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Steve Holifield
Vice President

Joe Haney
Member

La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 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 led by Coral Laun. Commissioner Steve Holifield asked for a moment of silence remembering former County Councilman Scott Ford who passed away.

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 two items: ratify the emergency order for heating issues in the Juvenile Service Center building and a presentation by Andrew Killin for Helping Hoosiers Heroes then remove 11 'f,' MCR contract until January meeting. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the November 19, 2025 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 11/28/2025 - \$1,495,930.46 and 12/12/2025 - \$1,598,458.38. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve both payrolls. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$6,306,067.12. **Commissioner Holifield** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Auditor Rosenbaum noted there was no meeting December 3rd therefore this is a four-week period for claims.

Public Comment

Andy Skwiat, Marquiss Electric, 203 E. Harrison Street, Michigan City, updated Commissioners on the Franklin Street Bridge, received permission from Michigan City at the Board of Public Works meeting to close the road, advertised the Coast Guard permit twice in the newspaper as required, January 5th is the date scheduled for road closing and bridge reopening March 15th as the latest. **Commissioner Holifield** asked if Michigan City Mayor clarified the 'coldest day of the year' walk. **Andy Skwiat** spoke to Skyler York that they should have representation at a Commission meeting if they wanted to proceed with that request. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Andrew Killin IV, Helping Hoosiers Heroes, distributed packets to the Commissioners. **Andrew**, President and Founder of Helping Hoosiers Heroes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, first responders and future heroes across La Porte County. Focus is on education, workforce training, and community outreach. Operates with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to measurable local impact. **Commissioner Steve Holifield**, have you reached out to our Veterans' Service Officer Eduardo Lozano? **Andrew**, briefly but will speak to him in the future about resources within the county. Thank you.

Joan Ludwig, 1442 S. Marquette Street, La Porte, lives on the corner of Marquette and Joliet Road, La Porte, owns the woods across the street as well. Asked the Commission if they know if Mayor Tom Dermody is going to annex Sunnyside Subdivision into the City of La Porte. **Commissioner Holifield**, he is looking to annex but 'holding his cards very close.' **Joan Ludwig**, does annexation go by subdivision? **Commissioner Holifield**, I think it is by the territory he is interested in. **Attorney DiMartino**, this is Public Comment, not question and answer. Typically, the city will prepare and present a petition, the County has nothing to do with it, it's purely the City. The petition will be provided to the Auditor's office. **Commissioner Holifield**, we have no authority in annexation whatsoever, talk to your state legislators and tell them to change it. **Attorney DiMartino**, or talk to your neighbors. **Joan**, this threat came about two years ago. Joan asked if fliers could be distributed. **Attorney DiMartino**, again, this is Public Comment, not question/answer. The community can do what the community does for annexations, you have a First Amendment right to do whatever

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you feel that you need to do. **Commissioner Haney**, I'll reach out to you tomorrow or the next day, we can talk a little bit, as a neighbor out there, I can tell you that I'll personally be first in line for remonstration against an annex out our way because I think the city limits are fine where they're at right now. **Joan**, I need to know since I have four lots, do I get more than one vote? I better contact my representative and tell him this is a crock. **Commissioner Holifield**, iga.in.gov, they're a wealth of knowledge down there. **Joan**, great, thank you.

Department Reports/Comments

Angie Davis, Director of Facilities, and **Reed Smith**, Assistant Director of Facilities, we've had lots of snow, we are \$1,500 more this season than the entire last year; for the first time we have a full staff, technically minus one since **Reed** moved up but we are doing a whole lot more than we have been in the last year, year, and a half. Awesome crew behind me, taking care of a lot of things. **JSC** had air handler issues, photos were sent to you. Reports of Community Corrections last week said there was no heat, I reached out to **Merika**, **Delora** and **Wilcher**, a call came in Sunday, **Reed** and I were in the Jail until 2:00 a.m. Monday morning, **Reed**'s phone was called but there is no service when we're in the Jail, I took care of that Monday, they were sitting at 68 ½ degrees, they're happy with that, we're checking on all the buildings every morning, especially the Courthouse. We've been looking at different water softeners in the buildings, now that we have a full crew we can do a whole lot more, we have **Greg** working on the Maintenance Care App to where he's getting everything in, air handler service filters changed, all maintenance on equipment. We can reach out to a vendor straight from the work order system, it will give them all work previously done, no communication errors. **Reed Smith**, Assistant Director, in the **JSC** building there are certain safeties that are in place for the heating units and on a very cold night they didn't do their job, opening up heating valves, closing outside air dampers, not allowing cold air to come in and freeze the coils. Possibly a control issue. **Commissioner Holifield**, you sent me a proposal for updating the systems. **Angie Davis**, I sent you all a proposal that was received in January originally sent to someone else and we just now came across it, it was to replace the controls. **Commissioner Holifield**, are they obsolete? **Reed Smith**, completely obsolete, the controls are responsible for operating everything when it comes to heating/cooling, air movement throughout the building and we're not able to view them at any level. **President Gramarossa**, you're talking about a little computer that shows you what is operating in the building and what is out. **Reed Smith**, yes, not only to maintain the system but alarms as well, any incidents, it is not functioning as it should. **Commissioner Holifield**, the other night we had to put that condenser back in, the valve had to be removed out of the pipeline to let the water flow through because it was not responding. **Reed**, as of five years ago, I believe, the software that is used for the controls went into the end of the life cycle so it is completely out-of-date at this point. I suggest you update the software, the controllers and have someone come in maybe twice a year at the change of the seasons to maintain the system itself, checking sensors, dampers, controllers, everything. **President Gramarossa**, in the past we were able to send an employee for training from the department, be sure to ask for available training if a new system is installed. **Angie Davis**, we do have a coil on order, to be shipped on Monday, **Andy** and **Scott** will help us with that and then the other coil will ship in seven weeks, we will get the one running that controls the dorm rooms, all vents are opened from the gym to get air over to the rooms. We are using heaters as well right now to keep them warm. **Commissioner Holifield**, did they start the gym floor or is that on hold? **Angie Davis**, they were supposed to start yesterday but it's been a bit crazy and I have not been over there today. **Reed Smith**, now the update on the La Porte Courthouse, an LG tech came out today, a third-party not directly from LG but a technician who diagnosed the current system. A 'flaw' was found in the system that when a power outage happens, there should be safeties put in place but there were not to prevent this, it can lead to compressor damages and we've seen a lot of compressors going through that system, we've tracked down a few specific points and it really is any type of power outage that occurs, there is no backups to ensure that certain valves are closing, opening or keeping memory in the system, the refrigerant flows right back in to the compressor, flooding it with liquid refrigerant which is not good for the system, if it is not reset correctly. We had no knowledge from the manufacturer on this procedure to properly start the system back up after a power failure, we're making a Standard Operating Procedure for that specific issue. **Angie Davis**, if we do not know the power went out, say at night, no alarms telling us, you arrive in the morning, no codes are checked, no notification of power surges, the system is not starting the proper way, there will be damage to the compressors. **President Gramarossa**, are building checks still being done? **Angie Davis**, yes, and right now Floor One and Floor Two are completely shut down, the temporary heat is working for now. Compressors are still working though for Floor Three. **Bruce Zimmerman** and **Scott Cooley**, Marquiss Electric/La Porte County Project Management, were at the podium with details. **Scott Cooley**, great information today from the LG technician on the units in the La Porte Courthouse, why are we losing so many boards, why are we losing compressors, it's easy to replace a compressor but why, what is happening that it needs to be replaced? If designed properly, you do not need to keep replacing compressors on the LG units but you are so today was valuable, two boards need to be replaced on the second-floor unit then tests can be made on that unit. A computer can be plugged in and it tells you all about it but if the units not running you will not get the information, and on the 1st floor there is a bad compressor which needs to be replaced. The LG tech recommended pulling out all the refrigerant in each unit, once they have been diagnosed, and then weigh it, there should be a certain amount of refrigerant in each unit and if not, that can cause issues too. Also recommends filling the system full of nitrogen, let it sit 24 hours on a test to see if it holds, be sure there are no leaks in the system. **Commissioner Holifield**, once all of that is done, we'll have to get with the Council to address how to fix all of this because we cannot keep using the temporary heat. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, are you or LG giving a recommendation at this time? **Scott Cooley**, the tech is on his way back to Indianapolis where he will write up a report and get it back to us with his recommendations. **Attorney DiMartino**, what's going to happen when Ameresco comes out tomorrow? **Angie Davis**, we're hoping to get as much information as possible from them, we've located some documents when the system was installed, have there been any changes since that time to the system, previous employees working on it throughout the years, the last time LG came out was six years ago, the repairs have been done 'in-

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house' and we might be able to get an idea where they left off and where we are now. **Andy Skwiat**, I understand it to be a fault with the valves not having memory, not specific to your building but specific to when the equipment was thought of or the process, the systems were not put in wrong in the building but whether this system, these valves, this equipment, you have a potential to experience that problem, so someone had previously put on aftermarket electrical components in the units which Bruce will talk about, that had tried to limit some of the issues, I'm going to say whoever did that maybe didn't know why the problem was happening, there's an issue with this valve and it doesn't have a memory so it's letting coolant flow either direction improperly, but they knew there was something causing this to burn up so they tried to prevent that with some electrical safeties, Bruce has determined we don't think they took that process far enough, so secondary contacts were not put in to flag issues or the system stay down. An employee could check it every hour and if a unit experiences a problem in the 5 minutes in between the hours of checking, no one will know there is an issue. There needs to be consideration from the Commission, the Council, to put electrical processes in place so if a glitch happens, the unit stays down until the department is notified that something happened, staff will then go to perform a factory hard reset on the unit which will then rest the memory on those valves to factory default, the unit will then know what position that valves in and in the correct position, when the unit goes to open halfway, it's actually opening it halfway instead of 7/8 because it was already 3/8 open so that's the issue. **Commissioner Holifield**, so when it goes down, it's trying to restart? **Andy Skwiat**, it does not know where it's at so I think someone was on to something where they knew they don't know 'why' but they knew the problems were kind of together but based on what Bruce found this afternoon, I don't think it was taken far enough to where it actually keeps that defunctioned until maintenance performs a hard default reset, I'm not going to say that will eliminate all your problems moving forward but that's going to greatly help the issue. The piping needs to be mapped to determine which valves are the key players so when the electrical part is worked on, possibly a solenoid or something ahead could get closed so it would not be possible to flow that compressor at the wrong volume or direction. I believe the LG tech will get us on the right path telling us why the problems happening, you'll have to design build it and how to solve it because I don't think the factory has a plug-and-play option to do that for you. **President Gramarossa**, if we stay with the LG units, we always had maintenance staff that went to training at the LG school, maybe Texas or Georgia. **Reed Smith**, it would be beneficial to have someone trained, they are more complicated units than in the other buildings. **Commissioner Holifield**, the training is free. **President Gramarossa**, we had to pay when the previous employee went. There was secondary market pieces installed in these units? **Reed Smith**, yes, we aren't sure where they came from and they were not part of the original drawings for the units themselves, we do believe someone was on to a solution however never reached that point. **Commissioner Holifield**, Andy, you and your team, I've worked with you twice this last week, great job, Building Maintenance, you've had a few major snowstorms, ice, freezing, you're doing an amazing job with the parking lots, streets, sidewalks, just amazing, I've always been working with you all as well, you stay busy and you're doing a great job. **Angie Davis**, we did get a tailgate salter for the back of the truck which will help us get our parking lots done, Highway has been helping us with some of the out buildings. We did get the Gator back today which will help as well. **Bruce Zimmerman**, Marquis Electric, this afternoon I was called to come out and look at the LG unit, what I found was what I expected, a 'phase monitor' which is an aftermarket device that was put in the units to try to protect the compressors, it's a programmable unit with a range of voltage that it watches, if any of the legs step out of that area, that realm, it shuts the unit down, it uses high pressure limit switches on the unit too so that the second it steps out, it shuts down and shows a fault, it needs to be reset, if not reset it will not come back online so it was a good thought, whoever or whenever it was put in, the misconception is that it's somehow protecting everything inside that unit and it is not, everything is powered off of a terminal block in there, the lines come into the terminal block and then they leave there, they disperse throughout different boards and so on. All that's being watched right now is the voltage itself and it shuts the unit off as though it had reached perfect temperature, as if everything is great and it shuts it down. It doesn't control anything else, we can use that Phase Monitor to operate another set of relays that can turn on/off anything that somebody tells us to do, at this point in time we don't have any direction on that and until we do then it would have to go through the shop to figure it out but right now the units are operating as if they are supposed to, when the tech did come out, he looked at it and thought it was wired *incorrectly* and when I looked at it, he called back to our people saying *he* was wrong, it was wired exactly how it should be into the system. **Commissioner Holifield**, Ameresco is coming tomorrow, correct? Will we be able to have enough information to possibly hold a joint session to come up with an RFP to address the situation? **Angie Davis**, I think so. **Commissioner Haney** echoed Commissioner Holifield's comments on the great work being done by Building Maintenance, including the Christmas decorations. **Angie Davis**, there is 17 inches of snow/slush on the roof of the Hiler building, there is a leak in the Auditor's office and once the snow is gone, a camera will be used in the drain to see what is going on, it is monitored daily. **Scott Cooley**, maintenance staff has been great, I know they've been very busy with just the heating issues alone, no one wants to be called to the Jail on a Sunday at 2:00 a.m. but we were all there including Commissioner Holifield, I've been on several emergencies with Commissioner Gramarossa but it was a first time to be on the end of a three-foot pipe wrench with Commissioner Holifield, thank you. We still could not break it loose.

President Gramarossa, at our last meeting there were concerns brought up about Bridge 503 and Bridge 39, I asked the consultant to come in because they had done some work and I wanted them to explain what happened with those bridges.

Mac Knowles, one of the owners and Operations Manager for USI Consultants, based in Indianapolis, they do have an office here in La Porte County, there have been a few projects that have been part of discussions over the last year or so. Spoke about County Road 300, which is a construction inspection project that our company worked on, and Brandon will speak on the projects you mentioned, specific to our NBIS or our bridge inspection program through the contract with you all. I probably have the toughest job because I will tell you we underperformed on the project on 300 North. I interviewed the employees in our office that worked on the project and

there were several items at the end of the projects that were missed that were in the plans that our people and their services did not catch that the contractor failed to either install or failed to install them properly. There are also problems with our record keeping, we misplaced documents and when we tried to go back and provide documents to your staff, we could not provide those documents. I apologize for that, we take responsibility for that, we have adjusted some of our processes to try to minimize those types of accidents or mistakes from happenings in the future, we will do everything we can to not let those mistakes happen again. **Brandon Arnold**, Bridge Design Department Manager at USI Consultants, been with USI since 2016, he is a certified bridge inspection team leader with special certifications for fracture critical inspections and load ratings. His primary responsibilities at USI are to lead the bridge design department, manage bridge projects and design bridge projects. When workload demands, he also assists the bridge inspection department. He is Secretary of INDOT structures committee, in La Porte County he has successfully completed several projects including the replacement of the bridge on Otis Road over Little Calumet River, the replacement of the ceilings above the mechanical and electrical rooms over the Michigan City lift-bridge which we did with Andy Skwiat and he did a great job. The rehabilitation of Bridge 512, in Michigan City, carries Michigan Boulevard over Trail Creek next to Johnson Road, it's currently in design and ahead of schedule. I've been asked to speak to you tonight regarding statements made at the previous Commissioners' meeting that related to our company's performance and credibility. I want to state for the record that this presentation is in no way meant to be political, our statements tonight are not to endorse any politician or party, I'm not going to mention any elected officials names, I'm going to solely focus on the statements and respond to those, during the November 19, 2025 meeting, our contract for the design of the replacement of Bridge 180, which carries 1600 South over Pitner Ditch, was presented to the Board for approval by Mr. Mitch Bishop, County Planner and ERC. I want to say thank you for your approval and execution of that, we're very excited to begin that project for you. During Mitch's presentation, several questions were asked about USI, inaccurate depictions of our performance on 300 North, I take that statement back, I apologize, on Bridge 503 which carries E Street over Trail Creek in Michigan City and our inspection history on Bridge 39 which carries 525 East over the Little Kankakee River, were stated. It was publicly proclaimed that we copied pictures from inspection report to report for Bridge 503 and that we failed to properly inspect Bridge 39 in the years prior to its closing on September 12, 2024. I want to start with Bridge 503 but I want to address the questions that were asked in the November 19th meeting, regarding our standing with INDOT and throughout the State of Indiana as they relate to professional bridge inspections. At this moment, there are 13,359 public bridges on the local system throughout Indiana. The remaining approximately 6,000 bridges on our interstates, US routes and state highways are under INDOT's jurisdiction. USI Consultants is currently responsible for inspecting 3,765 of the 13,359 local inventory bridges, that's 28.2%. We serve 25 of the 92 Indiana Counties. Mr. Robert Coop, our bridge inspection department manager, is the acting Secretary on the INDOT bridge inspection committee. Simply put, we would not have achieved this status and level of respect in the industry without both competence and excellence. In 2016, we began inspecting in La Porte County, Bridge 503 crosses Trail Creek just south of Blue Chip Casino, colleague Ben Beer will distribute paperwork to the Commission, this bridge is a 3-span painted steel beam bridge, numerous utility facilities are suspended from the bridge between the beams and the paint on the beams is peeling throughout, corrosion of the west exterior beam and rocker bearings is present. For anyone watching or for the future, a point of education, it's a federal law that every bridge that is publicly traveled must be inspected by a certified bridge inspection team leader every two years, the exceptions are those bridges classified in poor condition or worse, those bridges have to be inspected more often, typically annually. The reports we handed out are every two years from 2014 through 2024. During our routine inspection, we evaluate every bridge element and give it a condition rating from zero, meaning failed, to nine, which is excellent or brand new. I'm now going to go through a summary of what we handed out. In 2014, Beam, Longest and Neff was the inspection consultant, they've since been acquired by Egis, at that time, the conditions for the deck, the superstructure, which is the top half, the substructure, which is the bottom half, were all given a seven, good condition with scour noted. 2016 we took over as the inspection consultant, we dropped the ratings to a six as satisfactory. We made a recommendation to replace and repair both expansion joints and mud walls. In 2018, we added the recommendation that said recommend performing preventive maintenance in 2020 to extend the structural lifespan of the bridge. From 2020 through 2024, the conditions stay the same, we carried forward the same recommendation. As you look through the reports, please remember that the public statements previously made claimed that USI copied pictures from one report to another to avoid visiting the bridge during an inspection cycle. I encourage you to carefully inspect every single picture in every report that is provided, to find duplication. We intentionally take pictures of the same element from the same viewpoint over time to monitor deterioration. You'll see some pictures look similar but a different time of day, level of overcast, shadows, level of deterioration is different. We performed each inspection required by the Federal Highway Administration and INDOT. No duplicate photos were used; the previous statements made in this matter are false. I will now speak about Bridge 39, it carries 525 East over the Little Kankakee River, it is a three-span adjacent pre-stressed concrete box beam bridge with open pile interior vents and reinforced concrete end vents. The exposed piles are plain steel, meaning they're not epoxy coated and should have been filled with concrete. The bridge was closed by USI on September 12, 2024. Visited the bridge yesterday, it remains closed and construction has not started yet. The paperwork handed out to you is every bridge inspection report dating back to 2009 for that bridge. Summary of those reports: 2009, unknown inspection consultant, deck conditions - 6, superstructure - 6, and substructure - 5, fair. Comments were 'piles with heavy expansion rust.' 2010 - BLN the consultant, condition ratings were the same, a picture is provided in the report showing rust at the top of the pile. Same conditions in 2012, a note included says 'pile four at North pier with 100% section loss of pile exposing concrete. 2014, BLN the consultant, same ratings, 'piles with heavy expansion rust especially at underside of cap.' 2014 recommendation says, 'rehabilitate pier piles by cleaning and encasing with concrete.' Stated again, in 2014 BLN recommended rehabilitating the pier piles by cleaning and encasing with concrete. In 2016, USI is now the inspection consultant, all ratings were dropped to fives, at 'fair.' We added the comment 'heavy section loss on steel pile shells with exposed concrete interiors.' We kept the same recommendation as BLN. 2018, the same. 2020, the same. 2022, we dropped the

condition of the rating of the substructure to 4 - poor, and recommended replacement in 2025. In 2023, same condition ratings, same recommendation, and then came 2024. On September 11, 2024, colleague Brett Longenecker, a certified bridge inspection team leader, went to the bridge and needed to downgrade the condition rating of the substructure to 3 - serious. He got to the pile that was shown in the last meeting that was disconnected or it is disconnected today, he saw a dime to nickel-sized pinhole that he could see through which should not be if it was filled with concrete. That was alarming. Brett began scraping the rust away which created the disconnection that was shown in the picture in November. As per the Federal Highway Administration and INDOT requirements, he filed a 'critical' finding which is a structural or safety related deficiency that requires an immediate follow-up inspection or action. If labeled as 'urgent,' which it was, it requires that County Highway address the situation within 24 hours. While in the process of filing the 'critical' finding, Michael Obergfell, President of USI Consultants, called Brandon, who lives close by, requesting him to go onsite for a look at the bridge the next day. When Brandon arrived at the bridge, he evaluated the condition of the pile in question as well as the remaining piles and it was Brandon's decision to close Bridge 39. **President Gramarossa** asked for the process of closing the bridge. **Brandon** immediately called Mitch Bishop, County Planner and Jerry 'Jay' Sullivan, County Engineer, at the County Highway Department, telling them the bridge needed to be closed, please bring temporary barricades. Within an hour, highway staff was there closing the bridge down. La Porte County received the recommendations to address the deterioration of the substructure of Bridge 39 since 2014, the recommendation to replace the bridge has been provided since 2022. USI has, in no way, failed to identify the need for rehabilitation or replacement of this bridge since we began inspecting La Porte County's bridge inventory. Such claims or implications are false and misleading. There was an online statement made about a year ago, "A citizen asked, how long have you known about this bridge?" The response provided by the La Porte County official was 'it was closed within five minutes of me finding out.' That may have been logically true, as I'm assuming Mitch and Jay called to inform the Commissioners as soon as they were told so within five minutes of this person finding out, it may have been closed. However, that is misleading because it implies that that Commissioner made the decision to close it. The decision to close Bridge 39 was Brandon's and Brandon's only. **President Gramarossa**, thank you. In closing, **Brandon Arnold** expressed hope that the issue of misrepresentation of USI Consultants will cease. "Our desire is to create infrastructure that stands the test of time and provides safe means of travel for our families, neighbors, the citizens of La Porte County and the general public. It's what we are passionate about and is what we do well. Thank you for your time during my part of the presentation. God Bless and an early Merry Christmas." **Commissioner Holifield**, that bridge is in my neighborhood and I hope it gets fixed soon. **President Gramarossa**, thank you for explaining all of that to us. **Commissioner Haney**, thank you, appreciate the updates, over the past few years he had former County Engineer, Jay Sullivan, reach out with his concerns and it would have been great to have this addressed last year or year before that when some of these issues came up. Curious about when Mr. Sullivan came up with the bridge over Trail Creek, were you ever able to juxtapose how some of those so obviously, what you've given me tonight, we've got fresh photos here and lined up according to where they are, were you ever able to figure out how a report came into the hands of our County Engineer that had older photos in it with a current report? **Brandon Arnold**, I do not know the answer to that, this is me guessing but about 2-3 years ago, INDOT decided to change the software for bridge inspections and frankly does not function properly, a report could not even be printed. We manually created some of the reports in your packets because their software is broken. It is possible that perhaps some of those photos through that software got into that report but I'm not certain though, I cannot claim that as fact, just my guess. If you ever have any questions about our work, please call me. I would love to come talk to you. **Commissioner Haney**, thank you.

Requests

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Considered Right-of-Way Service contract with HWC for Bridge 7, **Mitch Bishop**, Planner. **Attorney Guy DiMartino** reviewed and approved the contract. **Commissioner Holifield motioned to approve**. **Commissioner Haney seconded**. **Commissioner Holifield** requested his name be corrected instead of former Commissioner Rich Mrozinski. **Attorney Guy DiMartino** suggested crossing it out, initialing it when he adds his name. **Motion carried 3-0**.

Considered Maximus Contract for 2026 Cost Allocation Plan, **Mike Rosenbaum**, Auditor. **Attorney Guy DiMartino** reviewed the contract, same as last year and approves. **Commissioner Holifield motioned to approve**. **Commissioner Haney seconded**. **Motion carried 3-0**.

Considered EDA contract for Auditor's office, **Mike Rosenbaum**, Auditor. This contract helps with our net asset valuations, TIFFS, and other questions that have come up throughout the year. This is an ongoing every month activity. Reports have been on time. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve**. **Commissioner Holifield seconded**. **Motion carried 3-0**.

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Considered Tsouklis Municipal Consulting contract for Auditor's office. **Mike Rosenbaum**, helps our budgeting process and certain procedures that we would not have known. **Commissioner Holifield motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded.** **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Nyhart contract for Auditor's office, **Mike Rosenbaum**, Auditor. This is work done for pensions required under governmental accounting standards. **Commissioner Holifield motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered First Amendment to Build Operate Transfer Agreement with Kingsbury Rail Project. **Attorney DiMartino**, there are three contracts that have to do with KIP, you have the BO, the Switcher Agreement as the main agreement, because they were done at different times and then we have the agreement for reimbursement with the bridge, all done at different times, that you can't have the BOT agreement terming before the switcher agreement because should there be a problem with the BOT, you're still going to have JBC as the switcher, the only thing this does is make the first term equal between BOT and the Switcher agreement, it's been approved by the RDC and we just need your signature on this agreement. **Commissioner Haney**, so it's not an extension of the existing switcher agreement? **Matt Reardon**, OEDC, it's an alignment of the timeline. **Attorney DiMartino**, the switcher agreement is not being modified, only the BOT, remember this was the first document that was done. **Matt Reardon**, what we did was align the revenue sources by authorizing them, at the time the Commissioners were made aware of it, I don't think the County is going to get into the rail business and that's where the switcher notion came in, somebody had to sign a contract with CSX Railroad, after Attorney DiMartino reviewed it, he recommended we *not* be in the rail business and that's when the switcher was brought on board. We aligned this and it aligns the revenue; part of the agreement was funds will come back to the County for investment. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, at the recent RDC meeting, they're looking at next year possibly getting \$160,000 or \$170,000 paid back towards that \$500,000 that we advanced. **President Gramarossa**, we did receive a check this year as well. **Matt Reardon**, once you get that \$525,000 paid back to the County, it becomes a revenue stream for the County. **Commissioner Holifield**, where will that money go? **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum**, we have a separate account set up for that right now until we reach reimbursement. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered ratifying the Declaration of Emergency at the Juvenile Service Center. **Commissioner Holifield**, we have one unit down and it's where the dorms are located, repairs need to be done immediately. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Attorney Guy DiMartino, there was a question about the easement that goes along with the annexation of the small piece of property for the armory. Recommended giving authority to the City of La Porte because you cannot do one without the other. **Commissioner Holifield motioned to accept the easement.**

Attorney DiMartino, the Michigan City Courthouse, second floor, a nice addition outside Superior Court 4, at times people coming to court have their children with them so there is a little library set up with a table, chairs, books and crayons. He would like to do the same in the La Porte Courthouse, 2nd floor, Superior Court 3, and he will provide everything.

Commissioner Holifield motioned to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

DATE 1-7-2026

Mike
Constance Gramarossa

ATTEST: Mike
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA