

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
September 14, 2009

The Public Hearing of the 2009 re-advertised budget and the 2010 advertised budget was held on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 104 at the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana.

Council President, John K. Letherman, called the meeting to order. Other Council members present were Dennis E. Sharkey, David E. Foutz, Randall D. Yohn, David M. Ashe, Clarence J. Yoder and Donald E. Abel.

Also present were David L. Hess, County Auditor; Pauline E. Graff, First Deputy Auditor; Floyd Hindbaugh, Director of Personnel; Carol Caviness, Assistant Director of Personnel; Craig Buche, County Attorney; Tom Byers, County Administrator, Terry Rodino, County Commissioner, Mike Yoder, County Commissioner, and Frank Luchesse, County Commissioner.

PUBLIC HEARING

2009 Budget

On motion made by Foutz and seconded by Yoder, Council President Letherman opened the Public Hearing of the 2009 Budget to those in the audience.

Hess explained that in order to include the Welfare Levy in the 2009 collection, we are required to hold this hearing on the 2009 budget. Hess explained that when the State of Indiana took over the Department of Family and Children's Services on January 1, 2009, the Welfare Fund 189 would have had a negative balance. Therefore, we were required to loan the Welfare Fund 189 \$2 million. We would like to repay the loan with a debt service in the 2009 tax collection. However, the DLGF has cut the \$2 million amount by the July 1, 2009 cash balance. If we do not collect tax payments at 100%, we may not be able to pay back the loan in its entirety this year.

There being no audience participation, the Public Hearing on the 2009 budget was closed on motion made by Sharkey seconded by Foutz and unanimously carried.

On motion made by Foutz, the Council approved the 2009 budget and levy that were re-advertised for the Public Hearing. The motion by Foutz included that the budget be approved and the levy be established and imposed for debt service in the amount of \$1,655,000 at a proposed rate of \$.0195 for the Welfare Fund #189, as advertised. The motion was seconded by Yohn and unanimously carried.

2010 Budget

On motion made by Yohn seconded by Ashe and unanimously carried, Council President Letherman opened the Public Hearing of the 2010 advertised budget to the audience.

Lorell Nihart, a property owner in Elkhart, addressed the Council and spoke of his concerns with the current state of the economy and the frivolous spending of taxpayer's money. He reminded the Council of the difficult time ahead for the County, due to decreased assessed values. He stated the Council should save every penny they can and be careful with the taxpayer's money in the year ahead.

The Public Hearing on the 2010 budget was closed on motion made by Sharkey seconded by Abel and unanimously carried.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Byers approached the Council and explained the Community Corrections Lease.

On motion made by Yoder seconded by Sharkey and unanimously carried, the Council approved this request.

Dorinda Heiden-Guss addressed the Council and explained her views on the current economic condition. She also gave an update on the EDC's progress.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on motion by Foutz seconded by Sharkey and unanimously carried.

Audie Hostetler
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.