



**LA PORTE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202  
La Porte, IN 46350-3400  
(219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

**Connie Gramarossa**  
President

**Steve Holifield**  
Vice President

**Joseph Haney**  
Member

**La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. County Complex Room 3**

**President Connie Gramarossa** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** called the roll: **Commissioner Holifield** - Absent; **Commissioner Gramarossa** - Present and **Commissioner Haney** - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Gramarossa** added two items to the agenda: **Per IC 3-11-1.5, Requesting Order ceding Commissioners' Reprecincting authority to the County Election Board for City of La Porte due to Annexation and Consider permission for travel to Kissimmee, Florida, May 28-31, 2025 for All-Rise Conference - Judge Greta Friedman, and the Drug Court Team.** **Commissioner Haney** motioned to add the two items. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, requested removing item 11 'b' until the next meeting, not ready yet to move forward with the contract. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to remove Consider EDA Consulting contract. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered approval of the March 5, 2025 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

**Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** read the Claims with Payroll ending 3/7/2025 - \$1,527,018.57. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

**Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** read the Operating Expense Claims - \$5,046,311.89. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve the operating claims. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

**Public Comment**

**Dean White**, 3066 N. Highway 35, La Porte, two items: accident near his home this past Sunday leaving debris in the woods. **Commissioner Haney** helped with an arrow sign installed at the curve near his home as well as a small sign on engine braking prior to approaching the curve in a residential area. Requested the Commission to help with possibly a guardrail with reflectors on this curve. **President Gramarossa** told Dean she would give him a number to INDOT since Highway 35 is a State Highway. **Dean** stated he doesn't have the 'clout' that the Commissioners would have for requesting the guardrail. Second comment was on the Vista View on Waverly Road that he has been talking about the last several years. **President Gramarossa** reminded Dean this area was originally platted as a subdivision and never a Vista View. **Dean**, he has pushed to honor Soldier's Memorial Park and this magnificent view of Stone Lake and the precious wetlands.

**Cheryl Gall**, 8473 E. Lake Shore Drive, Hudson Lake, a problem with people from different cities installing piers along the lake in front of homes. There was a case in front of Judge Alevizos last year, Roger and Sandy Teska, 46C01-2405-PL-001147, and the ruling was in favor of Teskas, only the homeowner has the right to install a pier unless they give permission to other people. She spoke to Kevin Wheatbrook, she talked to DNR who stated the County could put signs up informing the public. Cheryl told Kevin she would give written permission to install signs on her property. She just wants a stop to what has been going on in front of her house for years now. **President Gramarossa** told Cheryl to give her phone number to Secretary Diane Gonzales and County Attorney DiMartino will address the situation.

**ORIGINAL**



### Department Reports/Comments

**Rachel Delaney**, Animal Shelter Director, requested permission to approach the Council for three new fob doors/cameras, not to exceed \$30,000 from the Donation Account. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** Additionally, **Rachel** requested permission to look into a new vehicle to replace a vehicle that is having issues. **President Gramarossa** advised Rachel to go to the County Garage and have the vehicle analyzed then start the process of replacing it if the vehicle is in bad shape.

**Dion Campbell**, Juvenile Service Center Director, reported there are **five** separate functions under the canopy of the Juvenile Service Center: Juvenile Detention Center with 12 beds on one side (includes youths charged as Adults, these are called Direct Files); an Emergency Shelter Care Unit on the other non-secure side with 12 beds (for Juveniles that have not been charged in some cases or Juveniles being detained by the Courts, primarily status offenses); NOVA Program in both La Porte and Michigan City; Day Reporting works with La Porte and Michigan City Area Schools; Community Supervisors, team of four individuals, works with those on house arrest or GPS monitoring. Currently servicing 25 youths: two on Residential Side; six on the Secure Side with three of the six being charged as adults. The Michigan City Nova Program has three youths and La Porte Nova Program has four youths and 11 youths on GPS. Zero on Home Detention and Zero on Day Reporting. In November of 2024, partnered with an Indiana Accredited Academy which allows youths to get a degree virtually and this is done on the secure side. Currently three participants are in the Athens Virtual Academy program. New hire Robert Sims. Reported on plans for a new roof, a new gym floor, a new generator arrived yesterday, Dion thanked the Commission for all their work with everything. Happy to announce the purchase of three new vehicles which will be a tremendous help to the department while safely transporting the children. A Supervisor will be attending the SCM (Safe Crisis Management) Instructor Certification/JKM Training in Louisville, Kentucky. Although he is on the agenda for training in Louisville in June, he requested permission to send one staff member next week, March 23-28, 2025, then one-two staff members in June. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve both requests. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** Lastly, reported since 2025, the Juvenile Service Center has received \$240,424.98 in DCS funds that goes directly into the General Fund. **Commissioners** thanked Director Campbell for all he does at the center.

### Requests

**Considered** permission to set up a stand for Epilepsy Awareness March 26<sup>th</sup>. **Theresa Lentner**, 3368 S. State Road 104, Stillwell, has epilepsy seizures, 46 years old, cannot work, in 2019 she experienced a 'cluster seizure' which could not be stopped. She was in a coma in the hospital then went to a nursing home. There are 40 different kinds of seizures and she experiences three different ones. She would like to get the word out on Epilepsy, her sister helped her put together 100 information bags with items inside that she would like to hand out to the public outside the La Porte Courthouse on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> during 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Her mom, sister and nephew were in attendance during the meeting for support. **President Gramarossa** suggested she set up next to the bus stop at the corner of the La Porte Courthouse at State Street/Michigan Avenue. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** permission to approach the Council for additional appropriations, **Mericka Beaty**, Community Corrections Director. **Mericka** will be presenting three items to the Council: Lease agreement for GPS systems, Hosting a training session at the HealthCare Foundation for the Indiana Department of Corrections and kitchen renovations. **Attorney DiMartino**, break this up into two separate votes because the one request for the training involves buying food. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve permission to approach the Council for the GPS and kitchen renovations. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Haney then motioned to approve the request for providing food during the Corrections Statewide training at the HealthCare Foundation. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** permission for travel to Kissimmee, Florida, May 28-31, 2025, **Sean Fagan**, Prosecutor. Sending one Deputy to the AllRise Conference. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** Per IC 3-11-1.5, Requesting Order ceding Commissioners' Reprecincting authority to the County Election Board for City of La Porte due to Annexation. **Attorney DiMartino**, you have the ability to delegate the changes to the Election Board. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** permission for travel to Kissimmee, Florida, May 28-31, 2025, for the AllRise Conference. Judge Greta Friedman and the Drug Court Team. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

### Old Business

None

### New Business

**Considered** contract with Tsouklis Municipal Consulting LLC. **Mike Rosenbaum**, Auditor, plan is to train staff in his department to do this work but until then he would like to use the services of this consulting firm. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

ORIGINAL



Considered update on Maintenance Department/Acting Director of Facilities appointment. **President Gramarossa**, committee has met and two positions will be posted for hiring, HVAC position and a Maintenance position. Former Director moved into a different position in another department therefore she would like a motion to appoint 'Acting' Director Angie Davis to the position of Director. **Commissioner Haney motioned to appoint Angie Davis as 'Acting' Director of Facilities and to advertise for the position of Director of Facilities.** **President Gramarossa**, we actually don't do that, the Council advertises the positions. **Commissioner Haney**, as the Commissioners appoint that position, I believe we have the authority to advertise for it. **Attorney DiMartino**, I can't answer that question off the cuff, I'd need to look at that. **President Gramarossa**, we appointed a committee to work on this together and that was not the recommendations of the committee. I will approve the first half, the appointing of.....**Commissioner Haney, I withdraw my motion. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to appoint Angie Davis as 'Acting' Director of Facilities.** **Commissioner Haney seconded for discussion.** **Commissioner Haney**, the Board of Commissioners and the Council did appoint a Building Committee to go over building issues that we had that workshop on. At no point did the Board of Commissioners delegate their responsibility or duty of appointing Facilities Director to any committee so I'm not willing to delegate that authority over to a committee, maybe I'll be outvoted at the next meeting but as far as advocating our responsibility to appointing a Facilities Director to a committee that was basically an 'add on' just doesn't make sense. **President Gramarossa**, that's two different issues, I have asked for a motion to appoint Angie Davis as the Director and then if you'd like to do a second... **Attorney DiMartino**, 'Acting Director?' **President Gramarossa** continued, ...motion to put that job out to bid then we can do that as a second motion, currently what's actually on here is 'Acting' Director of Facilities appointment. **Commissioner Haney**, I see that. **President Gramarossa, we have a motion and a seconded. Vote called. Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye and Commissioner Haney - Nay. Commissioner Haney**, I believe they should be done jointly, we should appoint an 'Acting' Director and advertise at the same time. **President Gramarossa, dies for lack of a seconded.**

**Commissioner Haney motioned to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE 4-2-2020

Connie Gramarossa

[Signature]

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL