

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 25, 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.

On a motion made by Suzie Weirick seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the March 11, 2024, 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:

Charlie McKenzie, County Highway, requested to receive bids for the CR 20 and CR 37 Improvements Project. Three Bids were received. Niblock Excavating, Inc, Bristol, IN, \$2,119,486.70, Milestone Contractors, L.P. South Bend, IN, \$2,260,000.00, Reith Riley Construction Co. South Bend, IN, \$2,636,713.82. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved to accept and review the bids and come back with a recommendation. (Page 599)

Charlie McKenzie, County Highway, requested approval of Maintenance Bond for the 2023-1 CCMG Paving Program. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 600)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney's office, requested approval of electrical proposals for the Foraker-Southwest Tecumseh Project. One property at 25218 CR 40 needs to have the Commissioners authorize the homeowners to terminate the original electrical contract. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board authorized the homeowner to terminate the electrical contract. A motion is needed to authorize the homeowner to enter into a new contract with the

lowest bidder. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request to approve the lowest bid. The County is still working with one homeowner in connection with the easement areas, we are requesting to extend the deadline for all remaining electrical work not yet completed, to be completed no later than April 30, 2024. This would include the deadline that is currently set for Southwest. This would allow the remaining properties in Foraker to be completed by this deadline. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 601)

Craig Buche, County Attorney, presented information on the Public Hearing for an Ordinance amending the Elkhart County Code Regarding Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. Deak Thornton, Goshen, spoke in favor. Holly Landis, Wakarusa, spoke on golf carts, this ordinance does not address golf carts. There is a separate ordinance for golf carts. Lavon Bender, Goshen, spoke in favor of this ordinance. Grant Privett, Bristol, spoke in favor. Dan Emery, Goshen, spoke in favor. Tom Fox, Wakarusa, spoke in favor. Jason Lalime, Elkhart spoke in favor. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. (Page 602)

Consideration of adoption of Ordinance for Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles. Ordinance No. CO2024-12. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this Ordinance. (Page 603)

Robert Kelly, County Extension Director, requests consideration of a new copier purchase for Purdue Extension versus a lease agreement. The purchase cost is \$61,523.84, this is a savings of \$10,860.00. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this purchase request. (Page 604)

The Weights & Measures Report for February 16th, 2024, to March 14th, 2024, was submitted. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this report. (Page 605)

BOARD ITEMS:

Charlie McKenzie, County Highway, working with Kyle Wagner, requesting a purchase of a 2023 Chevy Silverado for \$39,788.01, this would allow for a transfer of a 2008 Chevy to the maintenance fleet, and maintenance will request an asset disposal for a 2012 F250 with over

200,000 miles. This is a budgeted item. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this purchase.

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an item for consideration. IT equipment has been added to the new courthouse requiring a change order for additional infrastructure for the MDF room. The original design was only a ton and a half, and now requires a 4-ton unit to cool the room. The amount is \$86,062.00. On a motion made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Suzie Weirick and unanimously carried, the Board approved this change order.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR;

Jim Weeber, CR 115, Goshen. Spoke on ongoing construction at the CR 18, 115, and 13 intersections. (Page 606)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp