



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, May 20, 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. A moment of silence was conducted for recent deaths of two young adults in Michigan City from gun violence.

Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales called the roll: **Commissioner Joe Haney** - Present; **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** - Present and **Commissioner Steve Holifield** - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve by removing item 9 'b'. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the April 15, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales read the Claims with Payroll ending 5/1/2026 - \$1,515,877.07 and 5/15/2026 - \$1,541,320.68. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales read the Operating Expense Claims - \$1,727,327.98. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment - As per **President Steve Holifield**, state your name and address please.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, Michigan City, appointed by Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson to the La Porte County Alcohol and Beverage Commission. He covers everything from Michigan City to all areas of the County, everything except from the Civil City or La Porte, including unincorporated areas and towns like Fish Lake, people may wonder why is this guy from Michigan City all the way down in Fish Lake? 'Don't want to get them mad, don't want the Fish Lake Militia and the South County chapter of the Proud Boys and Oathkeepers coming after me.' Read a summary from the recent passed Senate Bill 260, hopes Prosecutor Fagan, John Lake and Chuck Watterson hear this because we need to start using this, 'Alcohol and Tobacco Commission permits allows the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to refuse to grant, renew, suspend or revoke a permit of a license premises that becomes a public nuisance or engages in a certain criminal conduct, allows the Commission to temporarily suspend an alcohol beverage permit holder that failed to take reasonable action to prevent the occurrence of a crime, multiple crimes that occurred on the premise would pose a clear and immediate danger to the safety of the community or the general public. A hearing or suspension or hold the hearing or - not later than five business days after the permit is granted.' There's been some bad things happening on these premises around the County, maybe one or two in Michigan City where these things have happened, if they keep happening, they can get their alcohol permit revoked. One of the ill effects of what happened when the State began allowing alcohol sales at gas stations' convenience stores. Couple of Public Service Announcements: Michigan City Washington Park music and food truck fest at the Guy Foreman Amphitheater; Uptown Art District at 8th and Washington Streets, Farm and Forge Farmers' Marker; encouraged all to come out and attend.

Cindy Pressinell, 120 Oak Place, La Porte, Nilewood Drive 2nd Addition, a Pier Site was brought up at a recent meeting, Matt Reardon presented for an owner...Mr. Lutz...had asked for a drainage easement on a piece of property which is designated as a Pier Site in their neighborhood, she has lived there for 30+ years, other neighbors have been there for 50+ years. The Plat book is clear that it is a Pier Site to be used by Nilewood 2nd Addition landowners. Not only have they maintained it for years but her husband's excavating company, back in the '90's, put in a drain that is there now at their own expense. She spoke to President Holifield after the previous meeting, neighbors talked to Commissioner Haney, too. Went on record, 'It is a monumental understatement that we were a little disappointed that we were not notified at all that this meeting took place and this business was brought before the Commissioners, so there was an awful lot of questions that were asked that we could have provided some insight for at that meeting, and I know you (President Holifield) had mentioned, we had spoken to you that it's kind of on hold, I just want to come before you,

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put my concerns and my neighbors in front of you as President of Nilewood 2nd Addition that can use that Pier Site and ask where are we at on that? If I can ask that.' **President Holifield**, I've given all the information everyone provided to our Attorney. **Cindy**, okay. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, it's Public Comment so if you want me to...**President Holifield**, I spoke to the DNR also so. **Commissioner Haney**, we can handle this under Department Head comments if you (Attorney Guy DiMartino) would address it then.

Doug Newland, 2992 N. 300 E., Rolling Prairie, spoke on behalf of Friends of La Porte County Political Action Committee, a registered PAC for this area. Trying to follow the rules as any candidate or anybody that is in the political system, follow the same rules as candidates, have the same rights, the same abilities to use signs, fliers, any means at their disposal. Used mobile advertising this year, the same as people have done in years past, put a sign in the back of a vehicle or on the door and advertise for or against that candidate. That's what PACs are about, you can have a PAC to support somebody or go against somebody, same as anything like Data Centers, you can go for or against them, that's what PACs are about, so during the time this year that we used our mobile advertising, we feel...our PAC feels that the election...we should...the decisions of elections should be at the voting booth, it should never be about intimidation or any type of threats or anything like that, we decide these things at the voting booth and during the time we were assigning vehicles to different areas of La Porte County, we had drivers/trucks out there with signs and a couple different times our vehicles were harassed by Mr. McCormick, he drove up to some of those...**Attorney Guy DiMartino**, this is a Commission meeting. **Doug Newland**, yes sir. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, we're not the Election Board, if it has something to do with something that the Commissioners can act on, that's fine but otherwise we understand that you're entitled to Public Comment but just narrow it down, I would appreciate it, thank you. **Doug Newland**, thank you sir, I feel like...you know, it would be the same as if any of you folks were doing the same thing which I know you wouldn't, I would be up here curtailing against you, too. I think this is bad behavior, it's not about any person, it's about what's right and wrong, we were allowed to do what we do to put out signs and have literature and I think when somebody comes against that in the fashion of harassment...our driver felt harassed, he felt intimidated to the point he drove to a Police Station and called 911 so my point here being is I just think that you should know that Mr. McCormick holds a position in the County as an appointed person and I just think that the conduct of this person should come into play as to whether he should hold that position and it's the same as you folks, you're all elected but it's the same as anybody here, if you're appointed, you have to be held to a little bit different standard I think, hope you understand that, I'm not trying to rail against anybody, like I said, it's just a matter of right and wrong, and I just wanted to bring that to your attention that these are the things that occurred during this election, thank you. **President Holifield**, there's an Election Board member here, speak with her.

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, Michigan City, the most important right we have in America is the First Amendment right, I have the absolute right to protest ignorance, I have the absolute right to tell you I don't like you, I don't go around threatening nobody but I will encourage anybody that's listening to this, if Rodney or anybody else along with Rodney, threatens somebody, call 911, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. We can get up here, lie and tell all the stories we want to but just to answer, respond briefly on that, I'm a State employee and for anybody who don't like what I'm doing, go to the Indiana Alcohol Tobacco Board and file a complaint against me, good luck with it, that's how it works, nobody up here (Board of Commissioners) has authority over me, they can't do nothing to me, when will you learn? Secondly, I just want to say this, each one of you guys sit around talk about people's behavior, and I asked the attorney - I'm not asking for a response, but I've been asking for the Code of Conduct for Board members, do we even have one? Does one even exist? If it does, I will encourage you, if it does, to make sure every Board members receive that so they can have the Code of Conduct but as I was, I think I was told, I may be wrong, I was told there was no Code of Conduct book that you have for any Board of Commissioners. You have the absolute right to support whoever you want to support and you shouldn't be chastised or harassed or intimidated for the person you support or the person you don't support. I remember, I've listened to everybody talk bad about me and that's fine cuz none of you can do nothing to me but let me just say that, let me say this, I spoke with Joe Haney several times, Commissioner Haney several times, no disrespect and one of the things I've come to learn is that the President, Steve Holifield, you sleeping with the maintenance woman. **President Holifield**, is that a fact? **Rodney McCormick**, that's what he told me, I have it on tape as well. **Commissioner Haney**, absolutely not. **Attorney DiMartino**, we're getting ridiculous. **Rodney McCormick**, I'm just talking about behavior, I know you want to stop me because we're talking about behavior, I've heard you personally, no, no, no, no, I heard you personally...**Attorney DiMartino**, well, you can have a recess, you can't stop...**President Holifield**, we're not having a recess. **Rodney McCormick**, I heard Commissioners personally use the B word, the C word towards women, I know for a fact, I heard the audio, you (Commissioner Holifield) threatened to throw somebody out the window. **President Holifield**, yep. **Rodney McCormick**, okay, so what's - if your conduct - what makes your conduct better than my conduct or vice a versa? **President Holifield**, I'm not disrupting a meeting. **Attorney DiMartino**, this is Public Comment, Commissioner Holifield, do not answer. **Rodney McCormick**, I'm not disrupting a meeting either. I'm just making a point, if you don't have a Code of Conduct, what do - we supposed to... You (President Holifield) are supposed to lead by example, calling a woman a 'B' or a 'C' during a meeting? That's not cool, that's not cool at all, and everybody back there, they can say whatever they want to say... (Julie Sinclair stood up in the back of the room and indicated Rodney was past 5 minutes). Rodney McCormick, say five minutes, who gives a f**k? Throw me out the window. **President Holifield**, I can't lift that much dead weight. **Attorney DiMartino**, Mr. Holifield, enough, please. **President Holifield**, I'm sorry but I'm a man. **Rodney McCormick**, man? you're a clown. **Attorney DiMartino**, Mr. McCormick, enough please, thank you. **Rodney McCormick**, (as he is leaving the podium) now take me off the Board. **President Holifield**, July 1st, we will. Mr. Logwood, you're next. **Rodney McCormick**, Bitch-ass punk. **Attorney DiMartino**, Mr. McCormick, please, you don't have to say that. **Rodney McCormick**, your mama must be really proud of you.

Gautama Logwood, 104 W. Greenlawn Drive, La Porte, let's switch this narrative up a bit, shall we? I'm not here to talk about or give 'that man' any more attention than he requires and the attention he requires is from law enforcement at this point, in my opinion. We'll leave that in the past but tonight we are working towards a goal of something that is important and that is the marked vehicles. This is now past its' time on south 35 and now we're starting to see it on the east side of County. We hear talk of more expansions, people are wondering what is going on and seeing these vehicles running around. This is a good ordinance for protection of the citizenry, and not only that, this was a bipartisan initiative from a Democrat (himself), and Republicans (Commissioners), and this is a sign that County government is working for the citizenry in the correct way and protecting them, when necessary, applauds the efforts of the Commission and thinks this is a great thing to move forward, thank you. As he passes Julie Sinclair who is approaching the podium, 'and I am a Democrat, Miss Sinclair. **Julie Sinclair**, right. **Attorney DiMartino**, okay, enough's enough, none of that please. **President Holifield**, that's enough.

Julie Sinclair, 402 Truesdell Avenue, La Porte, Democratic Party Chair, wanted to take a moment to talk about something that shouldn't be controversial, politics is supposed to involve disagreement and healthy debate is part of our democracy but somewhere along the way, too many of these public meetings have become performances instead of productive meetings. Too many people deciding that shouting louder is better than listening harder and I say this not as somebody who's watching from the sidelines, but someone who has been personally the target of hostility, harassment and disrespect. I have made a conscious decision not to respond in-kind. The truth is when the election is over, all of us have to work together, all of us still have to fix the roads and balance the budget and figure out what we're going to do for the constituents. No party has a monopoly on bad behavior. Knows there are many here, Republicans and Democrats alike, who agree with that statement that we need to work for the citizens and not for the people who want to cause a public spectacle. Civility is not weakness; decorum is not surrender. Hopes this Board will take action to prove that the days of belligerence with impunity are over in this County. The Democrat Party will certainly be doing their part, public meetings should reflect professionalism, accountability and respect, we must not tolerate intimidation, belligerence and open hostility. The people of La Porte deserve better, we can work together to do this, they'll be expecting better. Thank you.

Angie Henzman, 237 Leo Avenue, Trail Creek, thank you, thank you for a bathroom that works in the Hiler Building, that is huge in our office and our building, we are all very grateful. Thank you for your leadership with the Data Center Ordinance, putting that through with the Planning Commission, really appreciate it and thank you for calling out behavior that is not conducive to leadership in the County. Hopes that...you've seen for yourself what we've dealt with personally as a County employee, as I was heading to an Election Board meeting, I was accosted by Mr. McCormick in the hall for no reason other than that I walked through the door, he got in my face and started talking to me, saying, 'you have something to say to me, you say it to my face' and all sorts of things to the point where the Sheriff had to come over and intervene. I'm not unique, that's the problem, this happens far too often in our County, and it is a problem for the Board when he is your appointee to the Board. Lastly, I attended the meeting in La Porte for the Data Center expansion, I made a point of saying we have, the County, has passed the Data Center Ordinance and I feel that we need to take it one step further. The Mayor of Portage had a wonderful comment that he made and if you would allow me, I'd like to read this to you, give you something to think about as we think about ways to forward with this, it says, 'In the upcoming weeks, I will formally be sending a proposal for a new zoning classification to our City's Plan Commission, designed to designate and set up appropriate rules and standards for Data Centers.' Much like we did. 'Under this proposal, the existed zoning classifications that currently allow for Data Centers no longer would. Data Centers would only be permitted within a new zoning classification called technology campus. The technology campus zoning classification will encompass the regulations that Data Centers within such zoned lands must follow, including regulations on setbacks, building heights, noise, water use and energy. That unlike traditional warehouses, which is light industrial, I believe Data Centers should be regulated under one zoning classification, this way, any developer seeking to build one would first have to apply to the land to be rezoned.' And there's many pro - the process begins. There is a lot of wisdom in looking at this as this is a very unique situation and we're all trying to figure out how to deal with this so I encourage you to look at what the Mayor of Portage is up to, thank you.

Jody Slabaugh, 222 W. 9th Street, Michigan City, waited for the storm to clear before he stepped up to the podium. Came here tonight to demand that you remove Rodney from the Alcoholic Beverage Board but after reading the pleadings filed by Mr. McCormick this week and looking at State law, State administrative rules that govern this Board, I changed what I'm asking for, because what I was going to ask for you actually don't have the authority to do and it turns out that that's the whole problem, so under Indiana law the Board appoints a Commissioner's - it's kind of crazy that you appoint a commissioner to represent or you appoint a person to represent the Commissioners on the ABC Board but you don't have the authority to remove that person, I understand kind of the legal reasons because they don't want the politics to enter into that Board and people get removed for politic reasons and that kind of thing so I understand it but I don't agree with it but we got to follow the law so the Commission hears the complaints and then, we're talking about the Commission down in Indianapolis, the ATC, and they hear complaints, file charges and have a hearing and make a decision and then they send that decision back up here, and then you guys, if the decision is to remove him, then you get to do that and that's the only legal path that we have at this moment so what I'm asking for tonight is first that we stop defending the May 6th action and it was taken without jurisdiction, I understand it was kind of new, everybody jumped on it and we didn't do a lot of research on that but we don't need to keep litigating it, I know Mr. McCormick has filed a suit against it and Lord knows we don't need another lawsuit in this County and so I think we should concede the defect, withdraw and let that lawsuit go away.

Second thing is I think we need to send this matter to the ATC, the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, I believe there's no single exclusive path for that, the ATC's own rules allowed charges to be filed by their prosecutor or you guys or there's a whole list of people who can do it but anyways, we need to get that filed, I'm not comfortable waiting until July, I know the law is coming in and what I see probably going to happen is the law comes in and then we get another lawsuit from him and then it gets litigated out for however long that's going to take. The ADC has the authority to hear a complaint, make a decision and probably bypass all of this local nonsense and I think what we need to do is we need to get that complaint filed with the appropriate people, I'm asking the Commissioners, if you're allowed to do that, to take that action, and I'd like to see that get filed within the next week and sent down to Indianapolis. I'd like to see the ATC hear what's going on up here, make a decision, hopefully schedule a hearing and bring it back up here. **President Steve Holifield**, you're running on time-wise, could you wrap it up please? **Jody Slabaugh**, okay, sorry about that, I get to rambling on that so any - okay, in the meanwhile, the ATC and Excise Officer who sits on the local Board, I'm asking them to suspend Rodney, the people that are here locally to actually - don't kick him off the Board, we can't do that but you can suspend his activity on that Board, when the permit comes up and stuff because I don't think he represents the values in this County, I don't think he represents the values of this Board, I know certainly he doesn't represent my values and so I think that we should ask the Board, the current Board, and I know that Tommy took off already but we should ask them to please suspend him from that and I'm not going to go into all the reasons why, but that's my suggestion, thank you very much.

Department Head Comments

Matt Reardon, Office of Economic Development, three items: thanked Nilewood 2nd Addition neighbors for attending the meeting, this goes back to the Pier Site, a piece a property with no key number, not taxable, so when someone comes in to the County and starts asking questions about 'what is this,' this is the first thing we look up, we look up the key number, who owns it, is it taxable, we look at the deeds to see what they say, after researching we still were not sure who it belonged to, what was it and exactly where was it because of what was filed with the deed. Thanks to Andrew for going out there because it probably wouldn't have happened, but he went out there, we had a conversation, he said 'wait a second, we have rights to the pier site.' I did not see any information so he came to the office with Reathel and dropped off information to Attorney DiMartino, I guess the neighbors have been going back and forth with the DNR about people that live on the water and then access so it became pretty clear a couple of things, if there is one, there is probably more than one throughout the County that possibly the County could perfect this to be sure that residents who have legal rights to access, get the access as well as proof on their deeds, indicating their right to the access. Especially if you ever want to sell the property then the value will increase with the lake access noted. Won't get into the legal side of it but as far as what the County can do, I'll turn it over to Attorney Guy DiMartino. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, there was an ALJ ruling with the DNR years ago which gave them riparian rights, the ability to do so, nobody challenged that in court but nobody ever followed up with it, actually recording that information against the properties that are there so there's a void in the public record as to what transpired. That is what I've been able to sort out so but as a county in this point in time we're not taking any action, it's not our issue unless something happens. **Matt Reardon**, second issue, Mayor Bonta must be digging into our email or my email about a PUD and a Data Center Ordinance because that's something that myself and Mr. DiMartino have been working on since the County has been looking at the overall Data Center Ordinance. We're hopeful to get to that at the June meeting of the Plan Commission provided it hits all the points that have been brought up in the public about that but I came up here to request that the County Commissioners consider holding a public hearing regarding the creation of an infrastructure development zone which will provide a modicum of tax relief to companies that are in the infrastructure business and the particular company that approached the County Economic Development office with this was Surf Broadband and as you know, Surf has been making quite a bit of investments in the County and they're poised to make another \$7 million dollar investment in broadband infrastructure for rural broadband. It's part of their application process, they sent us the information about their investment, the total number of houses and so on that they're pursuing. While the IDZ law allows for all kinds of utilities of fiber, gas and water, my recommendation is fiber only, I think that supporting the Brad Program and Rural Broadband expansion would be a good thing for the residents and the businesses here so I would request you hold a public hearing at your next meeting for the consideration approval of an IDZ. I wish I could tell you why it is not a Council issue but it is a Commissioners' issue statutorily.

Joe Haney, Commissioner, as for the Data Center Technology Campus, he will be meeting with Mayor Bonta tomorrow, saw the post and thought it was an idea worth entertaining. Questioned Attorney DiMartino if there is anything else regarding Public Comment on Nilewood and the Pier Site. **Attorney DiMartino**, we're not doing anything, if the new resident at 144 - that will be between them. **Commissioner Haney**, do we have any thoughts as to perfect this, looks like going back through the records this was handled in the 90's where at one point there was a determination but never recorded or anything, is there - other than just attaching to the deeds, is there anything that would make it stand out in the future because it seems like, you know that was back 30 years ago, 28 years ago whatever it was everybody here is new at this point, you know in another 25-30 years from now, if this comes up again, is there something we can do to attach something to that parcel, any parcels that would be like it to be able to pop up immediately as far as 'this is the information for it' as opposed to - **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, think the individual land owners who have those rights should actually record a copy with their parcel number on it, record a copy of the ALJ's ruling and then that way it would show in the record or someone could do a title search and at least it would be on the title documents as to the access, but on our end, nothing. **Commissioner Haney**, appreciate it, at least that gives us direction forward to put it on there, a marker for the future. **Attorney DiMartino**, take the tax id number to the recorder and that way it would be associated with that tax id number so next time someone goes to it or the title company looks at it, it would be part of the recorded record. **President Holifield**, forwarded all the information

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brought to the office to the DNR and the reply was they would need time to look over the information. **Commissioner Haney** continued on about the Alcohol Tobacco Commission, possibly filing - in the event there is some kind of additional stay or something comes up between now and July 1st, would it behoove us to make some sort of official filing with the ATC in regard to this appointment? **Attorney DiMartino**, I don't know if we have any authority to do that but preparing the complaint could be done and just so the record is clear, at this point in time, Mr. McCormick has not really been removed from the local ATC so he can attend next month's meeting and do whatever he's going to do. **President Holifield**, I'll reach out to the lady from the State to see what our next steps should be. **Attorney DiMartino**, either that or take your information, recommended getting statements from the folks that came up and take it to the Prosecutor's office to see if Mr. Fagan would go ahead and do something or if you have, if the Board were to file something with the ATC, wouldn't think the ATC would say they would not look at it. **President Holifield**, they're aware of it. **Commissioner Haney**, very good, I would then encourage those folks who did have statements they were going to make here this evening to put in writing and send it to the Commissioners' office so that we have those on record. Lastly a 'shout out' to the La Porte County Highway Department who are out today taking truck loads of trees, leaves, debris from these storms, for those of you that don't know, when we have these massive bursts of wind that come through that knock down trees, blocking roads, the Highway Department sends out crew teams to cut the trees up, move to the side of the road to allow the road to remain open. At times, the debris left behind may be on the side of the road for a while so the cleanup can continue throughout the County. He had a tree blocking his driveway and a huge thank you to the Highway Department for the great work they do, especially storm cleanups. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, furthest one away from Attorney DiMartino, verified that the Commissioners' office will collect complaints from everybody here tonight and send it to Prosecutor Fagan. **Attorney DiMartino**, or the ATC Board directly, you do whatever you all feel is necessary, but that is what the statute says.

Requests

Considered permission from Fair Board President to have Zigler Road closed during Fair Week, July 11-18, 2026, this is done every year. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Public Hearing opened at 6:38 p.m. to hear public comment on the Truck Masking Ordinance.

Gautama Logwood, 104 W. Greenlawn Drive, La Porte, gave background on it, this arose from predominantly surveyors in south county on 35, regarding the Microsoft development out there and other interests passed 250 that failed. We saw citizenry that was put-off by commercial vehicles covering up their marked truck doors, not pulling permits, believes Building Commission went down to verify hole boring in 250 without a permit, without markings on their vehicle doors. This allows the citizens to figure out who the guy in the shiny vest is in their yard by just being able to call the Building Commission office, say somebody pull a permit to run a survey or drill a well test or something like that sort of thing. We didn't have provisions for that before; there is a Sunset date on this too as well.

Allen Stevens, 6821 W. Volk Road, Wanatah, does this ordinance solely cover people prospecting for Data Centers and other things but there was discussion about a lot of other contractors on the county roads that don't have any kind of identification and primarily my concern in the south part of the county there are tons of these fiber contractors, nobody speaks English, no lighting on the trucks, no signage on the trucks, they're out before the sun comes up in the morning, they're out in the evening with no traffic control, leaving equipment, holes and unsafe conditions right along with the road so does this also cover - is this solely for surveyors and people of that nature or does this cover general contractors in the county that are running anonymously? **President Steve Holifield**, 'commercial purposes, including but not limited to' so that'll cover all vehicles. **Commissioner Haney**, it would cover them as well. **Allen Stevens**, cuz it's definitely a safety problem, we've got to do something about them because there's no traffic control, no lights, no anything and these guys are out working in the middle of the night so, thank you very much.

Public Hearing closed at 6:42 p.m. Sunset provision is set at 18 months and can always be reviewed later.

Considered 2nd Reading for Ordinance on Truck Masking. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to amend the Ordinance draft to change the height in lettering from 3 inches to 2 inches, reason for this is the Federal DOT and State laws is set at 2 inches minimum height, vehicles already in compliance wouldn't have to remark themselves to operate here in our County. We're looking for the bad actors, those that do not have markings on their vehicles or more egregiously, people who are literally putting masking tape, magnets or taping cardboard over their markings. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** **Commissioner Haney** motioned to add an exemption section as 'Exemptions: the requirement of this section shall not apply to: 1) Commercial vehicles merely transiting through the County without conducting local business; 2) Implements of agriculture or vehicles actively engaged in farming operations; 3) Passenger vehicles utilized for local delivery or small business operations; 4) Charitable organizations or non-profit organizations.' **Attorney DiMartino**, are you okay with 'the requirements herein shall not apply to the following' versus 'the requirements of this section shall not apply?' **Commissioner Haney** amended his motion to include **Attorney DiMartino's** verbiage. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **President Holifield**, for discussion, the DOT covers these other commercial vehicles anyway. **Motion carried 3-0.** **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve on 2nd Reading by Title Only. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Attorney Guy DiMartino, Ordinance 2026-2, an Ordinance of the La Porte County Board of Commissioners Establishing Identification Standards for Commercial entities engaged in land prospecting and Site testing. **Commissioner Joe Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0. ***Ordinance 2026-2**

New Business

Considered Special Detail Agreement between Sheriff's office and La Porte County Fair Board for extra duty during week of the Fair. **Sheriff Ron Heeg**, basically a housekeeping item, this is our yearly agreement between the Fair Board and the Sheriff's office to provide security during the week of the Fair. Attorney DiMartino has reviewed and approved it, no changes except for the dates and the number of deputies working. **Commissioner Joe Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Plan Commission's recommendation for rezoning B3 to R1B, Petitioner Leeway IN Properties, LLC. Attorney Dave Ambers for petitioner. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded for discussion, any remonstrators on either one of these? **Attorney Dave Ambers** approached the podium, 601 State Street, Suite B, La Porte, no remonstrators for either one on the agenda from the Plan Commission's recommendation and both with unanimous approval. **President Holifield**, this is the old Cutty Campground. **Attorney David Ambers**, correct, as you come up Highway 39, there are three commercial lots then residential starts, the commercial lots have never been developed and my client, Mr. Lee, of Leeway Indiana Properties, decided to develop those as residential lots, get a higher tax out of them and it's better for everyone in the subdivision to be residential, Center Township. **Motion carried 3-0.** **Attorney DiMartino**, you approved it, it will go back to be signed by the Plan Commission.

Considered Plan Commission's recommendation for rezoning R1B to B2, Petitioners Jeremy Watson, Jennifer Watson and Sandra A. Johnson. **Attorney Dave Ambers** for petitioner, almost to the intersection of Johnson Road and 400 North in Coolspring Township. Partially across the street from Coolspring Volunteer Fire Department and the former Coolspring Library. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Veterinary In-Services contract agreement for Jane Bernard Small Animal Shelter. **Attorney DiMartino**, reviewed and approved. **Commissioner Haney**, standard contract for the County Veterinarians to provide services as well as certain authorizations for the animal shelter to operate under certain conditions they perform, congratulations to Dr. Pinks. **Commissioner Joe Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Commissioners' proxy appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals. **President Steve Holifield**, has a big issue with outside carpetbaggers trying to run our County, telling us how to do things by taking federal tax dollars and destroying whatever they can find, but I guess if we have to, we'll go find a proxy for this Board. **Attorney DiMartino**, that was the recommendation of BZA Attorney Andrew Voeltz. **President Holifield**, we'll be looking for one. **Attorney DiMartino**, you haven't found one yet? **President Holifield**, really doesn't want to do this because he doesn't think outsiders should tell us what to do with our First Amendment rights. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, I would like to say Brad Mrozinski was removed and it would be a good idea to put him back on because as a Proxy, he is not a carpetbagger, he was born and raised here, generational from here, that would be my suggestion. **Attorney DiMartino**, are you making a motion to appoint Brad Mrozinski as the proxy? **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to appoint Brad Mrozinski as the proxy to the BZA. **Commissioner Haney** seconded for discussion, is there any conflict concerns with this? I don't have any issue with Mr. Brad Mrozinski, the reason for the proxy is there was a... **Attorney DiMartino**, don't know if Mr. Mrozinski has any of the issues that... **President Holifield**, thinks we need time to talk to other people. **Commissioner Haney**, the other thought would be are - for the proxy is there a consideration for party affiliation? **Attorney DiMartino**, on the BZA, no, the appointment is not a party appointment. **President Holifield**, we want to make sure that the person they have an issue with, who's exercising his right to free speech, we have to make sure that his appointment - we're doing the same appointment; correct? It was a Commissioners' appointment, we have to replace him with a Commissioners' appointment? **Attorney DiMartino**, yes, right, all you're doing is appointing a proxy, what Mr. Baltus does at the BZA if he chooses not to step down for a certain ruling or a certain thing before him, that's at the BZA, all you're doing is putting somebody second in line should there be somebody that needs to, that has a potential conflict of interest and they want to step down on an issue so they don't vote on a specific petition so if you appoint say, Mr. Mrozinski or anybody else, they would be the proxy should that occur at any time during the year for at the BZA level. **President Holifield**, because I'd like to time to talk to other people. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, at that last meeting it was said that the last one on was the first one off so it would be a good idea to put him back on since we took him off. **President Holifield**, I disagree. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, okay. **Commissioner Haney**, can I move to table until the next meeting? **Commissioner Gramarossa**, we have a motion so we need to vote it down. **Attorney DiMartino**, well... **Commissioner Haney**, or do we need to address the motion before us here first? **Attorney DiMartino**, no because you can move to table it if you get a second but if you've... at this point in time he can move to table before the vote if he chooses as long as he gets a second and then you guys can go ahead and... because otherwise if you vote down Mr. Mrozinski, then you vote him down but I don't know that's what your goal is here, I don't know your goal. **Commissioner Haney**, we still have time at the first meeting in next month to appoint a proxy before their next meeting anyway, right? **President Holifield**, yes, because this group is not coming before us before June and they've already had one group force us into a position where we didn't want to be at because they're outsiders using federal tax dollars to fill

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their pockets. **Commission Gramarossa** asked BZA Attorney Voeltz to come to the podium. **Commissioner Haney**, June 3rd will be out next meeting so that should be before the next BZA meeting so if we made a proxy appointment on June 3rd that would be sufficient, that way we're not rushed here this evening. **President Holifield**, we'd have plenty of time. They've already bribed the Fairgrounds. **Attorney DiMartino**, I take a little exception with being rushed because well...**Commissioner Haney**, not rushed but...**Commissioner Gramarossa**, but that's what we did last time, we rushed, we took him off and we said, first one - the last one on is the first one off. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, Mr. Voeltz, why did you ask to be heard today? **Board of Zoning Appeals and Plan Commission Attorney Andrew Voeltz**, apologized for his casual demeanor, did not expect to come to the podium to speak, the request coming from the BZA is for the Board of Commissioners to appoint an alternate member, should the member - and you have three appointments to the BZA - should one of those members be unable to perform their duties as your appointee for disqualification, absence or for any other reason that there be an alternate member that would step into that member's place, that's what this is, this is not a replacement, this is not putting someone new on the Board, this is having a 'stand-in' and the statute specifically refers to it as an alternate, this is not a proxy nor a new member, it is an alternate and if the alternate is not available what winds up happening is the Board is a four-member Board then, and if the four-member Board is unable to make a decision, that is the issue that I am trying to avoid for legal reasons to protect my Board and the citizens of La Porte County, that's why I'm asking for this, there is nothing underhanded or carpetbagging about any of this, this is a matter - **President Holifield**, I didn't accuse you, sir - **Attorney Andrew Voeltz**, excuse me - **President Holifield**, no, I didn't accuse you. **Attorney Andrew Voeltz**, this is a matter of procedure and the matter of procedure demands that the record be clear and that the vote be clear so that we don't wind up in a situation with lawsuits that are already being filed against this County. **Attorney DiMartino**, to my question, can we have a motion and a second and an ask as to whether it can be tabled, when are you meeting and can this be tabled until our next meeting at the first of next month? **Attorney Voeltz**, the next Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is June 16th. **President Holifield**, so we have plenty of time to talk to some other people. **Attorney Voeltz**, you have until June 16th. **Attorney DiMartino**, well, we have until the first meeting in June. **Attorney Voeltz**, for the Board of Commissioners' purposes, it would be your first meeting in June, for purposes of the Board that I represent, is June 16th and we would request a decision be made prior to that meeting. **President Holifield**, we've got - we can do that June 3rd. **Attorney Voeltz**, you will do what you will do, I am just simply outlining the timing of this to allow for an alternate member to be appointed by you as the Board of Commissioners, that's it. Thank you. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to **Table until our next scheduled meeting June 3rd**. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0**.

Commissioner Haney motioned to **adjourn at 6:59 p.m.** **President Holifield**, one more thing, a citizen from Michigan City, with all the violence going on, asked me to read this, 'I am asking anyone who wants to join on Sunday, June 14th, to stand together outside City Hall from 1-3 p.m. to hold hands and take a stand against gun violence. It's called Hands Across Michigan City. I call on all elected officials, local pastors, local law enforcement, students and citizens to join me to show Enough is Enough and one voice can make a difference. They can contact Derald Borton at 219-229-3017 or dborton24@hotmail.com.' And this is in response to all the gun violence that's been going on in Michigan City since the prom night. Two young adults have lost their lives over this and a couple of other people have been injured and their lives are greatly altered for the rest of their lives so he asked me to read that and if anyone is interested, they can meet Derald out there at City Hall on Sunday, June 14th from 1-3 p.m. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to **adjourn**. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0**.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 6-3-2026
[Signature]
[Signature]
ATTEST: [Signature]
Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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