



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, February 18, 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 **Connie Gramarossa**. A moment of silence was held for **Lynn Waters**, former Solid waste Director and **Susan Gonder Jones**, sister of **Mike Gonder**, who passed away.

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** motioned to move item 9 'c' up to 9 'a,' and added three (3) items under **New Business: Resolution 2026-1, No parking in subdivisions during snow plowing and Frost Law**. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the February 4, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 2/6/2026 - \$1,622,587.48. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$3,623,912.24. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

Gautama Logwood, 104 W. Greenlawn Drive, La Porte, we've been waiting six months for an ordinance to regulate Data Centers, no better time than now. Asked that we not throw out the good for perfect, we take Lake County's ordinance, adopt it and change it to La Porte's. Get it moving, it's going to take six weeks, if anything needs to be addressed, amended, we'll have at least 1-2 public hearings. Let's move forward on this and rein in Data Centers before they leak out into the county, out of city limits. Thank you.

Gary Metcalf, 4205 N. 325 W., La Porte, noticed no one has touched on NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreements) agreements throughout the County, once anybody signs an NDA agreement, they no longer work for the tax payer, they work for the company they signed the NDA with and he totally disagrees with anything that has to do with an NDA. Secondly, working on an ordinance for Data Centers, he's noticed we let the City Mayors, on the fringe of their boundary lines, jump in, grab a piece of parcel, sign an NDA, all of a sudden, we have a Data Center that used to be in the County. We're not standing up for our County, we have to make sure if we're going to actively disagree with a Data Center, we have to make sure that we actively agree that we don't want them in what used to be a County that now gets sucked into the City, that's something that everyone needs to think about because we've seen it happen, we won't mention names, we won't go into specifics but those are two of the things that he's noticed no one has touched on as far as... worried about Data Centers, they're good things, they're bad things, but to sign an NDA, you forfeit your right because you were put in a position where we as the tax payer put you there and you no longer work for us, you work for them, as soon as you sign an NDA. Thank you.

Allen Stevens, 6821 W. Volk Road, Wanatah, my pet peeve for a while but the door was locked again tonight, can we make sure the doors are unlocked during public meetings, that's all, thank you.

Department Head Comments

None

ORIGINAL

Requests

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriation for audio/visual in the Circuit Courtroom. **Judge Julianne Havens**, you may have already received a breakdown of what we're looking to do. As a courtesy, I wanted to come to you because obviously you oversee the Courthouse as the Commissioners. Over the last sixteen months, and I've been on the bench for 13 months, but over the last 16 months, there have been two attempts to get a grant from the Indiana Office of Court Services. The most recent one, while I've been in office, was declined. They had two million dollars of requests throughout the State, they only had \$450,000 to dispense, so we were declined. That was the second attempt to get funding that didn't affect our County necessarily. At this point we are the last courthouse that would need to get IT and video, audiovisual updated, we're looking to go to the Council to address what funds may be available that are specifically designed for IT improvements, we want to address them, go forward with our ideas. Met with two different businesses that do this and one in particular is impressive, they are willing to train, I went to great lengths to make sure that the integrity of the architecture in that courtroom is not disrupted or disturbed, I appreciate that architecture probably more than anybody, I made sure that the work they would do would not affect that so I would like to go to the Council and start this discussion with them. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered travel to Louisville for JSC staff member, March 12-13, for recertification, **JSC Director Dion Campbell. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Road closure for Tris5Health 46th annual Triathlon/Duathlon July 11 in La Porte. **Commissioner Haney**, no changes, same as last year, he spoke to both Highway Department and Sheriff's Department, **motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. President Holifield**, spoke with Brett Kessler, with the Fair Board and their concern was if it conflicts with the Fair but it does not. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to set up a stand outside La Porte Courthouse for Epilepsy Awareness, March 26. **Theresa Lentner**, 3368 S. State Road 104, La Porte, requested permission to set-up a 'Purple Pop-Up' on the corner of State Street and Michigan Avenue, La Porte, next to the Bus Stop shelter, March 26th, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She will hand out bracelets, flowers or rubber ducks. Purple is for awareness of Epilepsy, silver is for the electric that happens in her brain during a seizure, and blue is for strength to endure it. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

None

New Business

Considered Resolution 2026-1. Resolution of the La Porte County Commissioners urging enhanced transparency in utility billing practices through detailed itemization of delivery charges and tracking mechanisms. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, residents are calling about their utility bills and it's important that we take a stance, this resolution is bringing awareness how it is affecting a lot of families. Delivery charges have increased, some even doubling from last year, with no explanation. President Holifield will be going to Indianapolis next week, it's important to pass this resolution so he can deliver it to folks down there, it's important to show support. Everything is going up but not people's income or pay, we need to say something about it or else it just continues. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***Resolution 2026-1** **Commissioner Holifield** will hand deliver the Resolution when he is in Indianapolis to give a testimony to the IURC. **Commissioner Haney**, for the public's edification, the IURC has their hands tied by the state legislature, the House and the Senate created the IURC, the guidelines that they operate underneath and half the time when the IURC looks at something, they look at it as whether it is legal or criminal, not is it moral, sometimes if there's a massive profit margin or not, they're bound by what the State Reps and State Senators have them chained down to do. He reached out to both representatives Pressel and Bohacek, recommended they reign in the IURC and give them the tools and mechanisms or just abolish it, deal with it directly, the IURC is a creation of the State. They can amend it, abolish it, whatever they want with it. We desperately need relief up here, so while we're doing this (held up the Resolution), it's up to everybody out there in the public to reach out and make sure your voices are heard so that people know what's going on, how bad our residents here are hurting. Thank you.

President Steve Holifield reminded everyone **not** to park on snow routes, especially in Subdivisions where it is posted.

President Steve Holifield reported **Frost Law** is now in effect as of yesterday and will last about two weeks. If anyone needs to drive an overweight vehicle on County Roads, please call the County Highway for a permit and this can be done online. **Commissioner Haney**, if something comes up and you're a trucker, at 4:00 in the morning you got to get out on the road, you can go to the County website and get one lined up, straight online first thing in the morning. **President Holifield**, it's not complicated. **Commissioner Haney**, no, it's pretty straightforward. **President Holifield**, Frost law is when the roads underneath have frost and it starts coming out of the ground as it's freezing and thawing, the ground heaves and if you put excess weight on them, there's no solid base underneath it, it heaves and goes then potholes are created, the less weight we put on the roads, the longer the roads will last.

ORIGINAL

President Steve Holifield announced tomorrow night, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. will be a Public Forum Meeting with League of Women Voters, Council President Adam Koronka and Commission President Steve Holifield, explaining their roles. On Saturday, between 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Scipio Volunteer Township Fire Department on 250 South, located southeast of the airport in La Porte, he will be hosting a Data Center meeting for the public, working on the ordinance. He has been speaking with Loudoun County, Virginia's Commissioners, they have the most Data Centers in the world, they've sent a lot of information that can be used towards our ordinance, questions can be asked at the meeting, bring input from the public.

Commissioner Haney motioned to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

DATE 3-4-2026

[Signature]
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[Signature]

ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL