

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
August 17th, 2023

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Sheriff Jeff Siegel at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Darryl J. Riegsecker, Randall D. Yohn, Douglas S. Graham, and Steven E. Clark. Council members absent were Council Vice President David L. Hess and Adam M. Bujalski. Also present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor, and Craig Buche, County Attorney.

** 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 and virtually in remote real-time observation via Web-Ex.

MINUTES: Approval of CC Meeting Minutes: July 20th,2023

On motion made to approve July 20th,2023 minutes by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 5 to 0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners Rogers discussed an Interlocal Agreement for the Consolidated Courts Site, that was approved on April 20th,2021. He asked the Council to vote on the support to go forward with this Interlocal.

On motion made to support the Interlocal by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved to move forward on this Interlocal with a vote of 5 to 0.

COUNCIL: None

AUDITOR: Patricia A. Pickens gave the financial report.

SHERIFF: None

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Craig Buche:

1. CC-2023-27 Ordinance of the Elkhart County Commissioners and the Elkhart County Council Adopting an Amendment for the Administration of Vacation Time and Sick Time.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request with a 5 to 0 vote.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Elkhart Public Library-Lisa Guedea Carreno

1. Consideration and Appointment of Yuliana Rivera Arce to the Elkhart Public Library Board of Trustees. Four (4) year term. Expires 6/30/2027.

On motion made to approve by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and appointed Yuliana Rivera Arce to the Elkhart Public Library Board of Trustees with a vote of 5 to 0.

Wakarusa Public Library-Matthew Bowers:

1. Consideration and Re-Appointment of Sandy Wingard to the Wakarusa Public Library Board of Trustees. Four (4) year term. Expires 6/30/2027.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved and re-appointed Sandy Wingard to the Wakarusa Public Library Board of Trustees with a vote of 5 to 0.

Middlebury Public Library-Juli Wald:

1. Consideration and Appointment of Appointment of Christopher Wheeler to the Middlebury Public Library Board of Trustees. Four (4) year term. Expires 6/29/2027.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved Christopher Wheeler to the Middlebury Public Library Board of Trustees with a vote of 5 to 0.

Elkhart County Council:

1. Approval of Re-Appointment of Dominick “Nick” Ambrose to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. One (1) year term. Expires 8/31/2024.

On motion made to approve made by Yohn and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and Re-Appointed Dominick “Nick” Ambrose to the Alcoholic Beverage Board with a vote of 5 to 0.

EDC MATTERS: None

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$390,055.00 be appropriated from the interest earned on bonds funds and ARP funds to be used for the new courthouse.

Jeff Taylor presented this to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council approved this request with a roll call vote of 4 to 1.

The Council members votes were as follows: Stump- Aye, Hess- Absent, Clark-Aye, Graham-Nay, Yohn-Aye, Riegsecker-Aye and Bujalski-Absent.

~~B. GENERAL FUNDS (#1000)~~

- ~~1. Commissioners (130) requested \$90,000.00 for PSMI Reimbursables Meal, Travel Expenses for PSMI, Big Ideas costs for new courthouse and information.~~

~~Commissioners withdrew this request.~~

C. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$60,000.00 for costs for blocked train crossing warning and information.

Commissioner Brad Rogers presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council approved this request with a 4 to 1 roll call vote.

The Council members votes are as follows: Stump-Aye, Hess-Absent, Clark-Nay, Graham-Aye, Yohn-Aye, Riegsecker-Aye and Bujalski-Absent.

D. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT (#1111)

1. Election Board (980) requested \$100.00 for reimbursement for Witness fees via Christopher Anderson for campaign finance. This was tabled from the July 20th, 2023 Council meeting. Council members had questions about the exact cost. Anderson is supposed to turn in exact amount to Auditor's office. Clerk turned in \$59.67 for the exact amount.

Christopher Anderson presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve the exact amount up to \$100.00 on request by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker to approve, the Council unanimously carried and approved this motion with a vote of 5 to 0.

E. IDOC GRANT/ PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT (#1130)

1. Highway (981) requested \$89.60 voided 2-year Dock Check monies to be appropriated into 1130-981 for check reissue by the Auditor.

Helen Calvin presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

F. PARK & RECREATION (#1179)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$8,000.00 for money to purchase an enclosed trailer for transportation of program supplies.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

G. PARK & RECREATION (#1179)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$49,000.00 money to purchase a truck for maintaining park properties.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Yohn and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

H. PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY (#8119)

1. Health (980) requested \$25,000.00 to set up FY July 1,2023-June 30,2024 grant to enhance State and Local preparedness and response to public health and healthcare emergencies.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY (#8119)

1. Health (980) requested \$1,510.00 to cover check number 613979 for \$1510.00 was sent to the wrong address. Employee paid for training need to appropriate funds in order to reimburse employee for the training.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

J. 9.656 TITLE IV-E FOSTER CARE FUND (#8179)

1. Public Defender (981) requested \$10,000.00 for equipment replacement. Public Defender is purchasing 18 printers and 7 additional trays from The Copy Image. This information was not factored into our 2023 Budget Request. The money will be deposited into Account 44535 which currently has \$4,000.00 in it.

Bridget Faulkner presented this to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

K. ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL REDUCTION (#8183)

1. Health (981) requested \$226,735.00 be appropriated to prevent the prevalence of health issues and improve the physical and behavioral health of all residents. To focus on the improvement of elevated blood lead levels by increasing awareness and to educate parents/family members of children regarding ways to identify and prevent elevated blood lead levels in the home and measures to protect a child from further poisoning.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote.

L. COVID CARES ELECTION DIVISION (#8906)

1. Election Board (980) requested \$22,654.75 be appropriated to use Covid Cares Funds for poll workers pay. Per permission from the State.

Christopher Anderson presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

M. COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT FUND (#9138)

1. Highway (980) requested \$691,994.43 to appropriate received grant funds from the 2023-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant.

Charlie McKenzie presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 5 to 0 vote.

Total Appropriations: \$1,486,098.45

REDUCTIONS:

N. IDOC GRANT/PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT (#1130)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested a reduction in the amount of -89.60 for a voided 2-year Dock Check. Monies to be appropriated out of #1130 -981 for check reissue per IDOC Auditor.

Patty Pickens presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 5 to 0.

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Craig Buche:

1. Consideration and Approval: RDC Interlocal Agreement with Town of Middlebury Preliminary Design Engineering Services for Water Main Replacement between US20 and Hardwoods Lift Station.

Craig Buche explained the details of this Interlocal to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Interlocal with a vote of 5 to 0.

2. Consideration and Approval: RDC Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Middlebury for Construction Services for East Warren Street Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Craig Buche presented this Interlocal to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Interlocal with a 5 to 0 vote.

AUDIENCE ITEMS:

Linda Hartman spoke about the public school system, she stated that 95% of the population does not know what goes on in the schools or what the curriculum is. As a former teacher she discusses book contents, talks about the library appointments and the responsibilities of the library boards.

Cindi Haijcek talked on library board appointments, book contents and the responsibility of the Council.

Lisa Guedea Carreno from Elkhart Public Library spoke on book contents. Gives definitions of pornographic and obscene. She also stated that the Elkhart Public Library has a form to fill out if a person deems a book inappropriate and goes before the board for review.

Alexander McBride talks about the library and expresses his concerns on book banning, censorship and such. He talks about the variations of opinions and values.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:24 pm.

Cindy Chadwell
Recording Secretary

A complete recording of this meeting is available in the Auditor's Office. The recording of this meeting will be available for one year and then erased.