

MINUTES

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 28, 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.

A motion was made by Suzie Weirick to amend the agenda by removing items 2B and 2C and adding the grant request SHSP Fiscal year 2025 Cybersecurity grant and also to table item 3B. Seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this amendment.

On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the October 14, 2024 meeting 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:

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request to award the bid for the 2024-2 Paving Program. After reviewing the bids, Rieth-Riley was the lowest bidder at \$1,306,820.00. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved to award the bid to the lowest bidder. (Page 907)

Kyle Wagner, County Highway, presented a request for approval of INDOT SR 120 Unofficial Detour. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 908)

Jennifer Tobey, Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of Grant Application for FY 2025 HMEP – LEPC #1 Grant. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request. (Page 909)

Request approval of Grant Application for FY 2025 HMEP – LEPC #2 Grant. – removed from agenda

Request approval of Grant Application for FY 2025 HMEP – EMA Grant – removed from agenda

Jennifer Tobey, Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of Grant Application for FY 2024 EMA Salary Reimbursement Grant. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

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Jennifer Tobey, Emergency Management, presented a request for approval of Grant Application FFY 2024 SHSP – Cybersecurity Grant. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Page 911)

Steve Olsen, County Attorney's office presented a request for approval of Third Amendment to Exhibit A for Additional Engineering Services from Lochmueller Group, Inc. Associated with the Southwest Foraker and Tecumseh Acres Project. A motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Page 912)

Request approval of temporary storage lease – removed from agenda

Chasity Johnson, 56649 Best Ave, Elkhart, IN, presented a request by Dan Graves for Noise Ordinance Variance. This event is a free to the public haunted house. It is an all outside event. A road closure request was also submitted to the Highway Department. Sheriff Siegel shared his concerns about this event. Brad Rogers asked for any public comment. Mark Johnson, co-owner of the activity, spoke in support of this event. Brad Rogers asked Mae Kratzer, Planning Department, to speak about the options available for an event like this. After many questions and discussion, a motion to deny this request was made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; Brad Rogers called for a roll call vote to deny this request. Suzie Weirick – Yes, Bob Barnes – Yes, Bradley Rogers Yes.

(Page 913 & 913A)

BOARD ITEMS:

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Carol Miller, Middlebury, spoke on concerns with Middlebury Public Library.

Dora Miller, Middlebury, spoke on concerns with Middlebury Public Library.

Cindy Hajicek, Goshen, spoke on concerns with Elkhart County Public Libraries.

Steph Kauffman, Middlebury, spoke on concerns with Middlebury Public Library.

Cindy Nisley, Middlebury, spoke on concerns with Middlebury Public Library.

Sheri Pettifor, Goshen, spoke on concerns with Middlebury Public Library. Sharon also submitted her application for a library board appointment.

(Page 914)

Pam Keyser, Middlebury, submitted examples of books that are available at the Middlebury Public Library that are of concern. Pam also submitted her application for a library board appointment.

(Page 915 & 916)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ropp