

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on January 31, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Carl Baxmeyer, Derek Dieter, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON:

None

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS

A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND GROWTH

A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
OF CONTRACT R-37496 ADDED
TRAVEL LANES AND BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT ON DOUGLAS RD
AND IRONWOOD RD-CHANGE ORD #7

Sky Medors, County Engineer, office on the 7th floor.
The revised contract amount will be \$12,680,602.90, a \$20,000.00 increase.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

B)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A QUOTE AWARD: ROADWAY
REPAIR FOR LWW NEAR
MAYFLOWER ROAD

We recommend this project be awarded to Selge in the amount of \$10,900.00.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

MAINTENANCE
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A 2023. EXTERMINATOR CONTRACT

Brian Davidson, Bldg Engineer, offices in the basement.
This is a renewal contract prices are the same as last year.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

PSAP
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR
PSAP EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
TOWER

Dr. Fleming moved to table the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL
OF RESOLUTION R-1-C-2023-
CONSOLIDATING THE BOARD
OF VOTER REGISTRATION

Dr. Fleming moved to un-table the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

This was an agenda item two weeks ago. We were urged to delay that decision. We appreciate the comments that we received. We reviewed those with responses and our posted on the website. This issue has been on the table for many years. It is not something new. The savings would be to eliminate four positions and at a cost savings of \$157,700.90 plus an additional approximately \$80,000.00 in taxes and benefits. It has been revised in the resolution that the positions would maintain a 50/50 split at all times for representation.

Mr. Misch reads statements:

STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SOUTH BEND AREA

On Resolution R-1-C-2023 Consolidating the Board of Voter Registration

Consistent with our previous statement, the League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area **is not taking a position for or against the resolution (R-1-C-2023)** to consolidate the Board of Voter Registration and designate the Circuit Court Clerk as the voter registration officer of St. Joseph County.

We do want to publicly thank the commissioners for delaying the vote, listening to the public, answering our questions in writing, and meeting with us. We also want to thank them for providing details about the estimated cost savings and how they will be obtained and deleting the most controversial part of the resolution which entitled the clerk authority to appoint anyone, regardless of political affiliation, rather than sustaining a 50/50 partisan split in the event that another employee was needed to produce an even number of voter registration specialists.

Since meeting with representatives of the Board of Commissioners we have received numerous questions and heard concerns from League members and non-members alike. We recognize that there are still concerns with this proposed change to the way the county handles voter registration.

We commend the commissioners for taking public input seriously and encourage them to listen to ongoing concerns by providing at least one more opportunity for

public feedback before taking a final vote on the revised resolution. During this time, we also encourage consultation with clerks in other counties who oversee the voter registration operations in their counties to learn about their experience, including best practices to implement and pitfalls to avoid.

By providing one more opportunity for the public to voice their questions and concerns - and by responding directly to those concerns-the Board of Commissioners will have demonstrated a commitment to representative democracy and citizen participation.

Whatever the final outcome, we look forward to working with county officials in charge of voter registration to ensure that eligible voters have the information and access they need to exercise their right to vote.

South Bend Regional Chamber

Re: Proposed Voter Registration Move to

County Clerk's Office Dear President Baxmeyer,

I'm reaching out on behalf of our 1,300 member businesses that employ close to 70,000 people in north central Indiana and southwest Michigan. Those businesses rely on us to look out for their interests and to weigh in on their behalf on key issues of public policy at the local, state, and federal levels.

My purpose today is related to Resolution No. R-1-C-2023, a resolution of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners abolishing the Board of Voter Registration and Designating the Circuit Court Clerk as the Voter Registration Officer of St. Joseph County to supervise the registration of voters in the County.

I had an opportunity to attend your January 17 Board meeting (virtually) and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and hear the input from the Commissioners and Community. I applaud your decision to postpone the final vote that day on the resolution in an effort to provide further clarity on some of the questions that were raised, and we appreciate your diligence in answering those questions that have since been asked.

For years we have championed the streamlining of local government services and see this proposal as an important opportunity for the County to modernize some of its processes and procedures and align those services with a practice that 97% of all Indiana Counties already use. Not only will this plan lead to the saving of significant tax dollars, but it also will ensure a more efficient and effective delivery of these critical services. We see this as a real win for St. Joseph County.

This is an issue that's been debated in the County for well over a decade and at different times has been supported by both democrat and republican officials. We believe the law very carefully sets some guidelines and protections for the voter registration process under this new model, and it's time for St. Joseph County to put politics aside and get on Board with the rest of the State of Indiana.

We encourage you to move forward with approving the resolution at your January 31, 2023 meeting.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rea, President & CEO

Mr. Dieter moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Dr. Fleming.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike McManus, South Bend, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Don Westerhausen, Granger, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Dan Caruso, New Carlisle, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Cheryl Ash, South Bend, IN.
Speaks on the interview by the Dr. at the Health clinic in the Tribune, having to do with grants and Mr. Baxmeyer saying he would limit the number of grants for the Health Department.

Tim Cotton, North Liberty, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Pam Clays, South Bend, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Cheryl Nix, South Bend, IN.
Speaks on the Board of Health article in the Tribune in reference to the election of the President for the Board of Health.

Donna Hurley, South Bend, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Kathy Leggit, Mishawaka, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Keven Connery, Granger, IN.
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration.

Elizabeth Coquillard, Goshen, IN
Speaks on the decision on the Voter Registration and being discriminated against for being a Libertarian and not having a voice.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Baxmeyer asked for a motion to recess, Dr. Fleming so moved, seconded by Mr. Dieter. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.


ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Please refer to the St. Joseph County website for the full audio and visual of the St. Joseph County Commissioners meeting if needed.