



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, June 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. County Complex Room 3

President Steve Holifield called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by George Callas.

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 Haney** motioned to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the May 20, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. **May 20th Meeting Minutes should have read 'Considered approval of the May 6, 2026 minutes,' NOT April 15, 2026.**

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 5/29/2026 - \$1,510,149.22. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$1,682,329.91. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Gramarossa** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

President Steve Holifield, seven years ago, the Commissioners adopted an ordinance or so to speak a resolution on how public comment is to be conducted. Members of the public have gotten far, far away from that lately, so there is a position there (podium) at the post, we're not going to tolerate going after, making any innuendos, lies, rumors, falsehoods against any employees or elected in this County so I just wanted to make you aware of that, Public Comment is now open.

Public Comment

None

Department Head Comments

Monique Thomas, Human Resources Director, Food Truck event days will be Thursday, June 11th in La Porte in the back of the Hiler Building parking lot and Friday, June 12th in Michigan City in the Courthouse parking lot. Come out, enjoy the food, employees and have a good time interacting with each other, thank you.

Mike Rosenbaum, Auditor, reported it is Budget season so all budgets have been released in Low as of a week ago, we're hoping to have them all back by June 15th and into the hands of the Council members a week earlier than last time to have more time to review them. Form 144s, payroll information, those are out there as well, sent to Department Heads via email and the same thing with the Capital Asset Plan, looking for three years. Last year a complaint was made that they felt that it wasn't reviewed enough, the work they did last year, trying to get it to everybody earlier, we're hoping that everybody will have more time to review them. Will be receiving monthly LIT distributions which is in excess of \$5,000,000 which is shared amongst municipalities in different ways, will be distributed later this week. A tax settlement date is set for June 9th, our software company comes in, they interact with us and Treasurer's office, figure out how much was collected, how much to distribute, it is submitted to DLGF. October 13th is set for our Tax Sale date. Two items for remote claims, he and his staff are reviewing more than ever, please put information about the invoice in the note section, that will help process the claim quicker. He cannot pay anything without an invoice. Thank you.

ORIGINAL

Requests

Considered mandatory Information Technology training, **Darlene Hale**, IT Director. Every year phishing training videos are sent out to all employees/elected officials on what not to click on. Requested permission to lock email access if training is not completed after the due date. State pays for the programs, sends them out. Training takes about two hours to complete. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded.** Training sent out a while ago is due June 12th, she would be willing to allow a deadline of June 30th. **Commissioner Gramarossa amended her motion to set deadline as June 30th to complete the training. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered status of the Voter Registration office during Fair week. **Julie Sinclair**, Democratic Party Chair, in agreement with Republican Party Chair Allen Stevens, proposed coverage in the office 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon then 12:00 p.m. noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds, using the FMEC building location as they did last year. Parties will staff the booth on the weekends with volunteers. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Considered Tabled BZA Alternate. **Commissioner Haney motioned to remove from the Table. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded for discussion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Haney nominated Jim Lefeber.** **Commissioner Gramarossa**, Jim Lefeber is one of the individuals listed on the police incident report, also came here the last two meetings during public comment, should not reward people that come here and side with you two (Commissioners Holifield and Haney) as a good appointment, Brad Mrozinski was removed and as you have said before, the last person on the Board should be the first one off, Brad submitted a letter for the Board in April in 2025 requesting to remain on the Board. **President Holifield**, Mr. Lefeber is the only one that responded, he spoke to a couple of neighbors, they do not want to get involved, especially since some of the BZA things have become quite litigious, they do not want their names attached because their businesses could be affected. Mr. Lefeber is retired, a union member and he's the only one that sent a thing in. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, Brad Mrozinski sent a letter in April 2025. **President Holifield**, that was when he was removed. **Attorney DiMartino**, we have one person nominating Mr. Lefeber, Ms. Gramarossa, are you nominating Mr. Mrozinski? **Commissioner Gramarossa**, sure. **President Holifield**, nominations closed. **Auditor Rosenbaum called the vote: Commissioner Gramarossa - Brad Mrozinski; Commissioner Joe Haney - Jim Lefeber; Commissioner Steve Holifield - Jim Lefeber. Jim Lefeber will be an Alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals with a 2-1 vote for any of the three Commissioners' appointments.**

Considered 2nd Reading for rezoning Ordinance for Petitioners Watson and Johnson in Coolspring Township, R1B to B2. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***Ordinance 2026-3**

Considered 2nd Reading for rezoning Ordinance for Petitioner Leeway IN Properties in Center Township, B3 to R1B. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***Ordinance 2026-4**

Considered discussion on Ordinance 2025-4 for GIS Board members. **President Holifield**, a new GIS Coordinator was hired last year, several departments have asked what exactly are the duties of the coordinator and what is expected, a Board was put together to assist the Coordinator. **Commissioner Haney**, believes the Ordinance covers everything, we do need to appoint a Commissioner to the Board. **President Holifield**, will allow one of the other Commissioners as a member on the Board. **Commissioner Haney** would be willing to serve on the Board. No objections from **Commissioner Gramarossa. President Holifield, Commissioner Haney will be the Commissioner on the GIS Board with a 3-0 vote**, the Council will put this on their agenda for an appointment.

Considered Data Board amendments. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve Data Center amendments. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

New Business

Considered settlement agreement in Javon Britton v. La Porte County Sheriff John Boyd in the amount of \$29,925.00. This was filed in 2019. **Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered appointment of County Engineer. **HR Director Monique Thomas**, position was vacant for about 11 months, only one applicant. Hiring committee - Commissioner Steve Holifield, HR Director Monique Thomas, Highway Superintendent Charity Glaser and Planner Mitch Bishop. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, what is the rate of pay? **HR Director Thomas**, \$108,000. **Commissioner Gramarossa**, the pay went from \$86,216 to \$108,000? **President Holifield**, the amount was included in the Highway budget and approved by the Council last year during budget hearings. **Commissioner Haney motioned to appoint Mike Yacullo as County Engineer. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.** **Mike Yacullo** thanked the Commissioners for the vote of confidence and the opportunity to serve the people of La Porte County. He has brought a lot of work in to the County when he previously worked here, a lot of federal aid, state aid, lots of work done on bridges and roads here in our County, pennies on the dollar. Confident we can continue that trend and serve the people well.

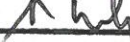
ORIGINAL

President Steve Holifield, the school corporations, as they've done in the past, are providing free lunches for the students during the summer, a lot of parents are working, the kids don't really have a place to go to have lunch. Doesn't have the four locations yet but he will have them in the next month, they will host lunches for all people who are members of the school corporations.

Commissioner Haney motioned to adjourn at 10:27 a.m. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

DATE 6-17-2026



ATTEST: _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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