

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

**MEETING MINUTES
LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR
MINUTES
March 23, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Adam Koronka at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Koronka.

ROLL CALL was taken by Auditor Michael Rosenbaum. All members were present.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilman Brett Kessler offered the following amendments:

- Under Correspondence, please add Director Jeremy Sobecki & the LaPorte County Parks Annual Report.
- On page 2, after building maintenance, add “Microvote” presentation.

Motion made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

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

APPROVAL OF February 23rd, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to table was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Kiel.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Pollock, Michigan City Resident, had a problem bidding on the Commissioner's Sale. He didn't realize it was an online sale and went to the Fairgrounds for the sale. He offered a few suggestions:

- Open the parcels that had no bids on them to the public again after the sale.
- If the bid was not collected, open the parcel to the public.
- Parcels owned by the Board of Commissioners still not sold, open to the public for bids.

Tom "Goot" Logwood, LaPorte County, asked that the entire monthly Council meeting be posted online each month. Believes the agenda should be public. Had questions about the county's financial reports from Gateway. Councilman Kiel was interested in seeing the reports.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Jeremy Sobecki, Park and Rec director, spoke to the Council about his Capital Asset Report/Plan. Talked about the assets the department has acquired, how they acquired the assets and talked about future acquisitions. Also mentioned the truck that needs to be replaced.

Treasurer Dan Barenie discussed a few topics – last year \$3.2 million was received in interest; 20/25 year close of the books was completed and balanced; 2026 tax bills have been approved by the DLGF; 50% of the properties included on the Commissioner's Sale were sold. He also spoke about the Positive Pay program we participate in with Horizon Bank that help us identify \$41,000 in fraud.

Darlene Hale gave a report that she and Councilman Yagelski have been working on copier agreements and a solution for cutting back on the copiers in the county. Bids received so far are lower than in previous years. She and Councilman Yagelski will be asking for a workshop to discuss the program.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Pressel – has attended the Plan Commission meetings and an Open House on the Comprehensive Plan. He commented that the Hiler Building bathrooms project is complete.

Councilman Yagelski – discussed the heating system and problems in the courthouse. Will be asking for support from the council to replace 2 units.

Councilman Mollenhauer – attended the Sheriff's Merit Commission meeting; met with EMA director, Rob Sabie, on the condition of the emergency sirens and discussed the need to replace 50 sirens. Congratulated Connie Trojanowski from the sheriff's department on her retirement after 48 years and wished her well.

Councilwoman Heath – met with the Health department, Juvenile Services, MS4, personnel committee, RDC meeting, and Paladin. Paladin needs funds to continue their transportation program.

Councilman Kiel – Nothing at this time

Councilman Kessler – attended the Small Animal Shelter reorganization meeting; attended the RDC meeting

Councilman Koronka – attended the FMEC meeting and the RDC meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum stated that the following correspondence has been received:

- the 2025 Jail Information Report – Sheriff Ron Heeg
- the 2025 LaPorte County Parks Annual Report – Director Jeremy Sobecki

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Superior Court 4 Judge Greta Friedman updated the Council on the Recovery House Project. In 2020, a group came before the Council to discuss building a Recovery Home. They returned in 2024 and secured \$750,000 in Opioid Restricted funds from the Council and a matching \$750,000 from the Health Foundation. She explained that this is not a rehab facility but a recovery home, a residential home. Judge Friedman then turned the presentation over to Jon Gilmore who gave an update of where the project is at this time. A discussion took place.

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to Hire

LaPorte County HR Director, Monique Thomas

Job evaluation committee recommendations:

EMS

Director Eric Fenstermaker explained that this restructuring has been in the works since 2018. He explained the structure of the request. Trying to move position around to mirror the current jobs of each position. Not asking for additional funding, not adding any positions, just asking for repositioning/restructuring.

Councilman Yagelski moved to *table* the request. The motion was supported by Councilman Kiel.

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

Juvenile Probation

LaShawn O’Neal explained the request. Creating a new position (reclassification) based on the retirement of a position. A discussion took place.

Councilman Yagelski made a motion to accept the changes. Councilwoman Heath supported the motion.

The motion will take place at the next payroll.

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

LaPorte County Building Maintenance Director, Angela Davis

Requesting permission to hire office manager.

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to accept the new position which will be the first line in receiving all the bills, etc. Councilman Kessler and Pressel seconded the motion.

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

LaPorte County Circuit Court/Judge Havens:

Chief of Staff, Atley Price

Preliminary presentation for funding assistance to upgrade Circuit Court Courtroom's audio and visual equipment.

Judge Havens presented plans to upgrade Circuit Court's audio/visual equipment. They are the last court to be upgraded.

Building Maintenance, Angie Davis, Director

Change order approval needed for Larson Danielson Bathroom Project

Paint Color	\$250
Additional Tile	\$905
Repair Broken Collars	\$1,121.46
Add dedicated Line	\$880

Councilwoman Heath made the motion to accept the change orders. Councilman Kessler supported the motion.

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

Microvote Presentation

A presentation on upgrading the county's voting machines was given. The cost will be approximately \$2,800 per machine. The county currently has 325 machines. Because we use voting centers, we could probably reduce the number of machines. The county would have to spend 50% and then pay the remainder 25% and 25%. No decision was made at this time.

APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

TRANSFERS/PERMISSION TO SPEND-APPROPRIATE

LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center

Director Dion Campbell, requests permission to spend \$497.00
For the purchase of a television
From the NOVA fund

Councilman Kessler made the motion to approve the request and Councilwoman Heath supported the motion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

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

EMS, Director Eric Fenstermaker

Requesting permission to spend for approval of \$15,500.00
Summer PR events including
EMS weeks, Fair, SB Cubs game & cookout
Not to exceed \$12,000 from 4114 Public Outreach
Not to exceed \$3,500 from 4103 EMS Donation

Balance: 4114 \$22,095.27

Balance: 4103 \$7,410.78

Councilwoman Heath made the motion to approved the entire request and Councilman Kessler and Councilman Pressel both supported the motion. 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 Planning Director, Mitch Bishop,

Requests permission to spend/appropriate \$90,000.00
\$90k matching funds for PE
From Fund 1135 (Cumulative Bridge Funds)

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to approve the request with Councilman Kessler supporting the motion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

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

Bid packet from state for the Johnson Road CCMG
Project – Bids to be opened 4/1/2026 at
Commissioner's meeting

LaPorte County Adult Probation, Chief Probation Officer,
Steve Eyrick, requesting permission to spend/appropriate
 \$1,800 (see quote) for a laptop for Superior Court 4 Bailiff.
 Purchase to be made from Probation User Fee account
 2102-410007-000-0334

\$1,800.00

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to approve the request and Councilwoman Heath and Councilman Kessler both supported the motion. The motion passed 7 – 0.

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

Purchase of 2 (two) Kodak scanners
 From 2102-41007-000-0334 (Probation User Fees)

\$2,400.00

Councilman Kessler made the motion to approve the request and Councilwoman Heath supported the motion. 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 Sheriff Ron Heeg,
 Requesting permission to spend
 From the Misdemeanant Fund
 For various jail repairs

\$8,000.00

1175.000000.00000.000 (\$182,522.64)

Councilman Mollenhauer made the motion to approve the request and Councilwoman Heath supported the motion.
 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 Auditor, Michael Rosenbaum
 Requests approval of a penalty payment made
 To the IRS due to the treasurer's late payment
 Of payroll taxes

\$7,048.68

1000.50001.00000.010

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to approve the request and Councilman Kessler supported the motion.
 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 Prosecutor, Sean Fagan

\$20,000.00

Requesting a transfer of \$20,000 for the following:

\$5,000 for the 2026 Juvenile Symposium

\$15,000 for Law Enforcement Services & Equipment

From Fund #2500 to #2501.20021.00000.0343

Councilman Mollenhauer made the motion to approve the request and Councilman Kiel supported the motion. 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 JDAI Coordinator &

\$1,599.96

Director of Juvenile Court Services, Tyler Washluske

Requests permission to spend \$1,599.96 for 2

Computers

1000.20001.00000.0148 (office supplies) transfer to:

1000.41001.00000.0148 (computers)

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

Councilwoman Heath made the motion to approve the request and Councilman Kiel supported the motion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Koronka asked that the auditor try one more time to get a vendor to look at the county reducing costs.

Workshop related to copiers and printers.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Heath supported the motion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

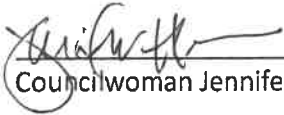
EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 23rd day of March, 2026.



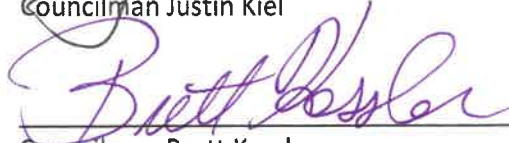
Councilman President Adam Koronka



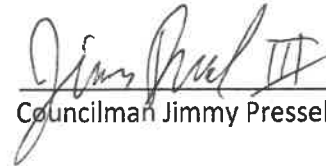
Councilman Justin Kiel



Councilwoman Jennifer Heath



Councilman Brett Kessler



Councilman Jimmy Pressel



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:

Michael Rosenbaum, La Porte County Auditor