



# LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**Connie Gramarossa**  
President

**Steve Holifield**  
Vice President

**Joe Haney**  
Member

## La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3

**President Connie Gramarossa** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was heard for the assassination of Charlie Kirk and all the unnecessary murders that have happened across the county. **Commissioner Steve Holifield** added a moment of silence for Michigan City Fireman Richard Kagy who lost his life last weekend.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to add 10 'a' - Coroner contract, 10 'b' - Barricade on Lake Side Road in New Carlisle under Old Business and add under New Business 11 'c' - form for vendors. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the September 3, 2025 minutes. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** read the Claims with Payroll ending 9/5/2025 - \$1,472,815.93. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** read the Operating Expense Claims - \$3,871,032.28. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### Public Comment

**Lindsay Loniewski**, 4662 S. 150 W. La Porte, looking for answers about a Data Center near her home between 400 South and 500 South in La Porte. August 6<sup>th</sup> she attended a Commissioners' meeting along with neighbors voicing their concerns. Currently Abonmarche ordered locates/flags for a core drill. According to their website Abonmarche works on industrial projects. August 14<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Gramarossa met with her and a few neighbors to discuss the possibility of putting an ordinance in place like Lake County's ordinance. She appreciates being allowed to express concerns especially before any Data Center companies are approved. Revisions were submitted on August 29<sup>th</sup> yet she has not seen a draft and the importance of having one adopted sooner than later would prevent a Data Center from getting far enough along in the review permitting process and becoming exempt to the new zoning amendments. Looking for real honest answers and getting ahead of this because we can all agree that a Data Center does not belong in perfectly good farmland near residential homes, a park and a school. Do you understand the risks this could have on our community? Data Centers can use the same amount of electricity as 400,000 homes in one month. Residents in New Carlisle were impacted immediately after construction started and now, they are stuck, unable to sell their homes, poor water quality and high utility bills. Why do we need so many of these in one county? Requested the Commission to move swiftly in adopting an ordinance for Data Centers in La Porte County. Thank you. **Commissioner Holifield**, currently no one has approached the County for anything to do a project yet. They're doing their due diligence, just like when you buy a house you do a walkthrough first, no one has approached anybody here about these, the current ordinance we do have in place would require the centers to be in an industrial area only so if the ordinance is updated, it'll just make it stronger.

**George Callas**, 708 Toronado Drive, La Porte, two months ago he instructed the Commission how to get the first-floor bathrooms in the Hiler Building fixed, an explanation should be given to the employees working in the building as to why repairs have not been made yet.

ORIGINAL



**Ryan Flaherty**, 7485 E. Point Road Extension, New Carlisle, thanked the Commission for assisting in the process of removing concrete jersey barriers that a neighbor has put up blocking access to his property, he would like to have No Parking signs installed on East Lake Park Avenue as well as the extension of Cottage Grove Avenue going towards the lake because the neighbors have been parking along the undeveloped roadway to the entrance of his property. The 20-foot road could possibly be staked indicating to Sheriff Deputies for No Parking. Thank you.

#### Department Reports/Comments

**Angie Davis**, Facilities Director, reported on current projects. In the Hilder Building, the first-floor bathrooms and the breakroom in the Assessor's Office, we had a set back with electrical issues however the drawing should be completed by September 29<sup>th</sup> so the project can proceed with bids. As for the County Jail showers, S6 start date was September 15<sup>th</sup>, should be completed by September 20<sup>th</sup>, S3 started September 22<sup>nd</sup> with completion on September 27<sup>th</sup> then S2 starts September 29<sup>th</sup>, completion should be October 4<sup>th</sup>. For the generator at Juvenile Service Center, currently waiting on a part, start date is September 22<sup>nd</sup> with a tentative complete date of October 31<sup>st</sup>. A scope was required for the bathrooms, additional issues were discovered once they started taking things apart, drawings were put together so bids are for the exact same repairs. As we moved into the break room, more issues were discovered as well. It will go out to bid once the scope is ready by the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Thank you.

**Commissioner Joe Haney** updated the Commission on his request for Commissioners' Claims being posted online for the public to view, asked Auditor Rosenbaum what the status was on his request. **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum**, we had a meeting, we still have not concluded what exactly you are looking for, you were going to look at Lake County for their postings and I have not heard anything back yet. **Commissioner Haney**, looking for what we voted on back in January and I believe May. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, that is not an answer to what we discussed in our meeting so therefore, we can have another discussion as to what exactly you are requesting. **Commissioner Haney**, well, in the meantime I've been scanning our claims the last couple of months, minus the Jury names and I'll be publishing those to a Dropbox link online so the public can have access to those until you're able to get that info online on the County's website. The link will be published tomorrow afternoon.

#### Requests

**Considered** Museum closure September 22-26 to rearrange new items; redo gates and request a keypad at the backdoor. **Tom Konieczny**, Historical Society Museum Board President, the gates were salvaged from the Fox Woolen Mill making them about 150 years old, they too are showing signs of age, we would have them cleaned, powder coated and we would pay the cost. BJ's gave an estimate on the keypad for the back door. On another report, Peter Kesling Foundation donated several vehicles and it will take all three floors and several days to shift items around in order to add the vehicles to the Museum's displays. It may only take three (3) days but we would like to close to the public for five (5) days to be sure we get everything in place. Final note is the elevator is almost completed. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### Old Business

**Considered** road barriers on East Lake Side Drive, New Carlisle. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to have Attorney DiMartino file paperwork on the County's behalf. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** If no signs are posted then the Sheriff's Department does not have any standing to enforce the 'No Parking' in that area. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to have Highway Superintendent Charity Glaser check on the signs in the area for 'No Parking.' **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** County Attorney DiMartino drafting a Vendor Form. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to direct County Attorney Guy DiMartino to draft a standardized form for contracts relating to vendor work for the County. **Attorney DiMartino**, right now that's just going to be for the trades because like the accounting work/professional services we usually get contracts. **Commissioner Haney** amended to 'the trades' instead of 'work for the County.' **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** drafting a contract between County Coroner and Pathologix. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, SBOA stated we need contracts for everything. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to instruct County Attorney DiMartino to draft a contract. **Attorney DiMartino** said he would take the letter from Pathologix for autopsies for the Coroner and create a contract using that information. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### New Business

**Considered** Amendment to Master Service Agreement with Lochmueller, **Mitch Bishop**, Planner. **Attorney DiMartino** spoke on Mitch Bishop's behalf, due to the County currently not having an Engineer, if one is needed then Lochmueller will be used. He has reviewed and approved the contract. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to accept the amendment to the Master Service Agreement. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

ORIGINAL

**Considered** Peterson Consulting Services for GASB 34/GAAP for 2025. **Mike Rosenbaum**, Auditor, this company has been providing service to the County for the past three (3) years, it is an accumulation of the capital assets. It is necessary to be maintained on a regular basis and the cost for this service is \$4,250, \$150 more than last year. **Commissioner Holifield** asked if this is for our asset management program. **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum**, we accumulate our assets and maintain records every year, we've been doing them internally but this is making sure we are following the generally accepted principles, specifically governmental. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to approve. **President Gramarossa** stepped down to seconded. **Motion carried 2-1.** **Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

**Commissioner Holifield** motioned to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. **Commissioner Haney** seconded, 'Happy Constitution Day.' **Motion carried 3-0.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE 10-1-2025  
Chris Gramarossa  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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