

**MINUTES**  
**ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 104, Goshen, In. 46526**  
**November 21<sup>st</sup>,2024**

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Chief Deputy Sheriff Sean Holmes at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Council Vice President David L. Hess, Darryl J. Riegsecker, Randall D. Yohn, Steven E. Clark, Adam M. Bujalski and Douglas S. Graham. Also, present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor, and Craig Buche County Attorney.

\*\* 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 and virtually in remote real-time observation via Web-Ex.

**MINUTES:** - Approval of CC Meeting Minutes:

- (a). 2025 Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Reading October 16<sup>th</sup>,2024
- (b). County Council Meeting & 2025 Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Adoption  
October 17<sup>th</sup>,2024

On motion made to approve the minutes together by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0.  
(pg. 474,475)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

COMMISSIONERS: None

COUNCIL: Graham talked about the passing of Pete Liegl Founder of Forest River. Bujalski spoke about Nadine Lengacher. Clark wished Auditor Patty Pickens a Happy Birthday.

SHERIFF: None

**COUNCIL:**

Council President Stump presented a service award to Auditor Patty Pickens for 10 years of service to Elkhart County.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:**

Carol Reeves-Director of Bristol Public Library:

- (a). Consideration of Appointment to the Bristol Public Library Board of Trustees.  
Four (4) Year Term. Term Expires 10/01/28.

On motion made to table this item until December due to the proper procedure not followed by Clark and seconded by Graham. The Council unanimously carried and approved the motion with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 465)

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Melanie Sizemore presented the following:

- (a). Consideration and Approval of revised 144 for the WIC Grant.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Hess, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:**

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

- 1. Treasurer (103) requested \$63,638.00 for money to pay an outside firm to complete the monthly balancing of the banking accounts to meet the State Board of Accounts requirements for internal controls until the Treasurer could hire another First Deputy Treasurer. The First Deputy Treasurer left employment with the County on October 13<sup>th</sup>,2023. The Treasurer completes the daily balancing, and the First Deputy Treasurer completes the monthly balancing.

Tina Bontrager presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 476)

B. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

- 1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$415,000.00 to cover food, extradition costs and higher medical costs due to higher inmate population using unappropriated DOC income.

Sean Holmes presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 477)

C. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

- 1. Commissioners (130) requested \$25,954.89 to allocate General Fund money to the Parks Department non-reverting capital project #242202 to reimburse/make whole for latrine project expenses paid by the Parks Department in 2024. \$14,980 for pumping and vacuuming of old latrines prior to demolition and \$10,974.89 for electrical hookup to restrooms for a total of \$25,954.89.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 478)

D. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Code Enforcement (131) Requested \$30,000.00 for funds to cover legal fees through the end of the year.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 479)

E. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested 96,639.00 for the Annual renewal of Payroll & Financial Software-LOW utilized by departments countywide. This is an annual subscription required for the software.

Jeff Taylor made the presentation to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 480)

F. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$320,000.00 for funds required to continue contract labor through Moser Consulting for IT needs. \$160,000 for an Asset Manager, \$70,000.00 and \$90,000.00 each for Level One Technicians.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 481)

G. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway (980) requested \$25,000.00 to appropriate the On Call fees from service provided by USI Consulting for the remainder of 2024.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 482)

H. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway (980) requested \$100,000.00 appropriation for the design and associated costs for CR 6 John Weaver Parkway to Ash Road project.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 483)

I. LOCAL ROAD & STREET (#1169)

1. Highway (222) requested \$25,000.00 appropriation to supplement Labor costs for equipment Repair for the remainder of the year 2024.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Yohn and seconded by Graham. The Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 484)

J. PARK & RECREATION NON-REVERTING CAPITAL (#1178)

1. Park Department (980) requested \$25,954.89 to allocate general fund money to the Parks Department project 242202 to reimburse/make whole for latrine project expenses paid by the Parks Department in 2024. (\$14,980 for pumping and vacuuming of old latrines prior to demolition and \$10,974.89 for electrical hookup to restrooms for a total of \$25,954.89.)

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approved by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 485)

K. OPIOD UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (#1238)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$83,115.00 for camera project at ECCC. Council previously approved funding for the cameras from the unrestricted opioid funds. The balance needed for the project was \$83,115.00. The balance was to be taken from the Cumulative Capital Improvement fund. Since that time there has been additional income received to the unrestricted opioid fund. The request is to utilize the unrestricted opioid funds and preserve the cumulative Capital Funds for other purposes.

Jeff Taylor presented this to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 486)

L. MIDDLEBURY SE TIF (#4509)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$42,900.00 for Lochmueller CR 20/SR 13 Intersection Improvement Contract addendum of \$85,800.00 funded 50% with Eloy TIF funds and 50% E.C. RDC -Middlebury Southeast TIF Funds. 1. Location Control Route Survey Plat for Orpha Drive/CR 37. 2. Additional design work for relocation drainage basin on CR 20. 3. Additional design work for relocating

drainage basin on CR 20 and phasing the project construction into two phases Additional Utility Coordination for adding the traffic signal and coordinating with utility companies. 4. Additional Right of Way Engineering. This intersection improvement will need to be constructed in 2025 in preparation for the US 20 project that will be under construction in 2028.

Mae Kratzer presented this to the Council.

On motion to approved made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 487)

M. CR 6 & CR 17 IMPROVEMENT TIF (#4511)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$7,500.00 for access road Design & Redesign for the Commissioner owned property off CR 20 east of CR 17. Additional ROW Engineering Contracted at the end of August incurred an Additional \$7,750.00. The amount left over from the previously appropriated \$40,000 (\$20,000 in 2022, & \$20,000 in July 2024) was not enough to cover this expense. \$7,500.00 is needed to cover the additional Right of Way Engineering Costs.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 488)

N. FIBER (#4928)

1. Highway (204) requested \$20,000.00 for funds needed to cover excess hours for the remaining pay periods of 2024. This is due to the increasing volume of permits managements encountered in this fund and is balanced by the additional permit revenue.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, The Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 489)

O. JPAR GRANT (#9146)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$60,000.00 to appropriate this Grant renewal for FFY 2025. This will be for salary and benefits of one probation officer that is assigned to the drug court and pre-trial services.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 490)

P. SAFETY PIN (#9148)

- 1. Health (981) requested \$7,273.00 to appropriate to have all accounts in the black. These funds have been received.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 491)

**Total Appropriations: \$1,347,974.78**

**REDUCTIONS:**

Q. COURT INTERPRETER GRANT (#9142)

- 1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested a reduction in the amount of -\$84.02. The grant award was \$17,457.99 rather than the \$17,542.01 that was appropriated in August of 2024. Reduction will balance the appropriated funds.

Auditor Patty Pickens presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 492)

**Reduction Total: -\$84.02**

**TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:**

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

Concord Township Assessor (114)

From: 43110 Sustenance & Travel	1,000.00
43830 Ed. & Conf. Costs	700.00
To: 42090 Otr. Office Supplies	1,700.00

B. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

Concord Township Assessor (114)

From: 43120 Postage	250.00
43130 Mileage	75.00
To: 42110 Fuel	325.00
Total	325.00

C. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

Elkhart County Judiciary (172)

From: 43020 Medical Services	40,000.00
To: 44520 Office Equipment	40,000.00

D. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

	Elkhart County Judiciary (172)		
	From: 43020 Medical Services		50,000.00
	To: 42170 Household		50,000.00
E.	GENERAL FUND (#1000)		
	Elkhart County Judiciary (172)		
	From: 43090 Oth. Prof. Services		103,000.00
	To: 44535 Data Proc. Equip.		103,000.00
F.	CHN Health Administration (#1159)		
	Health Department (340)		
	From: 43200 Printing		300.00
	43130 Telephone		9,000.00
	43510 Main/Srvs. Contracts		4,316.00
	43630 Rent Office Equip.		656.00
	43800 Dues		1,516.00
	43805 Subscriptions		887.00
	43830 Ed. & Conference		2,076.00
	43835 Training Programs		2,410.00
			<hr/>
		Total	21,161.00
	To: 44535.00 Data Processing Hard.		21,161.00
G.	CHN Health (#1159)		
	Health Department (340)		
	From: 42180 Medical Supplies		1,200.00
	To: 44535 Data Proc. Equipment		1,200.00
H.	LOCAL HEALTH PUBLIC SERVICES (#1161)		
	Health (980)		
	From: 44310 Improve. Oth. Than Bldg.		1,200.00
	To: 42380 Capital Supplies		700.00
	42195 Oper. Supplies		500.00
			<hr/>
		Total	1,200.00
I.	LOCAL HEALTH PUBLIC SERVICES (#1161)		
	Health (980)		
	From: 43835 Training Programs		700.00
	To: 42195 Oper. Supplies		700.00
J.	CUMULATIVE REASSESSMENT (#1188)		
	County Assessor (980)		
	From: 43050 Data Proc. Srvs.		10,800.00
	To: 44535 Data Proc. Hdw.		10,800.00

K.	INFRACTION DEFERRAL (#2525)		
	Pre -Trial Services (155)		
	From: 43995 Misc. Expense		10,000.00
	To: 41135 Paraprofessional		5,400.00
	41310 Gr. Insurance	Total	<u>4,600.00</u>
			10,000.00
L.	PROGRAM INCOME -DENTAL (#8178)		
	Health (614)		
	From: 42030 Copy Supplies		500.00
	42090 Office Supplies		500.00
	To: 43090 Oth. Prof. Services		1,000.00
M.	TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION PROGRAM (#9104)		
	Health (980)		
	From: 43130 Travel		321.00
	To: 41120 Professional		267.00
	41400 PERF		<u>54.00</u>
		Total	321.00
N.	JDAI GRANT FUND (#9113)		
	Elkhart County Judiciary (981)		
	From: 41165 Excess Hours		2,500.00
	To: 43090 Oth. Prof. Services		2,500.00
O.	IDOC GRANT (#9156)		
	Adult Community Corrections (980)		
	From: 41120 Professional		20,000.00
	41130 Protective Services		<u>10,000.00</u>
		Total	30,000.00
	To: 43090 Prof. Services		30,000.00
		Total	
		Transfers	273,907.00

On motion to approve the above transfers made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the motion with a 7 to 0 vote.

(pg. 493)

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

## **AUDIENCE ITEMS:**

President Stump asked the Audience speakers not to repeat what previous speakers talked about, since there were so many that wanted to speak.

Bonnie Wright proxy for Steff Kauffman on the Middlebury Public Library Board of Trustee appointments by the Council and expressed her concern over the policies of the library and of the library's book review policies.

Carol Miller spoke on the Middlebury Public Library and discussed her concern over books that are currently at the library. She brought in 3 books she stated came from the library and discussed the content from the books about homosexuality sex and questioning gender, among other subjects.

Dora Miller stated she has lived in Middlebury all her life and she has recently found more books on the topics in recent years. She talked herself and several other people requesting the library board review different books but after the reviews were finished, the books were all kept.

Cindi Hajicek discussed her concerns over the library using the American Library Board Standards and she doesn't agree with that.

Commissioners Bob Barnes talked about the Board's attitude towards those who come in and have complaints. He stated he attended a Library Board meeting, and he stated he has heard the same concerns from multiple people over the same books and the direction the library is being taken, He stated "it fell on deaf ears".

Others who shared their concerns over the library's policies and daily operations were Sherri Pettifor, Cindy Nisley, Adam Miller and Pam Keyser. Glenn Null spoke about the election.

Crystal Kidder expressed her concerns over an appropriation for new office furniture approved for the Concord Township Assessor. (pg. 473)

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:44 pm.

Cindy Chadwell  
Recording Secretary

A complete recording of this meeting is available in the Auditor's Office. The recording of this meeting will be available for one year and then erased.