

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24TH, 2025**

Call to Order

President Adam Koronka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked that all cell phones be turned off. He then asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and asked that Councilwoman Heath lead the pledge.

Roll Call

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum then called the roll. He welcomed new member, Councilwoman Jennifer Heath. All members were present.

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Absent								0

Approval of the Agenda

Councilman Brett Kessler asked that the Agenda be amended to reflect the following:

Mr. President, I have a few corrections on the agenda for this evening. Number one on the first page, I'd like to remove the 2026 salary ordinance from the agenda for this evening. Number two, I would like to add under new business, LaPorte County Treasurer Dan Baranie, concerning Comot 5 to Comot 6 employee. Number two, I would like to add report County Treasurer Dan Baranie regarding second deputy. Number three, I'd like to add County Surveyor John Matwyshyn for permission to hire. Number four, I'd like to add Mike Polan, Building Commissioner.

Page two is correct. Page three, I'd like to remove County Auditor from the agenda and also I'd like to remove report County MS4 from the agenda. Those are my corrections for this evening.

Councilman Kessler offered a motion to approve the corrections/amendments.

The motion was supported by Councilwoman Heath. The vote was 7 – 0 in favor of the amendments.

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

Approval of the October 27th Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

The vote was 7 – 0 in favor of the motion.

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

Public Comment

None

Department Head Comments

None

Liaison Reports

Councilman Pressel: A few items. Plan commission, we have a data center workshop tomorrow night here. Comprehensive plans moving forward. They are still taking input from county residents. Two exciting things happening in the county. Homeward Bound Villages had a ribbon cutting last weekend, so kind of nice to see some county getting put to work and almost open for residents there. Paladin has an open house coming up December 5th also.

Councilman Kiel: Brief update for me, just for speaking with my liaison aside, but I think the big thing I want to draw attention to is just that we got our 1782 notice about 10 days ago. Today's our final day to respond to that if we had any changes we wanted to propose. I think a notable thing to point out in that is between our adopted budget, we anticipated or advertised as part of that budget that we would collect \$44 million in property tax levy revenue.

The 1782 revises that to 42.3 million. So, this is a \$1.7 reduction in property tax levy revenue from what was initially advertised versus what is now put into the final version. That's not necessarily unusual to have that reduction just because we estimate high during the budget process. But it's noteworthy also because it does reduce our estimated ending cash balance for the general fund.

So, we are looking at a budget deficit of around \$6 million for next year for the general fund. So just want to make sure that we're aware of that going forward.

Councilman Kessler: Attended RDC Meeting, got sworn in on that committee, went well, and that's the only thing I've got for right now.

Correspondence

Letter from Sheriff Heeg concerning the Commissary Fund. He supplied the report.

Ordinances and Resolutions

President Koronka: Thank you. Okay, moving on to ordinances and resolutions. We have the 2025 amended salary ordinance in front of us. So, Mr. Auditor, if you wouldn't mind just walking through briefly.

Auditor Rosenbaum: First of all, it was a great opportunity to get it to you earlier in the month so that this way that you had time to look at it. A couple of things that are noted, we learned that you do not need to keep names on salary ordinances. So the names have been changed because quite a few, the pages required the changes because we tried to avoid the name changes of making them as an adjustment.

We really focused on the dollar amount. The other thing that we did add to this salary ordinance, the amended salary ordinance is that we gave you the date of the change when there was a change. So some go all the way back to March because we didn't want to start doing this every month. So now this way, when the State Board of Accounts comes in, they can look and see the amended salary ordinance and they can go back and they can identify the period, whatever payroll period they're auditing, and they can match it to the salary ordinance as it has been amended.

No one has asked to come see anything or talked about it until today when I had some phone conversations people about it, maybe last Friday as well, but no one has come to see that we matched it up with the names. We do prepare this in Excel. We do have the names there so that we can verify who they are, but we hide it for I was asked today about salaries or what we pay people at the end of the year if that reporting gateway will have their names.

Councilman Kiel: Correct me if I'm wrong, but the vast majority of these changes are related to staff changes during the year, right?

Auditor Rosenbaum: Absolutely does. It's just that on a salary or it doesn't. And I found this out from talking to the other auditors around the state, and they are I'm also surprised at how many changes that we also have to. But they do theirs on a more regular basis. And sometimes, and the county that I've been talking to is like half the size of ours. But the person has had quite a few years of experience in the auditor's office and has been very helpful in getting some additional guidance as well. not the vast majority, but there were a lot of step changes, but also we had a lot of retirements this year. So, one of the things that happens is somebody who's at a step 10, now we have a step person in a step one, or maybe a step three when they transfer over. In the case of my office, we had people that are higher steps than the people that they replaced due to a couple of retirements. And so therefore, you know, those people have to be reported as well. So, it goes both ways.

We have the departments clearly layout. You have their title and you have what their level is, what position they are. The question is whether or not we say that it's exhibit A, B, C through Q, depending on what they are, that a little code in there to help maybe to go back to those salary grids. I'm not sure, but we can, like I said, we can figure out a better, anything that makes us better is fine by me.

Action: A motion was made by Councilman Kessler to accept the 2025 Salary Ordinance as amended (2025 – 11a) and it was supported by both Councilman Kiel and Councilman Mollenauer. Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

Old Business

None

New Business

Michigan Township Assessor: requesting permission to hire Commercial/Income Clerk.

The motion was originally tabled due to the absence of office personnel on a motion by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Yagelski and a 7 – 0 vote.

Assessor Banic called a short time later. Brent Banic explained the duties of the commercial income deputy, which involve processing rental questionnaires and managing commercial property assessments. A conference room participant inquired about additional staff for commercial assessments, to which Brent clarified that the role is unique to him, although there is a commercial deputy in the LaPorte office. A motion was made by Councilman Mollenauer and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

The vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

LaPorte County Auditor: requesting permission to hire replacement Tax Roll Clerk.

Request approved on a motion by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was 6 - 1 as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

LaPorte County Treasurer: requesting 1st Deputy from a Comot 5 to Comot 6.

Request approved on a motion by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Kessler who amended the motion to say that the first deputy must be located and work in Michigan City.

Vote was 4 - 3 as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x		x			4
Nay				x		x	x	3

Requesting 2nd Deputy replacement – staff member transferred to another department.

Motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Pressel.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x		x			4
Nay				x		x	x	3

LaPorte County Surveyor: The need to fill the Office Deputy position in the Surveyor's Office, which has been vacant since the previous week, was brought up. The responsibilities of the role were detailed, emphasizing the workload and the necessity for support in managing inquiries and documentation. Skepticism about the need for the position was expressed, citing that the department had managed without it for some time.

A motion to deny the request was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollenauer. Vote to deny was upheld. Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x			x	x	x	x	5
Nay		x	x					2

Building Commissioners: Building Commissioner Mike Polan provided an update on his role, discussing the evolution of his responsibilities and the need to transfer part of his salary from one account to another.

The need to maintain the current salary of \$80,227 was addressed, as it would revert to \$65,227 without action. Context was provided regarding the initial salary increase related to a split role that has since dissolved. A motion was made to approve a salary of \$81,250, which led to discussions about funding sources and potential budget constraints.

A motion was made by Councilman Pressel for the \$81,250 less 3% (\$80,227) and supported by Councilman Kiel.

The vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

2026 County Council Meeting Dates:

The Calendar of 2026 County Council Meeting dates was presented to the council and approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Heath and supported by Councilman Kessler.

APPROPRIATIONS

LaPorte County Sheriff \$2,270.00

Sheriff Ron Heeg requesting an additional appropriation
For Personnel due to promotion
From Riverboat (1191) or LIT Public Safety (1170)

Motion to accept from LIT Public Safety was made by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was 6 – 1 as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

LaPorte County Building Maintenance \$96,000.00

Angela Davis, Director of Building Maintenance
requests an additional appropriation of \$53,000.00
for the following:

Unpaid Invoices (Marquiss): \$8,241.75
Sewage Pump: \$14,176.00
Pit Pump: \$7,441.00
Supplies (toilet paper & trash bags): \$7,500.00
Generator Rental (JSC): \$15,288.17
Otis Elevator (remaining balance): \$42,550.68

From: 1191 Riverboat
1112 LIT Economic Development
4220 Win Tax

Motion to approve from Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Mollenauer. Vote was 6 – 1 as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

TRANSFERS/PERMISSION TO SPEND-APPROPRIATE

LaPorte County Juvenile Service Center \$500.00
Director Dion Campbell requesting \$500 from
4910.40112.000.0868 for the purchase of a
65" Samsung Television

Motion to approve was made by Councilman and supported by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Circuit Court Clerk \$7,500.00
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Heather Stevens,
Requesting permission to spend/appropriate \$7,500 from
1119.0000.00000.0000 to 1119.41001.00000.0341
For the purchase of scanners

Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Heath and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Recorder \$4,000.00
LaPorte County Recorder, Ella Bilderback,
Is requesting permission to
spend/transfer \$4,000 from
1217.03241.00000.0724 to 1217.30027.00000.0724

Motion to approve by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								

LaPorte County Adult Probation

\$10,200.00

Steve Eyrick, Chief Probation Officer, requesting permission to spend/appropriate not to exceed \$8,000 from User Fees to purchase replacement of existing desktop computers for LaPorte and Michigan City offices.

\$2,200 for Yoga laptop, so ware and 2 computer backpacks For Superior Court No. 4.

2102-41007-000-0334

Motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Pressel.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Circuit Court

*Requesting to spend no more than \$1,000 \$1,000.00

For 4 items from the Adult Probation User fee

Account for Circuit Court

2102-41007-000-0334

Motion of support was made by Councilman Mollenauer and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

Laporte County Circuit Court \$3,500.00

LaPorte County Circuit Court requests

permission To transfer from:

1000.10135.00000.0148 (legal intern) to

1000.30094.00000.0148 (interpreter)

Motion to transfer was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

Vote was as follows:

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

Superior Court 3

Requesting transfer due to staff retirement \$357.00
From 1000.30088.00000.0151 (Psychological Services)
To 1000.10174.00000.0151 (Personnel)

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Yagelski.

	Brett Kessler	Justin Kiel	Adam Koronka	Mike Mollenauer	Jimmy Pressel	Jennifer Heath	Mark Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Information Technology \$25,000.00

Requesting Motion of Support to spend
Not to exceed \$25,000.00 for 3 year renewal
For firewall protection

1191 Riverboat
1170 LIT Public Safety
4220 Win Tax

Hold over for the December meeting.

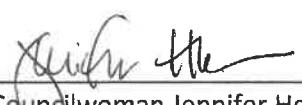
Next meeting will be held on December 22nd, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 on a motion made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kiel.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 22nd day of December, 2025.

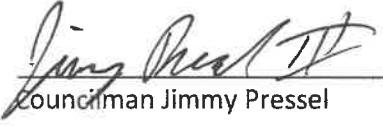

Councilman President Adam Koronka

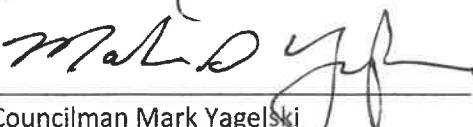

Councilman Justin Kiel


Councilwoman Jennifer Heath


Councilman Brett Kessler


Councilman Mike Mollenhauer


Councilman Jimmy Pressel


Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 
Michael Rosenbaum, CPA, LaPorte County Auditor