

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 11, 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. 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 Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 7th 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:

Brad Rogers asked for a moment of silence in Honor of the individuals that lost their lives on September 11, twenty-two years ago today. 2,977 individuals lost their lives with more than 6,000 injured.

Charlie McKenzie, Highway, receive quotes for Bridge 310 – CR 21 over Swoveland Ditch Deck Replacement Project. Two bids were received, one from Reith Riley for \$190,266.74 and one from Milestone Contractors North for \$194,302.09. On motion made by Suzie Weirick and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried by the board, to accept and review the bids.

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, requested approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. There are seven locations to approve and award to the lowest bidder. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request. (Page 314)

Brad Rogers, Commissioners, Appointment of Board member to the Goshen Public Library. This will be tabled for one week and the appointment will be made next Monday.

Craig Buche, County Attorney, Draft Notice to Bidders for the Structured Cable for the New Courts Project. Request approval to release notice to bidders this week subject to legal

review. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request. (Page 315)

Craig Buche, County Attorney, Requested approval of a License Agreement for storage and Donation Agreement for site lighting from the Elkhart River Queen. Dedicate the improvement of an overhead utility light for public use. Dedication of this improvement for public use for Elkhart County, the River Queen is certifying there are no liens or encumbrances. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request. (Page 316)

The second part of the request is the ability to store some of the equipment for the boat at the New Paris Highway garage. The license agreement allows them to do so with no fees. River Queen will provide proof of insurance if the need arises. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request. (Page 317)

Mae Kratzer, Planning, requested approval of Water Tower support letter. This is a request on behalf of the City of Elkhart to apply for a grant for a new water tower at State Road 19 and CR 26. This area does include the jail, and it would provide increased water capacity and pressure. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request. (Page 318)

BOARD ITEMS:

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, Requested a change order to the open contract with R. Yoder Construction for the Courthouse step project. This would be for additional waterproofing, insulation, two steps needing repair, and related work to fix some additional deterioration that needs to be taken care of. The cost of the change order would be \$31,689.16, the balance open on the project is \$17,814.17. The additional \$13,874.99 is available in the buildings and grounds budget. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

Craig Buche, County Attorney, Opioid Resolution, to designate up to \$500,00 which is a portion of the restricted funds for the operation of the crisis stabilization center. The County has Received two distribution of funds so far with this settlement agreement. This is also subject to an agreement with Oaklawn. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this request.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ann Margaret Rice, 302 Parmley Drive, Goshen. Director of Goshen Public Library. Spoke in support and recommended that Randall Jacobs be considered for the open appointment to the Goshen Public Library Board. This term completes a vacated term and would expire on March 31, 2024, at which time he could re-apply for the position again.

Robert Nolan, 57491 Grace Lane, Elkhart, lives west of CR 1. All areas surrounding this address have been resurfaced, but this location has not been addressed. Needs to be looked into being repaired. He has lived there for 50 years.

Glen Null, Goshen. Spoke on several issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp