

BOC meeting 2/24/2026

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:00 AM, 4th Floor Council Chambers

Hagen, Morton and legal counsel present. Baxmeyer absent. 8 on line. All items passed unanimously. Started at 11:00, "recessed" at 11:06. Emily (on line) raised her hand too late to comment.

A. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Opening and Reading of Bids/Letters of Interest on:

B. REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM: None

COMMISSIONERS:None

a) Approval of the Accounts Payable Docket

IPG:

a) Tabled for unstated reason: Approval of St Joseph County Capital Avenue Corridor Rail Expansion Project

CRISI (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ="CRISI")Grant Agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration

The Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA") provides federal grant money for infrastructure improvement projects. SJC applied for and has now received a grant. This grant requires an equal match of funds from the county or sub grantee. The goal is dual Class 1 rail access and new northern Midwest rail-served growth and rail connectivity to the entire northeast Atlantic seaboard. Cost for the project is \$966,000. The initial planning stage requires matching funds of \$193,200 from the sub grantee (Elkhart & Western Railroad LLC for the project.

b) Approval of Consent Agenda: passed without discussion.

Irrevocable Letter of Credit (Renewal) Bradford Shores, Section 3&4 Subdivision: \$92,271 to complete infrastructure as outlined in the cost estimate in 2021, approved by SJC, credit expires 12/7/2026.

Irrevocable Letter of Credit (Renewal) Northbrook Shores Subdivision: \$17,860 to complete infrastructure as outlined in 20221 and approved by SJC, credit expires 12/7/2026.

C. OLD BUSINESS: none

D. NEW BUSINESS: none

E: PUBLIC COMMENTS: (THREE MINUTE LIMIT):

Steve Francis: Bill Schalliol spoke on the Microsoft project last week. This was not on the agenda, so the public had no chance to prepare questions or comments. Schalliol had privilege of the floor for 20 minutes instead of the usual 3 minutes. It's important that the public be allowed to ask questions, and this was not done. Microsoft is being amazingly conciliatory, and this is due to public pressure as a response to how the Amazon project in New Carlisle was handled. It benefits the BOC to work together with the public as a team, but requires transparency. 400 people showed up at last week's meeting in Granger. The TIF is problematic and we are being misinformed about the TIF and its effects.