development, Mae Kratzer, requested approval of June Cleveland for a zone map change from B-34 to B-2, west side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 110 feet south of County Road 42, in Union Township. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No audience members wished to speak on this matter. 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.

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Planning & Development Director, Chris Godlewski, requested approval of Unified Development Ordinance Contract by and between Elkhart County Planning & Development and Abonmarche. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Redevelopment Program Coordinator, Natasha Kauffman, requested approval of additional appropriation from County Road 6 & County Road 17 NE TIF Fund in the amount of \$230,000 for Prairie Creek Run water line engineering design for multiple sections in the neighborhood. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Redevelopment Program Coordinator, Natasha Kauffman, requested approval of additional appropriation from Prairie Creek Run Adams Street Community Fund in the amount of \$61,830 for infrastructure in PCR – funds from Community Foundation and Osolo Township. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Redevelopment Program Coordinator, Natasha Kauffman, requested approval of additional REDUCTION from County Road 6 & County Road 17 NE TIF Fund in the amount of \$90,346.10 for project close out for County Road 4 construction between County Road 15 and County Road 17. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Administrator, Jeff Taylor, requested approval of Right-Of-Way Contract with United Consulting for the Bridge #312 Replacement. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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County Attorney, Craig Buche, requested approval of Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Steven E. Clark. On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Community Corrections Director, Helen Calvin, requested approval of Ordinance Amending Fees for the Elkhart County Community Corrections Programs and Section 31.051: Program Fees of Chapter 31: County Organizations and Officials of Title III: Administration of the Elkhart County Code. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

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Commissioner Brad Rogers, requested approval of Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Elkhart County, Indiana Expressing Support for the State Legislature to Pass Legislation Closing Indiana's Obscenity Loophole. Commissioner Suzie Weirick stated that she felt the Resolution presented by Brad Rogers was offensive and threatened 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights. Suzie Weirick then read the Resolution she had prepared to protect the Constitution and our youth. Brad Rogers opened a public comment. The following individuals spoke in favor and against both Resolutions:

- Rhonda Miller, Nappanee
- Jon Schrock, Covington
- Ann Wenger, Goshen
- Terry Wood, Elkhart
- Cindi Hajicek, Elkhart
- Gina Leighty, Goshen
- Jim Riekhoff, President Board of Trustees Elkhart Libraries.
- Norma Glendall, Middlebury
- Marilyn Graber, Goshen
- Tina Irrin, Leesburg

- Beth Shalley, Goshen
- William Fowler, Nappanee
- Benjamin Mahoney, Goshen
- John Slabaugh, Middlebury
- Anika Roth, Goshen
- Judy Ferrill, Elkhart
- John Glick, Goshen
- Glenn Null, Goshen
- Alan Kauffman, Goshen
- Anna Shirk, Elkhart
- Aaron Mischler, Elkhart
- Pam Keyser, Middlebury
- Barb Hassan, Goshen
- David Harper, Wakarusa
- Cliff Miller
- Rebecca Yeater
- John Levitt, Nappanee
- Jeremy Freeson, Goshen
- Dwight Fish, Elkhart
- Richard Aguirre, Goshen
- Lisa Carreano, Director Elkhart Public Library
- Brock Richardson, Goshen
- Rebecca Royce, Leesburg
- Marla Anderson, Goshen
- Michael Peterson, Nappanee
- Jeff Jamansky, Middlebury
- Nancy Kauffman, Goshen
- Sara Gotte, Goshen
- Brian Holloman, Goshen

On motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Brad Rogers the Resolution proposed by Brad Rogers passed. A roll call vote followed: Bob Barnes, YAY; Brad Rogers, YAY; Suzie Weirick, NAY. Suzie Weirick made a motion to approve her Resolution. No second, the motion died. Both Resolutions are placed on file in the minutes.

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**BOARD ITEMS:**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Glenn Null spoke on several issues.

Richard Aguirre spoke on MLK Day and Civil Rights Movement.

Rebecca Yeager spoke on banning books.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita Mock