

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 25, 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, and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Allowance of Claims as presented by the County Auditor's office.

Craig Buche, County Attorney requested to table the minutes for the August 21, 2023, meeting for a correction to be made. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved to table the minutes until correction is made.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Kevin Williams, Planning, opening of bids for demolition of unsafe buildings. 60320 Fenmore Ave Goshen, 22131 Mississippi Ave Goshen, 56599 Mars Drive Elkhart, and 56588 Sapphire Blvd.

B & E Excavating: \$13,400.00 for Sapphire, \$8750.00 for Fenmore, \$8700.00 for Mars, and \$7900.00 for Mississippi. C & E Excavating: \$26,025.00 for Mississippi, \$12,945.00 for Fenmore, \$15,175.00 for Mars, and \$19,730.00 for Sapphire. Beaver Excavating LLC: \$15,400.00 for Mississippi, \$13,900.00 for Fenmore, \$17,600.00 for Mars, and \$19,800.00 for Sapphire. Brad Rogers mentioned that these properties are scheduled to be auctioned off on October 21, 2023. He asked if that changes anything with the demolition. Kevin Williams responded, "No." If the properties are demolished, a lien will be placed on the properties for the cost of demolition. Brad Hooley, 14385 CR 22, Goshen, In. wished to speak on these properties. The sale will be an absolute auction, and they will sell to the highest bidder regardless of price. If you decide to demolish the three properties, they will drop off the auction list. A motion was made by Suzie Weirick to accept the bids and allow code enforcement to review the bids and come back with a recommendation next week. Seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried by the board.

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Steve Olsen, County Attorney, requested approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. Three properties for approval and consider the lowest

bidder. The first two properties need approval from the lowest bidder. One is considered a requote. A motion made by Suzie Weirick to accept the lowest bidder on the two properties, was seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried by the board. The third property had previously received three quotes on July 17, 2023. After additional review of the property it was determined additional work was required and new quotes were needed. A motion made by Suzie Weirick to stop action on the previous bid and to move forward with the new lowest bid for the property, was seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried by the board.

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Steve Olsen, County Attorney, presented consideration of Foraker-Southwest-Tecumseh Electrical RFQ amendment. Addendum #2 to the RFQ is to give additional time to do the work to meet the proposed schedule of completion. It is divided into three groups. All work in the Tecumseh group to be completed by October 27, 2023. All work in the Foraker group to be completed by December 22, 2023. And all work in the Southwest group to be completed by February 23, 2024. This is a second extension. No additional extensions are expected. It is the intention that these contractors will meet these deadlines. A motion made by Suzie Weirick to approve the Addendum #2 was seconded by Bob Barnes, and was unanimously carried by the board.

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Craig Buche, County Attorney, requested a Resolution for the exchange of certain real estate with the City of Goshen. This will be a direct exchange with no compensation. Elkhart County will transfer parcels to Goshen City and Goshen City will be transferring parcels to Elkhart County. This is Resolution # CO 2023-46. It is a mutually beneficial exchange that has been in discussion for a while, so on Motion by Suzie Weirick to approve this exchange and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the board. (Page 337)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney, requested consideration of a purchase agreement for audio/visual equipment for the New Courts Building. We need to proceed and first move forward with identifying the best value offer with the company known as ESCO, LLC, dba New Era Technology. A motion made by Suzie Weirick to award the best value offer from ESCO, LLC dba New Era Technology, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the board. The Master Products and Services agreement has been completed. A motion made by Suzie Weirick to approve and accept the Master Service Agreement was seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried by the board. (Page 340)

Work order # 1. Contract price is \$1,404,400.00. On motion by Bob Barnes and seconded by Suzie Weirick to approve work order number #1, it carried unanimously by the board. (Page 338)

Work order # 2. Contract price is a five-year term with annual payments of \$121,694.40. It will be based on when services are rendered. On motion made by Suzie Weirick to approve work order number #2, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the board. (Page 339)

Anna, from Oaklawn, requested Consideration of a joint County-Oaklawn grant for OJJDP FY 2023 Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success. This is an 18-month grant. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the Board.

Charlie McKenzie, Highway, requested approval of LPA-Consultant Agreement with Lochmueller Group for Construction Inspection services for the CR 17 Multi Use Path Bridge project. This is a need to update the hourly rate. The total cost will not change. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the Board.
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Charlie McKenzie, Highway, Request for additional certification of road mileage for inclusion in INDOT's Certified Roadway Inventory. The State uses the official road mileage to calculate funding received. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the Board.
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Nathan Tipton, Court Services, request approval of Grant Review for the 2024 Indiana Office of Court Services Problem Solving Courts Grant. State grant they apply for every year. They have taken the cap off of the grant this year. They would like to ask for \$99,637.00 this would include the normal amount of \$10,000.00 they usually get plus \$89,637.00 to fund a new position for the drug court for salary and benefits. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes, it was unanimously carried by the Board.
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On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Weights & Measurers Report from August 16th to September 15th, 2023.

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BOARD ITEMS:

Mayor Gina Leichty, City of Goshen, provided an update on the status of the Peddler/ Reliance Road project. The project is delayed but should be on track for a proposed completion date of October 31, 2024, which is a month later than originally proposed. A timeline was presented of the deadlines of the project. An explanation was given for the reasons some of the deadlines were missed.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp