

# MINUTES

## ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

**March 17, 2025**

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 Steve Olsen, 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 February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 103)

On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting and placed them on file.

(Item 104)

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:**

Andrew Bylsma, Health Administrator, presented a request for approval for Out of State Travel for Dr. Richard Hostetter to attend National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACHHO) 2025 Preparedness Summit in San Antonio, Texas from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 105)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented a request for approval of Animal Control Services Interlocal agreements for Town of Bristol, City of Elkhart, City of Goshen, Town of Middlebury, City of Nappanee, and Town of Wakarusa. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Items 106-111)

Consideration of Interlocal Agreement Funding for Replacement of Water Tower No. 2. And Consideration of Interlocal Agreement Funding for East Warren Water Main Replacement. Steve Olsen requested these two items be tabled for additional information. A motion to table the two requests for consideration was made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved to table these requests.

(Items 112 & 113)

Helen Calvin, Community Corrections, presented a request for approval of a Grant for CY2026 Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Funding (IDOC). On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 114)

Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, presented a request for approval of Steeplechase Homes LLC represented by Surveying and Mapping for secondary approval of a 29-lot major subdivision to be known as Terra Subdivision Section 2, south end of Tasha Dr., 790 ft. south of State Line Rd., in York township. Debra Hughes, Surveying and Mapping, presented the request for secondary approval. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing. No other audience members wished to speak on this matter. On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 115)

Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, presented a resolution for denial of Mark Scarse, II's, represented by Lorenzo Ramirez, zone map change request from R-2 to M-2, at the northeast corner of CR 20 (W. Mishawaka Rd.) & Best Ave., 2,530 ft. west of SR 19, common address of 28467 CR 20 in Baugo Township. Lorenzo Ramirez, Elkhart, representative of property owner, presented the request for rezoning. Brad Rogers opened up a public hearing. Melodie Ganella, Elkhart, spoke against this request. Jason Auvil, Zoning Administrator, addressed concerns regarding previous code issues. No other audience members wished to speak on this matter. The board of zoning recommends denial. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. PC 2025-04 denying the zone map change.

(Item 116)

Mae Kratzer, Plan Director, presented a resolution to deny Dale & Melissa Shuppert's (Buyers) & Nichols Holding LLC's (Seller) zone map change request from R-1 to A-1, at the north side of CR 26, 925 ft. west of CR 113, common address of 23681 CR 26 in Concord Township. This presentation was a continuation of the initial presentation and public hearing that occurred at February 17, 2025, Elkhart County Commissioners meeting. Brad Rogers, having been absent at the February 17, 2025 meeting, confirmed that he had viewed the recording of the meeting and is aware of all testimony given at the meeting. Dale Shuppert, buyer, South Bend, presented his request for rezoning. Brad Rogers opened a public hearing.

The following people spoke in favor of denying the rezoning: Brian Ufkin, Elkhart; Lloyd Chupp, Goshen; Doug Davis, Elkhart; Elizabeth Hart, Elkhart; John Chris, Elkhart; and Roger Evans, Elkhart.

On motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public hearing.

On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Brad Rogers, and unanimously carried; the Board approved Resolution No. PC 2025-03 denying the zone map change.

(Item 117)

Mae Kratzer, Planning Director, presented an additional appropriation request from the Planning & Development Dept. Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00 for project for scanning remaining files in department so there is digital copy. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 118)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from General Fund in the amount of \$128,500.00 for project of additional hours to customize ServiceNow. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 119)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from General Fund in the amount of \$12,000.00 for migration of Highway mail. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 119)

Jeff Taylor, County Administrator, presented an additional appropriation request from General Fund in the amount of \$16,000.00 for annual subscription for licensing for software backups. On a motion made by Suzie Weirick, seconded by Bob Barnes, and unanimously carried; the Board approved this request.

(Item 120)

**BOARD ITEMS:**

None

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Glen Null, Goshen, spoke.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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