

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 16, 2024

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.

The minutes for November 20, 2023, and November 27, 2023, were tabled for some corrections.

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:

Steve Olson, County Attorney's office, requested approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. There are four items related to this agenda item. The first is addendum number four addressing new deadlines for completion for the Foraker project of February 29, 2024, and the Southwest project of April 30, 2024. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. The second item is electrical bids for 24188 CR 142, with the lowest bid being \$846.20. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request to accept the lowest bid. The third item is for the following properties: 25153 St. Rd. 119, 66055 CR 11, 24223 CR 142. These properties had previously been authorized to move forward with a specific contractor, that contractor outside of the Commissioners control, is no longer able to proceed forward. We need to move forward with a secondary authorization. We would request a motion authorizing the property owners to void the current contract due to impossibility. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. The fourth item is the new bids have come in with respect to those properties. We request that the Commissioners authorize the owners to move forward with the lowest bids presented today. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved the lowest bids.

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Charlie McKenzie, County Highway, requested approval of INDOT-LPA agreement for the construction phase of the Sunnyside Overpass. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 484)

Jim Hess, Soil & Water, requested approval for Out of State Travel for Jim Hess and Todd Clark to attend National Association of Conservation District (NACD) annual conference in San Diego, California on February 15, 2024. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. An additional request to the Board to grant an exception to the authorized room rates per County policy. They will not exceed the amount authorized by the Soil and Water Board. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this exception to the hotel room rate. (Page 485)

Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, presented the request of Forest River Inc. represented by Jones Petrie Rafinski for a zone map change from A-1 to a GPUD M-1 to be known as Forest River Goshen Storage Lot GPUD at southeast corner of W US 33 & CR 40 in Elkhart Township. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. Ken Jones, JPR, spoke in favor of the project. They had conducted a neighborhood meeting on this change. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 486)

Danny Dean, Planning and Development, presented the request of AWT Inc. represented by Jones Petrie Rafinski for a zone map change from A-1, GPUD B-3, GPUD R-1 & GPUD R-4 to a GPUD M-1 & GPUD M-2 to be known as Orchard Hills AWT GPUD at northeast corner of SR 15 & CR 10 in Washington Township. The plan commission added an additional zone, GPUD B-3 at the southwest corner. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. Ken Jones, JPR, spoke in favor of this project. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved the amended request.

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BOARD ITEMS

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, requested approval of Elkhart County, Series 2022 Bonds Disbursement of Funds from Project Fund #1001026397, Requisition #19, Pay App #20, for the Courthouse Construction in the amount of \$3,513,929.46. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

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PRILEGE OF THE FLOOR;

Marlon "Max" Banks, 1000 W. Mishawaka Road, Elkhart, Indiana.
Spoke about property located at 51841 E. County Line Road, Middlebury, Indiana.

Ron Davidhizer, 203 Middlebury Street, Goshen, Indiana.
Spoke about property located at 51841 E. County Line Road, Middlebury, Indiana.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp