



LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Steve Holifield
President

Connie Gramarossa
Vice President

Joe Haney
Member

La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. County Complex Room 3

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Reminded all to turn cell phones off or silent them during the meeting. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Election of Officers: **Auditor Rosenbaum**, there is no need for a second, just a nomination, start with President. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** nominated **Steve Holifield** for President. Vote taken, all 3 Ayes. **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum** turned the meeting over to newly-elected President Steve Holifield.

President Steve Holifield, taking nominations for Vice President. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** nominated herself for Vice President. **Commissioner Joe Haney** nominated himself for Vice President. Nominations closed. **Auditor Rosenbaum** took the vote: **Connie Gramarossa** - **Connie Gramarossa**; **Joe Haney** - **Joe Haney** and **Steve Holifield** - **Connie Gramarossa**. 2026 Board of Commissioners are **Steve Holifield** - President, **Connie Gramarossa** - Vice President and **Joe Haney** - Member.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Gramarossa** moved the Proclamation up the agenda to right after the Claims. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the December 17, 2025 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 12/26/2025 - \$1,529,990.92. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$1,844,449.40. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Family Advocates Director **Jackie Dermody** and Director of Volunteer & Community Engagement **Kristy Hahn**, January is National Mentoring Month, Family Advocates have two school-based mentoring programs in La Porte Community Schools and Michigan City Schools as of September 2025, thanks to a grant made possible by HealthCare Foundation. We believe children do better when supported by consistent advocates or mentors in their lives. They experience more success academically, emotionally and socially. Family Advocates is always in need of mentors. Mentors are used in elementary, middle school, intermediate and high school. **Kristy Hahn**, thanked Commissioners for allowing them to speak, for any and all interested in being a mentor, you can find us on Facebook, Family Advocates, website is lpfamilyadvocates.com. Application is on the website; you can be a Slicer Champion or a Wolfpack Leader. Reach out anytime to khahn@lpca.org. Brochures were given to Commissioners for the office. **Jackie Dermody**, we have pins for each of you. **President Steve Holifield** read the Proclamation in to the record. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to pass the Proclamation. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***Included

Considered Department Heads/Professional Advisors appointments. **Commissioner Haney** read the list:
Insurance Agencies of Record - Michiana Insurance and Highstreet (formerly GIS). **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Financial Advisors - Cender Dalton and Baker Tilly. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ORIGINAL

County Attorney - Guy DiMartino. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Animal Shelter Director - Brooke Kegebein. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Building Department Director - Mike Polan. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Community Corrections Director - Mericka Beaty. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Director of Facilities - Angie Davis. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

E-911 Director - Interim, pending E-911 Advisory Board's recommendation, Matt Deckard. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA Director - Rob Sabie. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS Director - Eric Fenstermaker. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Hazmat Director - Jeff Hamilton. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Department Director - Amanda Lahners. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Superintendent - Charity Glaser. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

MS4 Director - Paul Vicari. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Museum Director - Danielle Adams. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Office of Community & Economic Development - Matt Reardon, MCR Partners. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Parks Director - Jeremy Sobecki. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Weights & Measures - Dakota Euler. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered **Liaison Appointments**. Commissioner Gramarossa read in to the record:

Animal Control Board - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Community Corrections Advisory Board - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Drainage Board - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

E-911 Board - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Fair Board - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Fairgrounds Management & Events Corporation, FMEC - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Department - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Department - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Insurance Committee - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Haney nominated himself. Commissioner Gramarossa nominated herself. Mike Rosenbaum called the roll: Commissioner Haney - Commissioner Haney; Commissioner Holifield - Commissioner Haney and Commissioner Gramarossa - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Haney 3-0 vote.

Job Evaluation Committee - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Juvenile Service Center - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ORIGINAL

Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Museum - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Northwest Indiana Regional Plan Commission, NIRPC - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Pioneer Cemetery Commission - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Plan Commission - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Redevelopment Commission - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa nominated herself. Commissioner Haney nominated himself. Commissioner Holifield seconded both then the vote was taken. Auditor Rosenbaum - Commissioner Gramarossa - Commissioner Gramarossa; Commissioner Haney - Commissioner Haney and Commissioner Holifield - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Connie Gramarossa will be Liaison to the RDC. 2-1 Vote.

Regional Sewer District - Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Right-to-Know - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Solid Waste Management District Board - All three Commissioners are on the Board by default. Motion carried 3-0.

Weights & Measures - Commissioner Holifield. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Workforce Development - Commissioner Haney. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney did not accept/seconded but nominated Commissioner Gramarossa. Commissioner Gramarossa accepted/seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

President Holifield suggested the recent Maintenance Committee be added to the Liaison list. He will speak to Council President Adam Koronka; the committee needs to have a liaison instead of only meeting once or twice a month. **Shared Ethics**, no letters of interest were submitted at this time. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to table until our next meeting on January 21st at 6:00 p.m.** Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered Boards and Commissions Appointments. Commissioner Haney read the list for the record:

Michigan City Public Library - Two citizens submitted interest with one supported by a letter of recommendation from the Library Director. Betsy Kohn and Ron Meer. Betsy had the supporting letter. **President Holifield** had put a list together of everyone that submitted interest, he'd like to read all names then take a vote for the appointment. We received interest via Webpage Request emails and letters. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to appoint Betsy Kohn by Library Board recommendation.** Commissioner Haney nominated Ron Meer. Auditor Mike Rosenbaum, Commissioner Holifield - Betsy Kohn, Commissioner Haney - Ron Meer, and Commissioner Gramarossa - Betsy Kohn. Appointment will be Betsy Kohn with a 2-1 vote for the Michigan City Public Library Board.

Westville-New Durham Township Public Library - Allison Swanson is the current member and was recommended by letter from the Library Board. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve Alison Swanson. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Alcoholic Beverage Board - Rodney McCormick is the current member, he submitted a Webpage Request email as well as Don Weishar, Andrew Simmermeyer and Barb Huston. **Commissioner Haney nominated Rodney McCormick.** Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Animal Control Advisory Board - Current members are Commissioner Connie Gramarossa, Dr. Lisa Polazzi, Dr. Adrienne Pinks, and LuAnn Troxel. **President Holifield** read names of Commissioner Joe Haney, Ron Meer, Evan Wooding, Don Weishar, Gary Metcalf, Barb Huston, and Jodi Dusek, all via Webpage Request. LuAnn Troxel did express interest to stay on the Board.

Commissioner Gramarossa nominated LuAnn Troxel to the Board. Commissioner will replace Commissioner Gramarossa Liaison. Commissioner Haney seconded the appointment. Motion carried 3-0 for Commissioner Joe Haney, Dr. Lisa Polazzi, Dr. Adrienne Pinks, and LuAnn Troxel.

Board of Construction Review - Current members are Marcella Kunstek and Scott Cooley. **Via Webpage Requests** are Don Weishar and Kevin Nicholson. **Commissioner Haney nominated Don Weishar and Kevin Nicholson.** Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. President Holifield recommended keeping the current two members. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Commissioner Haney questioned if the current members submitted interest in remaining on the Board, Commissioner Gramarossa, yes, they did and the Board meets on an 'as needed' basis. Auditor Mike Rosenbaum, state two names out of the four then called the roll: **Commissioner Gramarossa - Marcella Kunstek and Scott Cooley;** Commissioner Haney, he is going with the only two he received - Don Weishar and Kevin Nicholson; and Commissioner Holifield - Scott Cooley and Marcella Kunstek. **Marcella Kunstek - 2 votes, Scott Cooley - 2 votes, Don Weishar - 1 vote and Kevin Nicholson - 1 vote.** Both Marcella Kunstek and Scott Cooley will remain on the Board of Construction Review.

ORIGINAL

Board of Health - Current members are Alexandrea Laun and Annabella Juhasz, both expressed interest in remaining on the Board. President Holifield, Ron Meer, Don Weishar, Barb Huston, and Donavan Barrier all indicated interest via Webpage Request. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded to add the names to be considered for a vote. Commissioner Haney added Gautama Logwood's name that was missed in the pile. President Holifield, I did not receive anything from him. Auditor Rosenbaum asked for last names only for the vote. Only two positions available. Roll called: Commissioner Haney - Gautama Logwood and Donavan Barrier; Commissioner Gramarossa - Alexandrea Laun and Annabella Juhasz; and Commissioner Steve Holifield - Ali Laun and Annabella Juhasz. Alexandrea Laun - 2 votes, Annabella Juhasz - 2 votes, Gautama Logwood - 1 vote and Donavan Barrier - 1 vote. Both Alexandrea Laun and Dr. Annabella Juhasz will remain on the Board of Health.

Board of Zoning Appeals, BZA - Current member Ernie Schmidt's seat is up then member Vern Schaffer no longer wishes to be on the Board so two seats need to be voted on. President Steve Holifield, those who submitted interest are Ernie Schmidt, Kevin Nicholson, Ashley Kazmucha, Eric Pointon, Connie Anderson, Brad Mrozinski, Don Weishar, Bob Kiger, Dave Howell, Wazim Kahn, and Gary Metcalf. Commissioner Gramarossa nominated Brad Mrozinski and Eric Pointon. Commissioner Haney clarified Eric Pointon's position on the Plan Commission is an appointment from Purdue Extension then he is the Plan Commission's appointment to the BZA, if he is appointed to the BZA, he would not be able to be on the Plan Commission. Purdue Extension would have to appoint another person. Commissioner Gramarossa amended her nomination to Ernie Schmidt and Brad Mrozinski. Auditor Rosenbaum, pick two names out of those who are interested then he called the roll vote: Commissioner Holifield - Ernie Schmidt and Brad Mrozinski; Commissioner Haney - Ashley Kazmucha and Dave Howell, Jr. and Commissioner Gramarossa - Ernie Schmidt and Brad Mrozinski. Auditor Rosenbaum, Ernie Schmidt and Brad Mrozinski will be the appointments each with 2 votes, Ashley Kazmucha and Dave Howell, Jr. each had one vote. Motion carried 2-1.

Community Corrections Advisory Board - Current member Michael Berby expressed no longer wishes to be on the Board so there are two open seats. President Holifield, Lisa Pierzakowski, Kevin Nicholson, Don Weishar, Gary Metcalf, and Barb Huston all expressed interest via Webpage Requests. Auditor Rosenbaum called the vote: Commissioner Holifield - Lisa Pierzakowski and Kevin Nicholson; Commissioner Gramarossa - Lisa Pierzakowski and Kevin Nicholson; and Commissioner Haney - Lisa Pierzakowski and Kevin Nicholson. Both will be Board Members with 3 votes each. Motion carried 3-0.

Convention & Visitor's Bureau - Current members are Mike Seitz and Diane Gonzales. Mike Seitz has since moved so he does not qualify for reappointment. Diane Gonzales and Mike Schultz sent letters of interest. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to accept both. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Haney, was there one or two positions available? President Holifield, two. Commissioner Gramarossa, Mike Seitz is no longer in our County. Commissioner Haney, my apologies, I misunderstood, I thought we were making nominations for one position. President Holifield, do you want us to revoke? Commissioner Haney, sure, if that's okay. President Holifield, do you have someone else to nominate? Commissioner Haney looked at the list of those who submitted letters. President Holifield, I only have two letters, Diane Gonzales and Mike Schultz. Commissioner Haney, I believe Gary Metcalf checked off that one as well so I would nominate him. Commissioner Gramarossa, is Gary a Democrat? We need a Democrat. Commissioner Haney, I don't have a letter here next to him. Attorney DiMartino, I believe that changed...President Holifield, the Alcohol Beverage Board did. Attorney DiMartino, looking at the submission from Mr. Metcalf, he did not have the Convention Bureau checked. Commissioner Haney, I may have corresponded with him, I called and spoke to a lot of people on here, I wasn't able to get to everybody but there was a long list, I left messages for one or two folks that I didn't hear back so if there is not political requirement then I would go with him but...President Holifield, I don't believe there is for that one. Commissioner Gramarossa, Diane is on that Board. Discussion continued for requirements.

Attorney DiMartino, do you want to table this until next meeting? Commissioner Gramarossa, no, they will have a meeting to attend and we need representation. Auditor Rosenbaum called the vote: Commissioner Haney - Ms. Gonzales and Mr. Metcalf; Commissioner Holifield - Diane Gonzales and Mike Schultz and Commissioner Gramarossa - Mike Schultz and Diane Gonzales. Convention Bureau Members will be Diane Gonzales - 3 votes & Mike Schultz - 2 votes. Gary Metcalf - 1 vote.

Drainage Board - President Holifield, for District 1, current member Patrick Vance. Pat expressed interest on being reappointed and Ron Meer via Webpage Request. Commissioner Haney nominated Pat Vance. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

District 2 current member is Mark Scarborough, he expressed interest for reappointment and the At-Large seat is currently held by Jeff Mitzner who would like to be reappointed as well. Commissioner Gramarossa nominated both Mark Scarborough and Jeff Mitzner to retain their seats. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Pioneer Cemetery Commission - Edward Marks is the current member and would like to be reappointed, he submitted a letter of interest as well as a recommendation from the Pioneer Cemetery Board. Lisa Pierzakowski submitted interest via Webpage Request. Checked to see if the members get paid or not in order for Lisa to qualify. Attorney DiMartino, yes, they do get paid. President Holifield, Lisa Pierzakowski cannot serve then so it will be Edward Marks who qualifies. Commissioner Gramarossa nominated Edward Marks. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Plan Commission - Rita Beatty is a current member, Harold Parker no longer wishes to be on the Board. President Holifield, these positions are political so we need two Republicans, Rita Beatty, Gary Metcalf, Brad Mrozinski but he cannot be on the board because he is on the BZA, Bob Gerralts, Anthony Oss, Kevin Nicholson, Evan Wooding, Don Weishar, myself, and Greg Hunt, all submitted interest via Webpage Request. Those that qualify are Rita Beatty, Gary Metcalf, Bob Gerralts, Anthony Oss, Kevin Nicholson, Evan Wooding, Don Weishar and Greg Hunt. President Holifield spoke to Mr. Oss, if anything comes before the Plan Commission involving Larson Danielson, he will step down and not vote because he is currently employed with them. Commissioner Gramarossa asked if they just vote for two names from the list. Auditor Rosenbaum called the roll vote: Commissioner Holifield

- Rita Beatty and Anthony Oss, Commissioner Gramarossa - Rita Beatty and Greg Hunt and Commissioner Haney - Rita Beatty and Anthony Oss. Rita Beatty - 3 votes, Anthony Oss - 2 votes and Greg Hunt - 1 vote. Members to the Plan Commission will be Rita Beatty and Anthony Oss.

Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals - PTABOA - we need 1 R and 1 D; correct? **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, not more than three of the five can be of the same political party. **President Holifield**, current members are Matt Bernacchi, Amy Blind and Tracy Cummings but she expressed she is no longer interested. Those expressing interest were Matt Bernacchi, Amy Blind, Tim Stabosz, Connie Anderson and Don Weishar. Matt Bernacchi is a Level II which one is required. **Commissioner Haney nominated Matt Bernacchi. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Please vote for two. Commissioner Haney - Mr. Weishar and Mr. Stabosz. Commissioner Holifield - Amy Blind and Don Weishar. Commissioner Gramarossa - Amy Blind and Don Weishar. Appointed members will be Amy Blind - 2 votes and Don Weishar - 3 votes. Tim Stabosz - 1 vote.**

Redevelopment Commission - current members are Mark Parkman, John Carr and Scott Cooley. **President Holifield**, Webpage Requests were from Gary Metcalf, Allen Stevens, and Connie Anderson. Pick three from Mark Parkman, John Carr, Scott Cooley, Gary Metcalf, Allen Stevens and Connie Anderson. **Auditor Rosenbaum called the vote: Commissioner Holifield - Mark Parkman, John Carr and Scott Cooley. Commissioner Gramarossa - Mark Parkman, John Carr and Scott Cooley. Commissioner Haney - Mark Parkman, John Carr and Allen Stevens. Mark Parkman - 3 votes, John Carr - 3 votes and Scott Cooley - 2 votes. Allen Stevens - 1 vote. Members appointed are Mark Parlman, John Carr and Scott Cooley.**

Shared Ethics Advisory Committee - Tabled earlier in the meeting until the next meeting.

Swanson Center - Mark Yagelski is the current Board Member, he expressed interest for reappointment and Swanson Center

recommended he be reappointed as well. **Attorney DiMartino** reminded the Commission they can delegate who they wish. **Commissioner Haney motioned to reappoint Mark Yagelski. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Designation of Publication for Legal Notices/Commissioners' Agendas and Public Notices. The La Porte County Herald Dispatch and The Regional News will both be notified by the Commissioners' office. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded.** **President Holifield** spoke to Attorney DiMartino, Auditor Rosenbaum and even Justin Kiel, this is a new law, very vague and he believes we should continue what we've been doing with both newspapers until we see what the State clarifies or does. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, the only mandatory item for his office is not yet ready and it's caused a bit of an issue for us, the additional appropriations are to go through the Gateway website but it is not ready yet so we have to advertise in the newspapers. We will also post the additional appropriations on our County website. **Motioned carried 3-0.**

Public Comment

Andrew Killin IV, Helping Hoosiers Heroes, distributed packets to the Commissioners. **Andrew**, President and Executive Director of Helping Hoosiers Heroes, a local nonprofit organization focused on serving veterans, first responders and future heroes across La Porte County. Formally asked for recognition from the Commission as a non-profit organization serving county residents as well as requested authorization for a non-financial partnership that allows collaboration with county departments and partners on Workforce Development, Veterans Services and community outreach initiatives. Our work focuses on helping veterans, first responders and adult learners navigate clear pathways from interest to education, training and employment. This request does not involve any funding and does not create any physical obligation for the county. A proposed resolution is attached to the paperwork. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, this is not really done under Public Comment. **Andrew Killin IV**, thank you.

Department Reports/Comments

Monique Thomas, HR, introduced her new assistant, Stormi Staggers, who came from the Courts side of the County. Commissioners welcomed Stormi to the Human Resources Department.

Angie Davis, Director of Facilities, recapped 2025 year, Thanked Commissioners for their support. January through March only six guys, April through June only three guys, July through September six guys then in November they were fully staffed. Her staff works together well, Commissioners have supported her through 2025, she has come to the office and talked to them on numerous occasions. In 2025, Juvenile Service Center finally had the generator installed, the roof was finished and the gym floor is in process. The automation system with the HVAC is being looked at currently and Reed will update the Commission. In Michigan City there have been chiller issues. At the museum the elevator has finally been repaired. They worked on the compost fire at Solid Waste. Fixed the windows in the complex, the roof, all of it. The heat in the La Porte Courthouse, 17 compressors have been replaced since the original date of the install of the LG units. Talked to LG, Ameresco, AirFlow and La Porte County Project Management and received a lot of information. Tomorrow or Friday the board and compressor repairs should start, once that's done, we can go forward and learn the system, LG will work with us on that, we will have another call with Ameresco. We've learned different procedures to reset that have not been done, I think no proper training from LG from the beginning when they were installed, we are moving in the right direction now. The Hiler building heating issue was another event that my staff spent a weekend working on and Monday or Tuesday the bathrooms/break room in the Hiler building will begin work. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, the last time Ms. Davis was here, Commissioners gave contingent approval based on working out the contract and in the contract, I required they have bi-weekly construction project meetings, I recommend that Councilman Pressel be our liaison for that and with Ms. Davis they handle the meetings. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to appoint Jimmy Pressel to that committee as liaison. Commissioner Haney,**

ORIGINAL

is that a Council appointment? Attorney Guy DiMartino, it's not a board but he has the experience and I spoke to him and he agreed. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Requests

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 1-21-2026
County of La Porte
ATTEST: _____
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

Auditor

ORIGINAL

PROCLAMATION

Proclaiming January 2026 as National Mentoring Month in La Porte County

WHEREAS, the youth of La Porte County are the communities most valuable resource, representing the future leadership, innovation, and community spirit of our region; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that youth who have a consistent, caring adult mentor experience better academic outcomes, including improved grades, better school attendance, and higher rates of graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, mentoring relationships provide a critical foundation for personal growth, as mentored youth are less likely to engage in the use of illicit drugs and are more likely to refrain from negative behavioral issues; and

WHEREAS, a mentor serves as a guide, an advocate, and a positive role model, helping young people navigate the challenges of adolescence and empowering them to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Family Advocates, Inc. is dedicated to facilitating these life-changing connections within the **La Porte Community Schools and Michigan City Area Schools**, ensuring that our students have the support they need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, there remains a great need for dedicated volunteers in our community to step forward and make a lasting impact on a young person's life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Porte County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim **January 2026** as:

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

in La Porte County, Indiana. We encourage citizens who are **21 years of age or older** to consider the profound impact they can make by becoming a mentor. Interested individuals are urged to contact **Family Advocates at 219-324-3385** or visit www.lpfamilyadvocates.com to learn more about how they can change a life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of La Porte County, Indiana, to be affixed this 7th day of January, 2026.

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Connie Gramarossa



ORIGINAL