

Michael Rosenbaum, CPA
LaPorte County Auditor
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350

MEETING MINUTES
LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 27th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the LaPorte County Council was called to order by President Adam Koronka at 6:08 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Koronka asked that all stand for the Pledge and asked Mrs. Heath to lead.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Michael Rosenbaum called the roll and noted that all were present. Councilman Mollenhauer was on the TEAMS format.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Yagelski with the following corrections:

- the February 23rd, 2026 meeting minutes were added to approve
- the Clerk of the Circuit Court was added to approve the hiring of a replacement for a deputy clerk position
- a typographical error was corrected on page 4 under LaPorte County Clerk – correct to read \$2,000 not \$20,000
- a typographical error was corrected on page 4 under LaPorte County Juvenile Probation to read \$1,000 not \$500

The vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- February 23, 2026 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Pressel. Vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

- March 23rd, 2026 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Goot Logwood, 104 W Greenlawn Dr, LaPorte, IN – apologized for misspeaking at the March meeting. He stated that he misunderstood the financial information he read on the state's Gateway website.

- Councilman Kiel asked about the 24/25 audits and Auditor Rosenbaum explained that it was 2024 that Mr. Logwood was talking about. Gateway is locked and therefore the audits cannot be changed. The 2025 audit will begin shortly.

PUBLIC COMMENT CON'T.

Allen Stevens, Chairman of the Republican Party – Read a proclamation naming Councilman Justin Kiel as the recipient of the Harry S. Truman \$30,000 scholarship.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Commission President, Steve Holifield, representing himself and Highway Director, Charity Glaser, approached the Council asking them to consider raising the salary of the County Engineer to be competitive in the open market. The salary is listed in the budget at \$108,000.00.

Commissioner Haney also spoke in favor of raising the salary.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum shared with the Council that the County is no longer paying taxes on our NIPSCO invoices. He contacted NIPSCO and was able to explain to them that we are a government agency and not subject to paying taxes. He also attended the AIC regional meeting and budget training session. He noted that Recorder, Ella Bilderback was elected as secretary for the regional group. He explained how the FOIA requests are handled.

Recorder Ela Bilderback approached the Council to say that she had been elected to the regional AIC board as the secretary.

Coroner Lynn Swanson updated the Council on facts and figures from her department. She also told the council that she is in need of staff members due to the resignation of several employees.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Pressel: Still working with building maintenance
Attending the building commission meeting
Working on the County's comprehensive plan

Councilwoman Heath –Health Board Meeting will meet next month, met with EMS, JSC (working on getting new fencing), & the RDC

Councilman Kiel – Checking in with his department heads
Reminded everyone to vote on May 5th

Councilman Yagelski – nothing at this time

Councilman Mollenhauer – nothing at this time

Councilman Kessler – Park Department and Animal Shelter

Councilman Koronka –explained the status of the revenue sharing agreement between the City of La Porte and the La Porte County RDCs for property that is in the process of being annexed by the city; toured the Salvation Army

CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Pressel to take the request tabled at the March meeting off the table concerning the Coroner's request to changed the description and salary of her part time staff member.

The motion brought the request off the table on a 6 – 1 vote with Councilman Mollenhauer voting nay.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
Nay					X			1

Councilman Yagelski made the first motion to move the part time employee to a second deputy position. Councilman Kiel asked the Coroner to explain how this would affect her office and how this position currently performs. Attorney DiMartino suggested that Councilman Yagelski's motion does not solve the issue and suggested that the council change the position to a full time position at least until the end of the year. (Reflected in second motion made by Councilman Kiel below.) Councilman Yagelski's motion was supported by Councilman Mollenhauer. President Koronka called for the vote. The motion failed 3-4. Vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X				X		X	3
Nay		X	X	X		X		4

Councilman Kiel then made a second motion to change the first deputy position to a full time position from part time until the end of the year. A discussion took place on the salary of the position. Councilwoman Heath also stated for the record that this position was not formally approved by the Personnel Committee. The motion was supported by Councilman Pressel. The motion carried 4 – 3. The vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye		X	X	X		X		4
Nay	X				X		X	3

NEW BUSINESS

- *Job evaluation committee recommendation for Clerical Assistant/Secretary (COMOT IV) position re-classification for Family and Juvenile Court Administrator (COMOT V)

A motion was made by Councilman Pressel to accept the recommendation and reclassify the position. The motion was supported by Councilwoman Heath. The motion passed 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

- New Business – LaPorte County Circuit Court Clerk - Permission to hire (replace) a Deputy Clerk

Motion of support was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed 5 -2 with Councilman Mollenhauer and Councilman Yagelski dissenting.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X		X		5
Nay					X		X	2

LaPorte County Highway Director & Commissioner Steve Holifield
Requesting permission to raise salary for County Engineer.
(\$108,000 is the listed salary in MVH)

Motion to accept was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilwoman Heath. Request was accepted 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye		X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay	X							0

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

APPROPRIATIONS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

LaPorte County Park Superintendent, Jeremy Sobecki

Requesting permission to spend \$30,000 from \$30,000.00
 1179.41002.00000.0259

A motion was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath to accept the request for permission to spend. Motion passed 6 – 1.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

Requesting and additional appropriation of \$34,455.62 \$34,455.62
 For the purchase of a truck replacement

1191 Riverboat
 4220 Win Tax
 1112 LIT Economic Development

A motion was made by Councilman Kessler for an additional appropriation from LIT Economic Development for the replacement of truck for the Parks Department and supported by Councilman Pressel and Mollenhauer. Motion passed 6 – 1.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

LaPorte County Building Maintenance, Director, Angie Davis

\$23,468.90

Requesting permission to pay Larson Danielson invoice
 For temporary heat at the courthouse. Original contract was for
 \$82,000. Originally taken from the Rainy Day Fund.
 Remaining invoice - \$23,468.90

1138 CCD
 1186 Rainy Day

A motion was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Kiel to approve the funding from Fund 1138 CCD. The motion passed by a vote of 6 – 1 with Councilman Yagelski voting nay.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

Change order approval needed for Larson Danielson Bathroom Project \$3,666.38

Men's Water line Relocation \$395.84
 Additional Tile \$905
 Repair Broken Collars \$1,121.46
 Add dedicated Line \$880
 Exhaust Fan Motor \$996.08

Original appropriation taken from 1138 CCD fund.

1138 CCD
 1186 Rainy Day

A motion was made by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilwoman Heath to approve the funding from Fund 1138 CCD. The motion passed by a vote of 6 – 1 with Councilman Yagelski voting nay.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

LaPorte County Adult Probation. Steve Eyrick, Chief Probation Officer
 Correcting salary ordinance to reflect current
 Probation Officer's salaries – permission to spend from
 1231.10173.00152.1017

\$1,930.00

A motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

Correcting salary ordinance to reflect current
 Probation Officer's salaries – additional appropriation from
 The General Fund – 1000 into
 1000.10173.00000.0147

\$53,633.00

A motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Michigan City Circuit Court Probation
 Correcting salary ordinance to reflect current
 Probation Officer's salaries – additional appropriation from
 The General Fund - 1000
 1000.10173.00000.0154

\$17,404.00

A motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County E911 Director. Matt Deckard
 Requesting an additional appropriation of
 \$110,500 from Fund 1170 for LIT Public Safety Or
 Fund 1191 Riverboat

\$110,500.00

\$100,000 for the Motorola Maintenance Contract.
 & \$10,500 for the Pulse Point Contract

During budget hearings, the council approved this from the LIT Public Safety (1170), but when the LIT Public Safety was consolidated, not everything was transferred into the General Fund (1000). This was one of the things that got missed. The original amount approved was \$20,000. This is for the E911 Pulse Point Contract. \$10,500 is needed for the Pulse Point Contract. The Auditor noted that we should be receiving around \$9,000,000 in May for the LIT supplement.

A motion of support was made by Councilman Kiel from LIT Public Safety and seconded by Councilman Pressel, Kessler and Mollenhauer for the Motorola Contract. The motion passed by a vote of 6 -1.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

1170.30007.0734.0227 (LIT Public Safety) Or
1191.30007.00140.0272 (Riverboat)

This is a similar situation except that during budget hearings, the council approved this from the LIT Public Safety (1170), but when the LIT Public Safety was consolidated, not everything was transferred into the General Fund (1000). This was one of the things that got missed. The original contract was \$97,000 but has now changed to \$100,000. This is for the E911 Motorola Maintenance Contract.

A motion of support from LIT Public Safety was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 6 – 1.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

LaPorte County EMS Director Eric Fenstermaker \$80,000.00
Requesting an additional appropriation of \$80,000 from
1170.30007.0000.0227 or requesting an
additional appropriation for \$80,000
from Maintenance contracts as follows:

ChiComm	Radio Equipment	\$3,000.00
TriTech	Billing Software	\$4,000.00
W2W	Scheduling	\$1,100.00
eDispatches	Alerting	\$3,500.00
Caliber	Mobile CAD	\$7,000.00
Net Cloud	Vehicle Modems	\$5,000.00
ImageTrend	EPCR Software/Analytics	\$20,000.00
LMS	Training Software	\$3,600.00
Handtevy	Pediatric Treatmet/Training Guide	\$4,600.00
Current		
Electric	Generator Maintenance	\$3,700.00
Stryker	Cot/Power Load/Lucas	\$50,000.00
Village	Fire Extinguishers	\$500.00
Blue and Co	Medicaid Reimbursement	\$5,700.00
Log Rx	Narcotics Tracking	\$6,500.00
Mirador	Tablet Management	\$1,500.00
		\$119,700.00

This is a similar situation to the E 911 request.

A motion of support was made by Councilman Pressel and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 6 - 1.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

TRANSFERS/PERMISSION TO SPEND-APPROPRIATELaPorte County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Heather Stevens

\$2,000.00

Requesting permission to spend not to exceed \$2,000

For the Tier 2 Membership to MS-ISAC from

1111.00000.00000.0000 (Campaign Finance Enforcement)

A motion of support was made by Councilwoman Heath and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Sheriff, Sheriff Ron Heeg

\$75,000.00

Requesting permission to spend not to exceed \$75,000

For repairs to kitchen equipment and various technology

Upgrades

From the Asset Forfeiture Fund

4003.00000.00000.0000

A motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter Director, Brooke Kegebein

\$10,500.00

Requesting permission to spend not to exceed \$10,500

For Washer & Dryer from the Animal Shelter Donation Fund

4100.20021.00000.0531

Director Kegebein stated that the quote came in at \$14,000 not \$10,500 so the amount on the agenda was increased to \$14,000 since it does not have to be advertised and just appropriated in the already existing fund.

Councilman Kiel made a motion to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$14,000. The motion was supported by Councilman Pressel and passed on a 7 – 0 vote.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter Director, Brooke Kegebein (Continued)

Requesting permission to spend \$20,000

For Veterinarian services

\$20,000.00

From the LP Animal Control Citation Fee Fund

4008.30105.00000.0728

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Adult Probation Chief Probation Office, Steve Eyrick

\$2,100.00

Requesting permission to spend \$2,100 to purchase a laptop

And necessary software

From 2102.41007.00000.0334 (Probation User Fees)

A motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Heath and supported by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Prosecuting Attorney, Sean Fagan \$35,500.00

Requesting permission to spend \$35,500 as follows:

\$2,500 for Michigan City Midnight Hoops

\$33,000 for IT Service/Maintenance Contracts

Please transfer funds from Fund 2500 (User Fees)

To 2501.20021.000.343 (Pre Trial Diversion)

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Councilwoman Heath abstained since she is on the board of Midnight Hoops. Vote was as follows:

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	Abstained	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
Nay								0

LaPorte County Juvenile Probation Department \$500.00

Requesting to appropriate and transfer of funds,

\$500.00

From: 2511.20021.000.0321 (Other supplies)

To: 2511.30120.000.0321 (Services & charges)

Motion of support was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath. Motion passed 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Coroner, Lynn Swanson \$600.00

Requesting permission to spend \$600 for Coroner's

Inservice Training Certification hours

Fund 2053.30027.00000.0973 (Non reverting fund)

Motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kiel. Motion passed 7 – 0.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Planner/LaPorte County Auditor \$15,000.00

Requesting permission to spend from

2067.10021.00000.0246 (other personal services)

For additional \$15,000 for director's salary

This is to complete the council's action during budget hearings to increase Director Polan's salary taken from the Contractor's Registration fees.

Motion to accept was made by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Kessler.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Kiel reminded everyone to vote on or before May 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

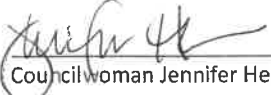
EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 27th day of April, 2026.



Councilman President Adam Koronka

on Teams Meeting

Councilman Justin Kiel



Councilwoman Jennifer Heath



Councilman Brett Kessler



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Jimmy Pressel



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Michael Rosenbaum, La Porte County Auditor

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Kiel reminded everyone to vote on or before May 5th.

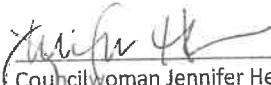
ADJOURNMENT

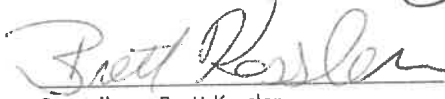
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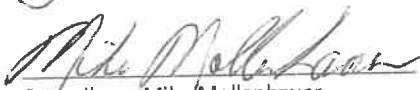
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Councilman President Adam Koronka

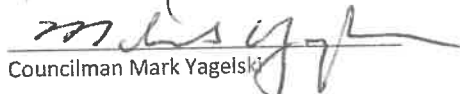
on Teams Meeting
Councilman Justin Kiel


Councilwoman Jennifer Heath


Councilman Brett Kessler


Councilman Mike Mollenhauer


Councilman Jimmy Pressel


Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 
Michael Rosenbaum, La Porte County Auditor