

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Aug 7, 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, County Auditor; Jeff Taylor, County Administrator and Kelly Ropp, 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.

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:

Approve the Commissioners Appointment of a Board member to the Middlebury Public Library. Suzie Weirick moved to approve the appointment of Catherine Ross, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this appointment.

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, Requested approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. Seven Proposals were presented. Suzie Weirick moved to accept the seven proposals with the lowest bid, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, requested Additional Appropriation from General Fund in the amount of \$390,055.00 for interest earned on bond funds and ARP funds to be used for the new courthouse. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Brad Rogers, Commissioner, announced that the Additional Appropriation Request from General Fund in the amount of \$90,000.00 for meal and travel expenses for PMSI and Big Idea costs for new courthouse promotion and information, has been tabled.

Brad Rogers, Commissioner, requested Additional Appropriation from General Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00 for costs for blocked train crossings warning and information. This is a local company by the name of Blocked Crossings LLC. This would provide information in real time to first responders and to the public if they desire, on which crossings are blocked and

which are open. This will cover installation and support for the software for one year. There will be some annual recurring fees amounting to approximately \$9600.00 which, Tom Lantz, Jackson Township Trustee has agreed to fund annually. This would be primarily for 8 crossings in the New Paris/Jackson township area. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Charlie McKenzie, Highway, Additional Appropriation Request from Community Crossings Grant Fund in the amount of \$691,994.43 for funds received from INDOT for the 2023-1 Community Crossings matching grant to appropriate received grant funds. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Mae Kratzer, Planning, Requested approval of Planning & Development Department Interlocal Financial Agreement between Elkhart County Commissioners and Elkhart City Board of Works for training. There is no limit on the number of attendees. It will be \$1750.00 each for the two groups. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

BOARD ITEMS:

Craig Buche, County Attorney, requested release of RFP for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new Courthouse pending legal review. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request pending legal review.

Craig Buche, County Attorney, requested release for a bid package for the Structured Cabling which includes wiring, cables, etc., for the new Courthouse subject to legal review. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request pending legal review.

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, requested receipt of proposals for the audio/visual Technology for the new Courthouse. Two bid proposals were received. One from New Era Technology, and one from BIS. One bid was \$900,000.00 less than the other one. The request is to enter into negotiations with New Era Technology and amend the award of the contract date to August 14, 2023 pending legal review. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request pending legal review.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR;

Julie Wald- spoke on concerns about the new process of appointments to Public Library Boards.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp