

BOC meeting Oct 20, 2026

All 3 Commissioners present with legal counsel. 6 on line.

All items approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:14.

Baxmeyer noted today's meeting was at 11 instead of 6 pm because the County Council changed their meeting times. Historically the County Council doesn't meet at night on Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Meeting times are on the county website.

Baxmeyer did NOT ask if there were any public comments on agenda items today.

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) Approval of Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours for Unincorporated Areas of St. Joseph County OCT 31, 5-7 pm

c) Approval of Appointments to the Land Bank Board: The BOC has 2 appointments to make and the Redevelopment Commission has one appointment of the many submissions. The floor was briefly opened to the public for nominations. Ann Mannix and Kathy Schutt appointed.

d) Presentation by Mindy Peterson of ProPEL State Road

Updates can be found at [ProPELSR2.com](https://www.in.gov/propel). There are monthly "community office hours" and public events posted. A PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages) study occurs BEFORE a specific project, allows the public to engage early in the planning process, and considers local needs and financial/ ecological priorities. INDOT started a PEL study in spring 2026 to evaluate safety, mobility, and infrastructure needs along the SR2 corridor. Report is expected early 2028. At a public meeting held at New Prairie high school on June 16, 2026, 40 attendees made 57 comments about safety concerns, mobility challenges, and community destinations. There are intersection Improvements under development by INDOT at Quince Rd/ Pear Rd, Tulip Rd, and Timothy Rd as well as the New interchange being constructed by INDOT at Larrison Blvd.

Next public meeting is Tuesday Dec 1 at 5 pm CT=6 pm ET at New Prairie High School Auditorium, 5333 N. Cougar Rd, New Carlisle. Enter through Door 1 This is INDOT's and the BOC's attempt to involve the public. The more feedback and public involvement, the better. The presenter used words like "holistic", "This is an important corridor", "long-term improvements" including bike and pedestrian safety. The study area is about 13 miles of SR2. Roundabouts were mentioned as a positive.

Parsons= the Lead consultant of the ProPEL St Rd 2 Study. There are other partners and consultants that were not named.

INDOT also has Facebook and X presence; you can follow INDOT and get notifications. Media notified of ProPELSR2 events include radio and TV stations, possibly the SBT and other print.

There WILL ALSO BE PUBLIC HEARINGS of designs planned by INDOT. There is a Stakeholder Advisory Committee involved in the ProPEL study already that meets quarterly.

Baxmeyer mentioned the PEL study done on SR31, and questioned the timing of this study after construction had already begun.

IPG: Sky Medors a-c, Bill Schalliol d-e, Derek Dieter f-g

a) Approval of Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for As Needed Services not to exceed \$200,000. Hourly charges for this consulting work vary from 75 – 305.

b) Approval of Master Agreement for Engineering Services with DLZ Indiana, LLC for As Needed Services not to exceed \$200,000. Hourly charges for this consulting work vary from 85 – 320. This includes inspection of construction that SJC doesn't have the capacity to do but is required.

c) Retroactive (since already submitted) Approval of Ratification of Call for Projects Grant Application Request to MACOG for Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 219 Main Street over St. Joseph River: This bridge was constructed in 1907 and reconstructed in 1995. Est. cost of upgrades is \$3,341,807 plus \$418,000 cost of engineering . 80% will be from federal funds; a local 20% match of \$751,962 will be needed.

d) Approval of Request to Advertise for Capital Avenue Corridor Utility Expansion –Bid Package A for Cleveland Road Utilities Project MS-92601 to construct 3,765 feet of 16-inch water main, 3,765 feet of 18-inch sanitary sewer, 7,700 feet of conduit, and construction of casing pipes. This will be paid for by Microsoft.

e) Approval of Request to Advertise for Capital Avenue Corridor Utility Expansion –Bid Package C for Douglas Road Utilities Project W-92604: 10,000 feet of 16-inch water main, 10,300 feet of 10-inch force main, roadway improvement , and casing pipes. This will be paid for by Microsoft.

f) Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. for Surveyor Section Corner Maintenance & Miscellaneous Tasks in Lincoln Township, not to exceed \$60,000 for Public Land Survey corners. Hodge Patel of Abonmarche talked about this recurring 2-year agreement.

g) Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. for Receive Training, Review All Reports, Plans, & Correspondence, not to exceed \$10,000. This is because Dieter is not a licensed surveyor.

SHERIFF: Steven Noonan Asst. Chief

a) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the City of South Bend Local Solicitation Agreement for the Annual FY2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)Program Award from the U.S. Department of Justice of \$12,623 to SJC and \$84,469 to South Bend for Officer Safety and Technology Program, to be used by 2029. This grant is named after a police officer who was killed in New York, to improve officer safety. County officers are not otherwise eligible for this grant.

b) Approval of Compensation Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 155 for Merit Officers employed by the SJC Sheriff. This is a 2-year contract and gives a \$3,120 pay increase. Merit officers are fully vested in the County Police Pension Plan after 12 years of service. Baxmeyer explained this item, signed off by the Sheriff and retired committees after lots of work by the auditor.

HEALTH: Mike Ruble

a) Approval of auto renewing Public Health Preparedness (PHEP) Grant with the Indiana Department of Health (in collaboration with the Indiana Dept of Homeland Security) for Emergency Preparedness: 3-year grant to June 30, 2029 of \$25,000. The local DPH PHEP Coordinator is required to complete 10 FEMA courses.

b) Approval of Public Health Preparedness PHEP Grant with the Indiana Department of Health for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Unit Volunteer Management: \$25,000 to build and train a Medical Reserve Corps. Grantees must attend 10 meetings. FY2 grant is \$10,000. The differing amounts were confusing. There is a link on the DOH website to volunteer and find out more. Looking mainly for nurses, but clerical and others are welcome.

EMA: Al Kirsits Director, and Jim Lopez Deputy Director

a) Approval of Annual Preventative Maintenance Inspection Agreement with Federal Field Services, LLC for Outdoor Warning Siren Inspection & Testing Services: 4-year agreement. Cost is \$525/ year per site. There are 79 sites, annual cost is \$41,475. Some of the sirens date back to the 1990s. There are 4 lead acid batteries in each siren that need to be replaced, some of the sirens have rodent damage, vandalism, etc. This cost is already budgeted. They noted **this siren program upgrade was initiated and paid for with ARP funds from the Biden administration.**

PHYSICAL ASSETS:

a) Approval of Consent Agenda: Recorder's office Carpet for \$8,810, already budgeted but requires BOC approval since it is under \$10,000.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

D. NEW BUSINESS:

E: PUBLIC COMMENTS: (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)

Mike McManus: Rokita and Baxmeyer drafted a false resolution impugning the integrity of Democrat Sheriff Redman. This is similar to Baxmeyer's false resolution against Democrat Rita Glenn, when the state investigation found that, in fact, a Republican had not done his job properly. Now, there is a 34-page court decision that found Republican Amy Rolfes unilaterally and illegally left Democrat candidates off the ballot. Rolfes has blamed her lawyer and Democrats, but has not taken any responsibility herself. **Where is your resolution regarding this corruption by Amy Rolfes?**

Dan Caruso: Sullivan County Amazon web services reached agreement on a 12-shell data center powered by small modular nuclear reactors! **The public is against such data centers**, who are NOT your constituents! This technology is not wanted. Put your communities first!