

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 13, 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 October 9th, 2023, meeting with a correction to the bid due date for demolition to October 30, 2023 for Cobus Lane property 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:

Charlie McKenzie, Highway, receive bids for the Courthouse Redundancy Fiber Optic Project. It is a five-mile loop of fiber. Two bids were received. One from Hoosierland Excavating for \$483,372.50. One from Michiana Contracting for \$1,500,000.00. On motion made by Suzie Weirick and seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried by the board, to accept and review the bids. (Page 393)

Commissioners request approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. No proposals were submitted for review.

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, requested consideration of a contract with JWF Specialty for Third Party Administrator Services. This is a renewal contract. Jeff reviewed the duties of the third party administrator. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 394)

Craig Buche, County Attorney, requested consideration and approval of Major Moves Loan Resolution for the road project associated with the new Courts Facility. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 395)

Kevin Williams, Building Commissioner, requested approval to release bids for demolition of seven (7) unsafe buildings:
51841 E. County Line Road, Middlebury, (Davidhizer) 54216 Southwood Drive, Elkhart, (Roberts) 58476 Ash Road, Osceola, (Bail) 68023 US33 Goshen, (Bontrager) 25220 CR 6, Elkhart, (Marshal) 30629 CR 22, Elkhart, (Bunch) 50902 CR 15, Elkhart (Aguilar). A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 396)

Lilia Eller, CIO, requested Additional Appropriation from IT Fund 1138 Department 141 in the amount of \$355,000.00 for required IT upgrades for software and services. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 397)

Melanie Sizemore, Health Department, requested approval of Grant Application Review Form for WIC - Women, Infants and Children Renewal. This is a 1.4 million dollar grant. We have been doing this grant since 1974. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 398)

BOARD ITEMS:

Lilia Eller, CIO, Requests approval for out of state travel. December 3 to December 7, 2023. Reason for request is CIO Certification. Anticipated expenses are \$2500.00. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 399)

Craig Buche, County Attorney, we received two additional bids for the Courthouse Redundancy Fiber Optic Bid to be opened. They are subject to confirmation and verification With UPS that they were processed prior to the bid date so there are no questions on the validity of the bids. One bid from J. Rank Electric for \$838,567.50 and one bid from Kramer Service Group for \$998,057.10. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, and seconded by Bob Barnes, to accept subject to verification and confirmation of processing date of bids, unanimously carried by the board.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR;

Glenn Null spoke on several topics.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp