



La Porte County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Steve Holifield
President

Connie Gramarossa
Vice President

Joe Haney
Member

La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3

President Steve Holifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Joe Haney.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Gramarossa** moved to remove 11 'd' due to being done already and add two items: Vicious dogs' ordinance and Commissioners' Sale list of properties. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the January 7, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 1/9/2026 - \$1,553,061.02. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$1,742,967.33. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

Bob Gerralts, 3001 S. US 35, La Porte, attended a good meeting in this room last night, wall was down and he was seated in the second row on that side of the room. It was very hard to hear, requested something be done about the acoustics. When a person is speaking at the podium, they can be heard as well as those up on the mezzanine using microphones, just could not hear it on the other side of this room when the wall is down. Thank you.

Department Reports/Comments

None

Requests

Considered 3 Travel Requests for Adult Probation: Texas, Oklahoma and Georgia in March, **Steve Eyrick**, Adult Probation Director. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Considered appointment to Shared Ethics Advisory Committee. **Commissioner Gramarossa** nominated **Randy Novak**. **Commissioner Joe Haney** nominated **Bonnie Miller**. **Auditor Rosenbaum** called the roll vote: **Commissioner Gramarossa** - **Randy Novak**; **Commissioner Joe Haney** - **Bonnie Miller** and **Commissioner Steve Holifield** - **Randy Novak**. **Randy Novak** will be the appointment with a 2-1 vote on the Shared Ethics Advisory Board.

New Business

Considered Contract between Surveyor and John Saylor. **Attorney Guy DiMartino** has reviewed and approved the contract. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered MOU for 2026 Great Lakes Grand Prix between EMA & Convention Bureau. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, MOU for the walkie-talkie radios. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ORIGINAL

Considered Plan Commission's recommendation to re-zone for Brent C. Chupp. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Driver Safety Course with County insurance. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, for years with our insurance we have been self-insured for auto and building liability. A few years ago, we went to a first dollar plan for auto and our history recently has been poor with driving, the insurance carrier has offered to do defensive driving courses for our employees who drive vehicles, it was recommended to have drivers take this course. He can draft a policy for their approval. **Commissioner Holifield** asked if it was a certain age requirement. **Attorney DiMartino**, that can be discussed later. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to authorize **Attorney DiMartino** to draft a requirement for the Driver's Course and present at the next Commissioners' meeting. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered PayCourt Agreement for Clerk. **Clerk Heather Stevens**, had **Attorney DiMartino** attend the meeting with PayCourt, there are a lot of outstanding fines from the Courts. A report ran for January 1 through July 1 showed outstanding fines in the amount of over \$100,000 that we could be going after, this will not cost us anything and she wants to go after it. **President Holifield**, they will take a 30% fee? **Clerk Stevens**, yes. **Attorney DiMartino**, a 30% fee will be added on as payments are made, a 'pro rata share' is done. **President Holifield**, but we will still get the full amount. **Clerk Stevens** does not need any additional staff. Technically it's not a contract but an agreement that she can get out of at any time. Who signs it? **Attorney DiMartino**, typically Commissioners sign it but however you all want to do it. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** **President Holifield** told Clerk Stevens she could sign the contract/agreement. **Auditor Rosenbaum** requested a copy of the fully executed document once it is available to be posted.

Considered drafting ordinance compared to City of La Porte for vicious dogs. **President Holifield** was contacted by a caller last week; she was attacked by a dog while she was walking and had substantial damage to her arm, multiple stitches, we have nothing on the books for any action for this type of incident. Could use a template from the City of La Porte to address this issue and send it to the Animal Shelter. **Attorney DiMartino**, you'd like me to put something together for vicious dogs for the Animal Control Officers for the County to enforce if there's an attack? **President Holifield**, yes, I know some dogs, when they go after my cattle, we solve the problem but they could go after a small child and that is unacceptable. **Auditor Rosenbaum** noted when a dog bite happens, it is reported to the State and kept in a permanent file, if a seconded occurrence happens then the dog must be put down. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded and requested the Animal Board be included on the information. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Exhibit A attachment to Resolution 2025-8 for Commissioners' Sale in March. **Attorney DiMartino**, end of last year you approved the Commissioners' sale but a list of parcels was not attached. **President Holifield**, the sale is scheduled for March 18th with the minimum price starting at unimproved parcels of \$100 and improved for \$250. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, that is correct. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded, there should be time to pull any of these off if something gets discovered. **President Holifield**, yes, one already has. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, yes, there is plenty of time to do that, absolutely. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to adjourn at 6:15 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 2-18-2016

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTEST: _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL