

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING July 28, 2026

All Commissioners present eventually; Morton late. All items approved unanimously.

Started at 11:03. Adjourned at 12:12 . Seven on line.

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

B. REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS:

a) Approval of the Accounts Payable Docket

b) Resolution R-11-C-2026 – Bishop Donald Alford Sr.: Morton read the document commending Bishop Donald Alford for his service to the community in so many ways. He is a lifelong resident of South Bend.

c) Approval of Gallagher Actuarial Services Proposal: \$12,500 to provide cost of care target for the SJC Government, with annual report in May/June. SelectHealth is the ACO. Health coverage costs increased over the past year.

IPG: Sky Medors

a) Approval of Contract Change Order No. 1 with Rieth-Riley for Project R&S 92601-D Community Crossings Matching Grant for Resurfacing/Rehabilitation of Various Roads: Adds \$69,575 to contract, raising total amount to \$2,264,475. The money comes from parts from projects that actually came in UNDER budget, so only limited additional public funds are needed.

b) Approval of Request to Advertise for R&S 92601-S Adams Acres: Road issues due to poor condition of concrete on 4/10 mile. Bids will be opened Aug 18th, goal is to have this project done before the end of the year.

c) Approval of Request to Advertise for R 92601: McKinley/Bittersweet Intersection Improvements: modernizing traffic signals, adding culverts and curbs for pedestrians, adding modern cameras, adding push button crosswalk signals. Most complaints are about the timing of traffic lights.

d) Approval of Change Order No. 3 for R&S 92402-S Smilax Road Lift Station: Due to previously unknown utilities in the railroad right of way being found. The utilities need to be relocated. \$415,645 increase, but needs to be done. Amazon will pay for this change order.

(This turned into a statement that the BOC and Medors are interested in the public understand change orders and that transparency is occurring when questions are asked about change orders! it seems that the BOC always approves IPG requests, but Medors has 30 years of experience and will not bring anything using public money without thorough vetting)

e) Approval of Engineering Services Agreement Addendum No. 2 for Small Structure No. S583 – Gordon Road Over Niespodziany Ditch: No additional funds needed, money is being moved from tasks that were underutilized or not required to tasks needing more attention.

f) Approval of Consent Agenda 2026 FOP motorcycle Ride and a triathlon approved.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

a) Approval of Internship Agreement with Matteus Webb for Supportive Administrative Services: This was tabled last week. Jeff Kimmel, Public Defenders office. Matteus Webb is a 2nd year ND law student this summer, is certified to appear in front of the judge. Pay is \$18/hr, will be reimbursed 40% by the state. The intern has helped with the volume of cases.

This program has been done in the past without BOC approval, so wasn't aware until the auditor pointed out this program requires BOC approval.

ARCHIVES: Katrina Carter, achivist

a) Approval of AXAEM Saas Agreement Renewal with APPX Software, Inc. for File and Box Tracking System: this is a licensing agreement that tracks documents coming and going in the department. Paid out of contractual services line item. \$6000. We have done this in the past.

C. OLD BUSINESS: none

D. NEW BUSINESS: none

E: **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)

Dan Caruso: July 21st, I commented about pauses in the New Carlisle projects. The agreement with GM calls for 1600 employees. That's when the diverging diamond was planned. There are no longer that number of employees planned. Other businesses in the area have been operating for years with no diverging diamond intersection, including InTek/ InKote. I am sending a copy of this to the County Council.

Morton: I appreciate your tenacity. I will call INDOT to get an update on their reasoning about any change for the need to the diverging diamond interchange.

Baxmeyer: this traffic was studied by INDOT several times and is their recommendation, not the BOC. We have a set amount that we are committed to regardless of the type of interchange. Amazon only committed to 400 jobs, but as of Thursday they have already hired over 1000 people, mostly from SJC. The IEC is a fact and it will bring industrial development to the area. We are not in a position to override INDOT on this issue. I don't understand the point of your comments.

Hazen echoed Baxmeyer's comments. There are 2500 acres that are not developed in the IEC, and it will be developed. The IEC was approved years ago.

Oliver Davis: Over the opposition of Mayor Mueller, the Midwest Continental Divide Trail was put on pause by a vote of 7-1. The Common Council was not involved in any of the planning. If this project comes up again, we need to discuss the best use for the city and the county. Responsible government requires this pause in the project. Thank you for honoring Bishop Alford.

Debra Durall: Portage Manor update is needed on the Request for Proposals. This needs to be a transparent process. Also, please support the Animal shelter again.

Brent Burkus: The more people who actually read the legislation about the Midwest Continental Divide Trail, the more people who understand this law was done in secrecy without involved affected people.

Chantelle Snyder: Midwest Continental Divide Trail plan has been paused. This is our opportunity to get it right. Look at the master plan closely. This is about a plan to economically develop our farmland by rezoning and offering our property to developers. There are other options, including education public health. There is miscommunication and untrue statements saying we will lose the funding if this doesn't go through, but the Trail is a separate project.

Derek Dieter: need an update on Portage Manor plans. \$375,000 were spent to approve the Portage Manor plan. I see you are hiring an investigator, I would recommend a forensic accountant. Finally, \$48,000 was spent in 2022 on a booklet that was given to Mark Turner which was the genesis of the Midwest Trail project.

Baxmeyer: There is nothing illegal or improper being done, but the BOC unanimously agreed that an investigator is necessary to prove to the public that nothing improper has been done.

Morton: the personal attacks on Schalliol and Turner are uncalled for. We need to proceed in a civil manner. The level of mean-spiritedness is unbelievable. The public is adamant about these two issues. The BOC wants an independent investigator, in order to best serve the public.

Baxmeyer to Dieter's saying something: You had your say, Derek. Baxmeyer then promptly adjourned the meeting.