

BOC March 3 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:00 AM, 7th Floor Commissioners Conference Room. 19 on line, at least 12 present in person. All 3 present with legal counsel. All items passed unanimously. Meeting location was changed to accommodate workers regarding the leak. Recessed at 11:40.

Morton Added application to apply for grant. item e.

NOTICE OF LOCATION CHANGE: PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH FLOOR MAIN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WILL NOW BE ON THE 7TH FLOOR IN THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM

A. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Opening and Reading of Bids/Letters of Interest on: None

B. REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS:

a) Approval of the Accounts Payable Docket

b) Bills Passed by the County Council: Ordinances all passed County Council 9-0, passed as a group by the BOC.

4-26: Increase salary of Historian/Book Keeper by \$995 to \$55,627

5-26: Add a 3rd Group C mechanic @\$52,000, deletes a Group 2 position

6-26: Add 1 nurse, delete on EHS Coordinator, budget neutral

7-26: changes funds for several items and positions required.

12-26: established the land bank last week, effective immediately. This creates a 25% x 5 years deduction for transferees in accordance with Ind. CodeSection 6-1.1-46 et seq.

c) Employee of the Month Award: Darcy Sheets (sp?), nominated by Brie Roberts, worked for 18 years. Diligence and charming demeanor.

d) Approval of Lease Agreement with City of South Bend Redevelopment Commission for Temporary Parking by County, for \$2000/ month with credit for cost of repairs made by County. Location is vac Lot Corner Lafay-Wayne and 117-119 Lafayette.

e) Locum Grant Application for CASA for 2026-2028 to cover the salary of 3 staff members. This is for the same amount as previously received. There is a match percent required from the county already in the budget.

IPG: Sky Medors, Frank Fotia

a) Approval of Consultant Selection Award Des. No. 1702832 for Construction Engineering on Pierce Road Reconstruction from US 31 to Juniper Road to Lochmueller, eligible for 80/20 reimbursable through the Federal Aid process.

b) Approval of Consultant Selection Award Des. No. 2100024 for Construction Engineering for Roundabout Douglas Road at Bittersweet Road Intersection Improvement to DLZ, eligible for 80/20 reimbursable through the Federal Aid process.

c) Approval of Statement of Work with CivicPlus for DocAccess Program for Website PDF Accessibility Solution According to DOJ Mandates requiring accessibility for the visually impaired. This includes agenda packets, forms, and informational pdfs on the county website. Costs would be paid from the Building Surplus Fund, not the General Fund. Cost is \$54,142.40 for this year for one quote and \$11,829.93 for second quote package. Cost is based on the population of the county. Closed captioning will also be done as possible.

As is, the SJC pdfs are a barrier for residents with visual and hearing disabilities. The county's website contains about 1,850 PDF files, but 56% of them are untagged and cannot be used by users with disabilities. A small number of files are corrupted, broken, or otherwise inaccessible to anyone. Not a single PDF reviewed by the auditor met accessibility standards. Federal ADA law and the Dept. of Justice rules require accessible online content.

This is another unfunded government mandate, but is a good thing to do, Baxmeyer agrees. Mandated, but SJC must bear the cost.

d) Approval of Consent Agenda: Project completion Affidavit Audubon Woods, Sect. 2-Major Subdivision. Developer is Steve Cooreman. SJC has inspected the subdivision and agrees the Irrevocable LOC for \$36,121 be released to Cooreman.

IT: Richard Warfield, IT Director

a) Approval of Quote with MarketPlace.city to Allow Use of All Technology Vendors that Work with Government Entities. Subscription is \$22,000 yearly and is already budgeted. Advantage is that vendors are already part of negotiated government contracts, which will help us simplify quotes and expedite processes.

PSAP/911: Sal Parisi/ 911 Center

a) Approval of Motorola Solutions Quote for Replacement APX Radios: Current portable radios were manufactured in 2015 and nearing the end of their life. Cost for 15 Motorola APX N70 is \$61,896.47 minus trade in rebate of 14 current radios of \$8400. Already approved in the capital budget.

b) Approval of Motorola Solutions Proposal for AXS Dispatch Console Migration: the current consoles are at end of life. The new consoles will have easy migration and will work with current setup. Cost is \$1.3 M, was budgeted already as a capital improvement for 2026.

C. OLD BUSINESS: None

D. NEW BUSINESS: None

E: PUBLIC COMMENTS: (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)

Andy Rutten: Patriot Rail Extension going through Osceola and Granger had significant opposition when brought up last year. Why is this proposal being brought up again, what is the plan, why is it being brought up with the BOC instead of the CC?

Baxmeyer : We will have a vote next week regarding this.

Steve Francis: Reiterated Rutten's questions. speaking on the Microsoft project. Met with Microsoft and a group of citizens this week. Microsoft has come forward with many concessions due to the public resistance to data centers. Proposed TIF is huge; Microsoft does not have a position on the proposed TIF in order to fund projects in the TIF district. This would be unfair to the residents in the rest of the county. We need a better financial analysis of the TIF, and the BOC must take an active role.

Stacia Skillman (sp?)of Granger: The proposed TIF includes farmland also. This proposed data center and rail line additions would affect the quality of life of 30,000 Granger residents. The bus route for our children is affected. Any TIF money should remain in the TIF area and not go to the county. We know there will be pollution, run-off and noise from the Microsoft Data Center. We are opposed to adding any new railroad tracks, existing crossings are already dangerous and noisy. There are 31 trains currently coming through Granger, all loudly blowing their horns!.