



La Porte County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
(219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Steve Holifield
President

Connie Gramarossa
Vice President

Joe Haney
Member

La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 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 Jeff Hamilton.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum called the roll: **Commissioner Holifield** - Present; **Commissioner Haney** - Present; **Commissioner Gramarossa** - Absent. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** motioned for RFQs for a design build proposal for qualifications for heating/cooling in the La Porte Courthouse in the City of La Porte. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Considered approval of the June 3, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 6/12/2026 - \$1,526,220.86. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$3,206,976.42. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

President Steve Holifield, state your name and address, three minutes allowed for Public Comments, no personal attacks on anyone.

Public Comment

Angie Henzman, 237 Leo Ave, Michigan City, Voter Registration Democrat Co-Director, Public Service Announcement, those interested in running for local school board, deadline for turning paperwork in is tomorrow at 12:00 noon. Ten (10) signatures required with verification from the Voter Registration office that the signatures are registered voters in our county. Thank you for your swift action in the La Porte Courthouse with the air conditioning. After watching the joint workshop, will there be a temperature limit set for the building's heating/cooling indicating it is no longer safe for the people inside the La Porte Courthouse? Temperatures were close to 90 degrees inside, is there a policy? Liked a suggestion by Councilman Justin Kiel at the workshop of a 'cool off' room.

Jody Slabaugh, no address stated, knows this is not on the agenda but would like to talk about the Infrastructure Development Zone, the IDZ will be on your next agenda, encouraged the Commission to do more research. How much will this cost us? How much money will be given away to Surf Wireless - they're a great partner, personally done business with them, in a time now when the County is suffering a revenue shortage, a problem meeting our own bills, been a while since he's been in an economics class. Used to have a 'but for' test in economics that was used to determine if say a project goes through 'but for' this incentive or is this thing going to kill it? Did research on the IDZ for Surf, going to post it on Facebook, gave a quick synopsis. The \$7,000,000 in the newspaper article is \$1.2 million dollars of tax payer money that's being put into that project, Surf Air is putting in \$5.8 million dollars, they are the third largest in Indiana to receive Bead Funds to the tune of \$55 million dollars in 2025, \$70 million dollars in Illinois and \$54 million up in Michigan, took the assets they have in the ground here now - appraised at about \$28,000,000 - took it to Wall Street this year and raised \$407,000,000 through Bank Capital, Goldman Sachs. Thinks as a small County struggling to pay our own bills, we need to look closely at who we're giving, having this tax break to and why, thank you.

Department Head Comments

Dakota Euler, Weights and Measures, gave a report on June 15, 2025 through June 15, 2026. ***Report attached to minutes

ORIGINAL

Requests

Considered travel to Reno for NAPSA training August 30-Sept 2, 2026, **Steve Eyrick**, Adult Probation. No additional funds required. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriation for sirens, **Rob Sabie**, EMA. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered travel to Jacksonville for Hazmat training June 29-July 3. **Jeff Hamilton**, Hazmat, CSX Railroad will be funding the entire trip. We have 500 freight trains a day across our County. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

President Steve Holifield, at the Joint Workshop held for discussion on the La Porte Courthouse air conditioning/heating, Facilities Director Ms. Davis will get RFQ proposals for cost to fix the entire system. Spoke to three engineering companies, will forward the information to Ms. Davis. We're looking at \$90,000 for outstanding bills right now and it's not even fixed. **Commissioner Haney motioned to allow RFQs go out for design build proposals. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** **Attorney DiMartino** suggested a timeline of the second meeting in July or first meeting in August. Clarified proposals submitted to the Auditor's office by 12:00 p.m. noon on August 4th for the Commissioners' meeting on August 5th at 10:00 a.m. Does not need to be sealed when turned in to the Auditor's office.

New Business

Considered appointment of Veterans Service Officer. **President Holifield**, last week a committee conducted five (5) interviews with Veterans Service Officer applicants. Committee members were Commissioner Holifield, HR Monique Thomas, Veterans Rich Mrozinski, Steve Moore, Roger Galloway and current VSO Eduardo Lozano. Unanimously chose **Don Jozwiak**, a 22-year county employee with the Highway Department and a 20-year veteran with the United States Air Force. **Don** approached the podium, introduced himself, grew up as a military 'brat' or a child born on an Air Force Base, father was in the military for 20 years, extremely thankful for this opportunity and he is looking forward to the future. **Commissioner Haney motioned to appointment Don Jozwiak. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** **President Holifield**, there was talk on the Part-time VSO working for a short-term period to help Don in the Full-time position. Current VSO Eduardo Lozano submitted his resignation effective June 26, 2026. **Commissioner Haney motioned to have Don's start date as June 22nd to be trained for at least a week with VSO Eduardo Lozano.** VSO Eduardo Lozano, our District VSO Mark Gourley will train Don for a week as well. **Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** **Commissioner Haney motioned to appoint Eduardo Lozano as the Part-time VSO starting on June 29th. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered Resolution for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant application, **Jeremy Sobecki**, Parks Superintendent. This is to start on Hunt Lake, former County Highway garage in Rolling Prairie, Wills Township, 3993 N. 700 E., this grant includes environmental site assessment, wetland delineation, water quality testing, threatening endangered species review and some site cleanup. This is for \$70,000 in a grant and \$20,000 match for a total of \$90,000. This has been reviewed/approved by Attorney Guy DiMartino. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve by title only. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** **Attorney DiMartino** read into the record, 'Resolution 2026-2, a resolution of the La Porte County Board of Commissioners authorizing the La Porte County Parks Department to apply for a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) - business opportunity grant for Hunt Lake.' **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the resolution as read. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.** **Parks Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki**, this will be the initial stages, kind of preconstruction type of work to get out of the way so that we're ready go when we find another grant that can help us fund the actual construction part of that property. This does not mean the park will be open right now. *****Resolution 2026-2**

Considered changing meeting date August 19th to August 17th. **President Holifield** is on the State Water Summit Steering Committee, their annual meeting in Indianapolis is that week, he attended last year and it is a lot of good information, one whole day is dedicated to data center water usage which is something we really need to look at in this county. He would like to attend this meeting if possible. **Commissioner Haney motioned to move our meeting date of August 19, 6:00 p.m. meeting to August 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. meeting. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Old Business

Considered discussion of policy for pool cars. **President Holifield**, we obtained four (4) vehicles from the Prosecutor's office from their former Adult Protective Services office that was dissolved. Attorney DiMartino drafted a vehicle use policy, a few items need to be ironed out, fuel budget, who maintains the vehicles, general expense say for oil changes, tires, every day maintenance. County Sheriff Garage can't do it because they have their own vehicles to maintain. What is the pleasure of this board on it? **Commissioner Haney**, having a pool car is a valuable resource for employees, we've had multiple vehicles go down throughout the years and having at least one pool car available that can be used is valuable. **President Holifield**, having four is excessive, they're fairly new vehicles with value. Discussion continued for a bit. Suggested getting a line item in the budget to cover the cost of maintenance for the vehicles. **Attorney DiMartino** drafted a policy and it has not been adopted yet.

ORIGINAL

Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the policy for employee pool vehicle check out with the addition that the vehicle be returned with a full tank of gas. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0. **Commissioner Haney** motioned for the Board to approach the Council for \$1,500 line item for miscellaneous maintenance on the pool vehicles. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

President Steve Holifield, discussed downtown parking for employees in the City of La Porte. The City has been issuing citations to vehicles that are parked longer than the 2-hour parking timeframe in designated places along the streets. Our employees don't have time to keep moving their vehicles every two hours. One employee in Maintenance received a ticket after parking his vehicle in a designated two-hour parking place and was out working all day. Can't be expected to come back from Michigan City or somewhere else to move their vehicle. The mayor is going nowhere with us, he claims we're disrupting down town businesses yet no down town business has had the courage to come say, 'hey, you're taking parking spots away from my customers.' I know one thing, I don't think its very helpful to the down town, something we did when I was a union stewart, we would just plain boycott some of these businesses and maybe get the attention of the City if their businesses start losing money, we can't make a motion or anything like that but that's something that I recommend, I've started doing that, what's your thoughts, sir (**Commissioner Haney**)? **Commissioner Haney**, depending on where our employees are parking would depend on exactly what parameters it would fall in, right? The horseshoe between the courthouse and complex belongs to the County but at the same time I don't think employees should be parking there, that's for folks coming to do business here, the areas on the street where visitors to either the Hiler Building, Courthouse or the Annex are likely to park, those spots should be available for citizens to come and use, when you're looking at other spots that our employees are using that are further down the line where people generally speaking, these spots don't fill up during the day, they're not taking away from businesses along Lincolnway or right across from the Courthouse but when you're getting in closer proximities where it could impact businesses or folks trying to come in and out, especially during tax time, right, we have a huge inflow of older folks coming in and there's only a couple of handicap spots there, you don't want them walking blocks away. The City ticketing is one issue but then the other side is just using good judgement, are you parking somewhere to cause a citizen to walk further than they need to, just use good judgement. **President Holifield**, told by City of La Porte Code Enforcement Officer that the County has a parking area, parking lot, well upon further research we gave the former Don George property to the City of La Porte in exchange for the horseshoe and we were supposed to receive the parking lot behind Ludwigs, the Don George property was sold, they made money off that, the property behind Ludwig's is not ours, we never received a lease, nothing, it still belongs to the railroad. My issue is expecting ladies to walk from the courthouse, anywhere else in our buildings, behind a building along the railroad tracks, especially in the dark where they can't be seen for two full city blocks, this is something that needs to be addressed, the City's just going to continue to butt heads with us on this, can you (**Attorney DiMartino**) reach out to City Attorney Nick Otis? **Attorney DiMartino**, he said he would reach out to the railroad and they're not going to change their parking ordinances. Understands that in the winter not wanting to walk two blocks, but right now there's not a problem with going out in the afternoon being dark, hate to be a stick in the mud but we have the same problem at the Michigan City Courthouse, that parking lot is *all* employees, people who come to the Courthouse are not parking there because there's no place to park. **President Holifield**, it'd be a shame if between us every two hours for us having to move cars, I don't know, maybe delaying them from getting their tax draw from us, takes longer for them to get their money? These are all little things, I learned when I was a union stewart, we do have some clout here, it won't be pretty but it's some things we can do. **Attorney DiMartino**, right, I understand that but why should - I'm playing devil's advocate - **President Holifield**, I understand. **Attorney DiMartino**, why should a two-hour parking space be filled by a county employee working eight (8) hours? Why can't that county employee move two or three blocks outside the range where there's not a longer parking range? Do you understand what I'm saying? **President Holifield**, I understand where you're coming from. **Attorney DiMartino**, they made their ordinance as to the two-hour parking for some type of reason. **President Holifield**, they stopped enforcing it and now all of a sudden, they are. **Attorney DiMartino**, they didn't have the enforcement capabilities, they didn't have an enforcement agent. **President Holifield**, they've got captain camera car out there now. **Attorney DiMartino**, they do, he's very assertive or she's very assertive. **President Holifield**, you could set your clock by him going through, checking our parking. **Attorney DiMartino**, I get it, I'm not a lobbyist for La Porte City, these are issues we need to deal with, this is an issue that has been going on for years, don't know what happened with the Don George exchange, that was before my time, but nobody followed up in getting that property transferred from the railroad and now they won't even answer calls. **President Holifield**, yes, I think a part of that is the depot property, the City was very adamantly and they were, in my opinion, rude and nasty to the railroad, myself personally, if I was the railroad, I'd bulldozed it down and just left it, that's just me, what should we do? That's technically not our parking lot. **Attorney DiMartino**, you can still use it, we have the ability to use it but people don't want to use it. **Commissioner Haney**, for folks that don't know, where Ludwigs is at, in between kind of where the shopping mall is at and the railroad tracks, if you're standing between the Hiler and the Annex, looking towards the railroad tracks, dead ends at the tracks, you turn right and it goes down that way. One of the things I'm curious about is exactly how many spots we might be short on parking in the larger parking area that we do have - **Attorney DiMartino**, that nobody uses? **Commissioner Haney**, where the underpass is because usually when I go past there it is half-full, three-quarters full, other than when construction was going on and remodeling of this building, other than that time period when contractors were here working, that is the only time I ever remembering seeing it close to full. **Attorney DiMartino**, would it be a better option when employees arrive to work, getting a golf cart to shuttle them? **President Holifield**, who's going to run the golf cart? **Attorney DiMartino**, you'd have to get somebody, a part-time person - we do have spaces, it's inconvenient and I don't want to be derogatory but some people are lazy.

President Holifield, I didn't say that and the other day we received emails from a couple of ladies from 911 (meant to say EMS) about the condition of the parking lot, I went there and contacted Charity, she will be sure to get the pot holes filled. I saw stripes in that parking lot. I did see about 15-18 parking spots open at about 10:00 a.m. in the morning, not being used. **Attorney DiMartino**, because its not convenient. **President Holifield**, okay, do we make a rule about this? **Attorney DiMartino**, the rule is going to be that you're not going to pay their parking tickets. **President Holifield**, I do know I've been telling people to pull in backwards but I also understand they're looking at changing their ordinance that says we can't do that so even though that State says you can. **Attorney DiMartino**, why don't - we have a parking lot, it's not like the parking lot is overflowing. **President Holifield**, I would just like to know what downtown business claims that three (3) blocks away we're taking parking spots away from them because I informed the Mayor that we do spend an awful lot of money downtown at lunch time, an awful lot of money, but it fell on deaf ears so okay, the employees will have to start walking further and that's all there is to it so I guess the City wins again. **Attorney DiMartino**, what is this talk about the City winning? This is the City's streets, lets work to get that parking lot from the railroad if they'll talk to us. **President Holifield**, you talked to Nick Otis about that? **Attorney DiMartino**, I have. **President Holifield**, okay, we'll work on getting more parking spots.

President Holifield, moving on other things for discussion, there is a lady living across the street in an apartment building that takes her dog to the La Porte Courthouse lawn and the dog takes a dump. She was questioned by a couple of employees about that so she came to HR yesterday or today, forgot which day, and informed Stormi that we don't have an ordinance so we can't stop her from doing that, Mr. DiMartino, I think we have an ordinance for that, she can walk downtown somewhere and find a place for her dog to dump since she lives in the City. **Attorney DiMartino**, are you asking me to do a poop ordinance? **President Holifield**, yes, I am, sir, yes. **Attorney DiMartino**, so is the ordinance going to have a time restraint? If your animal poops on County property, you have 15 seconds to pick it up? How would you like that structured? **President Holifield**, they just can't walk their dogs on our County property. **Attorney DiMartino**, oh, you can't. **President Holifield**, because they have that big giant hospital lot down there that nobody knows what to do with and they also have that parcel in front of the railroad depot. **Attorney DiMartino**, sometimes the dogs they're walking are on a chain and they'll walk over into the grass, how are you going to stop the dogs from walking on the property? I could see saying 'you have to pick up the waste,' but I don't think you can stop the animals. **President Holifield**, you want to know how to stop them? **Attorney DiMartino**, you know about that. **President Holifield**, we can't stop this lady from doing this? **Attorney DiMartino**, can we stop her from having the dog go on the property? **President Holifield**, she takes the dog up there on purpose, lets it walk around. **Attorney DiMartino**, the issue is not picking up the waste? **President Holifield**, sometimes she does and sometimes she doesn't, employees have told me. **Attorney DiMartino**, you have me put together ordinances that I don't agree with 100%, I work for you, tell me what you want in the ordinance and I will structure it. **President Holifield** asked Commissioner Haney for his thoughts. **Commissioner Haney**, I know there's a preexisting ordinance that goes back a hundred odd years probably. **Attorney DiMartino**, will you be able to find that Diane? **Commissioner Haney**, we've referenced it before, it bans people from walking on the Courthouse lawn, it's decades old, maybe not quite a hundred but we've referenced it many times, so technically without permission from the Commissioners you can't walk on the Courthouse lawn, that used to be a big sticking point of a former Commissioner, didn't like people on the lawn so I guess the question is this time of the year people are outside having a wedding service in front of our Indian that stands in front of the Courthouse, just had a wedding yesterday, people come and go, we've got our Independence Day decorations which are going up soon and do we need animals on leashes getting up there - for those that haven't been up close to the Courthouse, there's a large concrete embankment that surrounds the entire Courthouse lawn with the exceptions of the cutouts in it where the sidewalks are so animals just don't, if you're walking by, you're not accidentally going to be up there, you've got to make a specific path to walk up the sidewalk to allow the dog access to it, I love my dog and if the dog's got to go, the dog's got to go, like a one-off situation, things happen, right, but what I'm hearing is you got somebody coming out, half the time in a bathrobe or whatever, not that that's indecent or anything but using the Courthouse lawn, which is a historic structure and most people here in La Porte County, as their personal rest area, you've got spots that form in the lawn from repeated dog urination in the same locations, its not just a simple one time of walking your dog downtown, this is a specific bathroom location used multiple times a day so given our ordinance prohibiting people from walking on the Courthouse lawn, I'm sympathetic to the plight, I get it, but at the same time how do you enforce it? **President Holifield**, a pellet rifle. **Commissioner Haney**, no. **Attorney DiMartino**, take a look at the ordinance. **President Holifield**, main concern is the rude audacity of her to say 'you don't have an ordinance, I can do what I want.' **Attorney DiMartino**, people can be rude.

President Holifield, okay, a few more little items, people are getting letters about the Elderberry Stillwell project coming from New Carlisle to Stillwell, a route has been picked and solicitation letters are also going out from a law firm, my opinion is they are ambulance chasers, I've notified the IURC, the OUCC, our State Reps Randy Novak and Jim Pressel, they're checking into that, I've been telling people you do not have to go with these people, if they come to you for property acquisition, talk to your own lawyer, just like the commercials about if you've been injured in a car accident to call certain attorneys.

President Holifield, last item is the stained-glass windows in the La Porte Courthouse. Do we give permission to these gentlemen to go in there and look at them? **Attorney DiMartino**, we sent an MOU to Bodie but he's never responded. **President Holifield**, he did respond yesterday. **Commissioner Haney**, that's good, I didn't see that. **President Holifield**, no, he didn't respond to that, he showed up, maintenance brought him over because he said - not sure if they caught him in the building - **Attorney DiMartino**, probably shouldn't have kicked him out of the Courthouse. **President Holifield**, Greg brought him over from the Courthouse because

ORIGINAL

I think they just showed up and started going through taking pictures. **Attorney DiMartino**, they need to schedule a visit. **President Holifield**, they can schedule it with maintenance and then be shown around. **Commissioner Haney**, and if they didn't sign an MOU do they get a new one? **Attorney DiMartino**, the only concern was they were going up ladders. **President Holifield**, he said he was doing it out of the kindness of his heart, free of charge but the way he went about it is what threw everybody off. **Commissioner Haney** will reach out to him; the date can be changed on the original MOU.

Commissioner Haney motioned to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

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

DATE 7-1-2026

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTEST: [Signature]

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ANNUAL REPORT**SDH 56-005 State
Form 376-19 (R4/95)Indiana Division of Weights & Measures
2525 N Shadeland Ave., Ste D3, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219
Office: (317) 356-7078 * Fax: (317) 351-2877
www.in.govInspector: **Dakota Euler**
Jurisdiction: **LaPorte County**
Date Start: **June 16, 2025**
Date End: **June 15, 2026****INDIANA WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

Equity in the Marketplace

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES	Correct	Rejected	Red Tags	TOTAL
SCALES				
Vehicle - State Police				0
Vehicle - State Inspection				0
Vehicle - City or County	28	1	0	29
Railroad Scales				0
Belt Conveyor Scales				0
Livestock Scales	6	0	0	6
Portable & Dormant Scales	74	6	2	82
Hopper Scales	11	0	0	11
Computing Scales	343	15	3	361
Suspension Scales	3	0	0	3
Prescription Scales	21	1	0	22
Gram Scales	6	0	0	6
Non-Commercial Scales	41	0	0	41
MEASURING DEVICES				
LPG Meters				0
CNG Meters				0
Vehicle Truck Meters	20	2	0	22
Gasoline, Kerosene, Diesel Tests	2108	80	52	2240
High Flow Diesel Tests	143	0	3	146
Mass Flow Meters	2	1	0	3
Taxi Meters				0
Timing Devices	232	30	5	267
CALIBRATIONS AND TESTS				
Commercial Weights				0
Prescription Weights				0
Wheel Weighers				0
Test Weights				0
Liquid Measures				0
Linear Measures				0
Miscellaneous				0
OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Packages Checked	7274	451	0	7725
Firewood	0	271	0	271
LP Gas Cylinders				0
Octane samples				0
Mulch				0
Misc. Determinations	25	0	0	25
GRAND TOTAL	10337	587	65	11260

COMMENTS

(Explain Miscellaneous Tests and Activities)

1) July 1 will mark the completion of my third year as Inspector of Weights and Measures for LaPorte County. It continues to be a rewarding opportunity to serve in a role that supports fairness, accuracy, and confidence in the local marketplace. I appreciate the trust placed in me and the continued cooperation of consumers, businesses, and colleagues as we work together to promote equity across the county.

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