



Consolidated Courts project in Elkhart County moves forward

Final design/build team interviews and composite scoring completed

Elkhart County, Indiana (January 13, 2021) – Elkhart County’s Consolidated Courts project continued to move forward this week as three final design/build teams from across the nation were interviewed by the County’s Technical Review Committee (TRC) on Tuesday, January 12. The interviews which began at 8:45 a.m. Eastern Time, concluded at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

In a public meeting held at 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time, the TRC team used a score sheet to assess and then assign a Composite Score to each Qualitative Proposal. The Scoring Form consisted of 16 specific sections, including Composition and Completeness of each Project Team, Local Participation, Trade Contractor Participation, Courthouse Facility Experience, Schedule, Budget and Quality Control on Past Projects and Schedule Management.

At 4 p.m. Eastern Time, Elkhart County Commissioners, Suzanne Weirick – District 3, Brad Rogers – District 2, and Frank Lucchese – District 1, voted unanimously to accept the Composite Scores from the TRC. Acceptance of the scores by the County Commissioners signals an end to the TRC duties.

“This has been one of the most professionally run processes I’ve been part of in local government,” said Weirick, President of the County Commissioners. “The TRC has been thorough and deliberate from beginning-to-end.”

“Now, we move on to the final decision regarding a design/build team,” added Lucchese, Vice President of the County Commissioners. “We expect to make that decision at our next public meeting on the 19th.”

“This is a well-coordinated and thought-out process,” added Rogers, who was elected as County Commissioner in November 2020. “We’re going to keep this on track and on budget as we move forward.”

THE PUBLIC PROCESS

Elkhart County Government is committed to keeping constituents informed as the project moves forward. A website with frequently asked questions, key facts and an evolving timeline has been created as part of the process. The address is www.SmartCourtsProject.com.

ABOUT THE TRC (TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE)

Members of the Technical Review Committee include Frank Lucchese – Elkhart County Commissioner, David Hess – Elkhart County Council, Sean Holmes – Chief Deputy, Elkhart County Sheriff’s Department, William Shepler P.E., DBIA – CEO, PMSI consulting, Daniel Rawlins, RA, DBIA – Project Mgr., InterDesign.

ABOUT THE ELKHART COUNTY SMART COURTS PROJECT

The genesis of a consolidated Elkhart County Courthouse system goes back to 1992. The project has been discussed as a necessary improvement since that time.

Beginning in January 2018 and concluding in July of 2020, more than two dozen locations were studied by Elkhart County government as potential sites for the consolidated campus. The studies included sites in downtown Goshen and downtown Elkhart.

On September 12, 2020 an initial bond agreement was approved in the amount of \$35 million for the first phase in financing to purchase land, design and build the new courthouse.

On November 14, 2020, the Elkhart County Council unanimously approved the purchase of 32 acres of vacant property at 1905 Reliance Road in Goshen as the location for the new consolidated courts campus.

On December 9/10, 2020, the TRC interviewed 8 design/build teams. On December 15, 2020, the TRC narrowed the field of design/build teams down to three.

On January 12, 2021, the TRC interviewed three finalists for the project and assigned 16 Qualitative Scores to each design/build team. The TRC’s Qualitative Scores were submitted to the County Commissioners on the same day, and the Commissioners approved the submission unanimously at that time.

ABOUT ELKHART COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Elkhart County is governed by a board of three County Commissioners. The board of Commissioners constitutes the legislative body of the county for ordinance purposes and also serves as the executive branch for Elkhart County government.

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