



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Consolidated Courts design/build team formally announced

## County Commissioners vote unanimously to begin the design/build process

**Elkhart County, Indiana** (January 19, 2021) – At approximately 9:10 a.m. this morning in their regularly held public meeting, Elkhart County Commissioners voted unanimously to partner with Indianapolis-based design firm Performance Services and partner Ancon Construction of Goshen to design and build the first County consolidated courts facility in over a hundred years.

The team of Performance Services and Ancon Construction was awarded the project based upon receiving the highest composite score in 16 categories that were used by Elkhart County's Technical Review Committee (TRC) to assess the final three Qualitative Proposals. The final three proposals were submitted to the TRC on January 12, 2021.

"After a year-and-a-half of hard work, it feels good to actually begin the design/build process," said Frank Lucchese, Vice President, Elkhart County Commissioners. "I move to approve the Letter of Intent with Performance Services and Ancon Construction."

The motion to approve the Letter of Intent with Performance Services and partner Ancon Construction was seconded by Brad Rogers, County Commissioner, District 2. Suzie Weirick, President of the County Commissioners, District 3, joined her colleagues to make the decision unanimous.

"We're looking forward to working with this design/build team over the next two years," added Weirick. "This has been an open and thorough process that every citizen in Elkhart County can be proud of – particularly those who've been advocating for consolidation of our local courts since the early 1990s."

## **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](http://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. The three finalists were interviewed a second time on January 12, 2021.

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.

On January 19, 2021 Elkhart County Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Indianapolis-based design firm Performance Services and their partner Goshen-based Ancon Construction to design and build the new Consolidated Courts project on 32 acres at 1905 Reliance Road in Goshen.

## **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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**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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[www.SmartCourtsProject.com](http://www.SmartCourtsProject.com)