



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, July 15, 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 observed for employees Katie Zabel (Clerk's office), Allyn Brown (Highway Department) and former employee Bobby Blair (Sheriff's Department) who all passed away.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to remove 10 'a' - Consider RFPs recommendation for HVAC/Plumbing for four (4) buildings then added under 10 'a' - Consider settlement recommendation via the County Attorney. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Claims with Payroll ending 7/10/2026 - \$1,534,119.89. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Auditor Mike Rosenbaum read the Operating Expense Claims - \$2,909,414.63. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve operating claims. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Considered approval of the July 1, 2026 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Holifield** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Public Comment

None

Department Head Comments

Angie Davis, Facilities Director, update on the La Porte Courthouse, 40 thermistors were ordered, only 13 have come in so far to fix some of the indoor units. Each unit requires two of them, ordered from different locations because most of them only had 1-2 in stock. First and third floor need help, on the third floor are condensate pumps that need to be replaced, waiting on those then on the first floor was an issue with a leak after the compressors were installed, it was recharged but waiting on the company to come back out and assess the problem, the temporary units are still in place. Gave a 'shout-out' to her guys who have been going above/beyond with putting the flags up, getting everybody cooled and all of that, and then with the Fair going on, gave another 'shout-out' to the Fair Board and volunteers out there, a lot of maintenance issues come up that they're not aware of, a lot of stuff has been taken care of by them instead of dragging her department out there or the Highway Department. There was a tree branch issue that was safely taken care of without having to call everyone else in because they know we're all busy, thank you.

Mike Rosenbaum, Auditor, as originally planned, Budget Hearings will start on Monday. The other thing is the tax abatement on the fuel tax by Governor Braun, we received \$301,000 less this month, the State has promised to reimburse us for that, they need to move money around and they have a meeting next Tuesday on where to pull the money, we should be receiving that by the end of the month. Does not know the timing of how the monthly reimbursements will be or the amount but will keep an eye on it, Highway Department is watching their spending as we watch the receipts come in. **President Holifield**, it'll be three months total though? **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum**, it will actually be four months. **President Holifield**, thank you. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, it would have been 1.2 million otherwise, thank you. **Commissioner Haney**, thank you.

Requests

None

ORIGINAL

Old Business

Considered a settlement agreement. **County Attorney Guy DiMartino**, the attorney mediated the case with EEOC and a former employee, a contingent settlement was agreed upon based on your approval for \$32,000, that's pretty much the cost of defense and he recommends the Commission consider it. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered removal of Rodney McCormick from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission Board. **County Attorney Guy DiMartino**, the statute changed July 1st, you are the appointing authority, the Commission is the same as when he was appointed, Mr. McCormick serves at the pleasure of the Board so you're free to move based on the motion and then you'll have to get names to replace him. If this is what you choose to do, there is a notice prepared that you can sign and send down state. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded**, he heard from Attorney Shaw Friedman's office on how the statute reads, he heard from State Rep Jim Pressel that we're in legal standing to do this and he spoke with the representative's office that authored House Bill 1161 last year allowing this to be done, we're within our rights to do this by state law. **Motion carried 2-0.**

New Business

Considered annual renewal contract with Kemp's Office City. **Darlene Hale**, IT, we had quotes from two companies, recommended we stay with Kemp's, they had two different renewals, one for \$36,775 and one for \$38,000, the \$38,000 contract includes a higher count for color copies, we usually have overages on color copies. The \$38,000 contract is closer to our true numbers; we will be installing software on the equipment for actual counts and she recommended the contract for \$38,000. She has funding in her budget. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered first reading for a Joint Commission & Council Ordinance establishing publishing requirements for Ordinances and Resolutions. **Commissioner Joe Haney**, sponsor of the Ordinance, we've talked about this for a while, this is straight forward, it is basically a publishing requirement for us to put ordinances/resolutions online 48 hours prior to the meetings then after approval, some filing requirements so they don't get lost in the future, our Commission Assistant does an amazing heavy lift on finding old ordinances/resolutions, this would be an extra layer to be able to have them recorded as well. We use American Legal to publish them online as well but sometimes they fall through the cracks, we can get them recorded with the Recorder's office for perpetuity, make it a bit easier moving forward for those coming in behind us after we're done. Asked Attorney DiMartino if an amendment needs to be made from five (5) to fifteen (15) days to be more inline with state law and would this be included in the motion. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, yes, move to first reading by title only with the change on page 2, under 30.33 'B,' instead of 'within five business days on the website, it'll be fifteen business days on the website.' This will be first reading now, it will go to the Council next which they may send it back to us with amendments, we will have second reading at our next meeting then it goes back to the Council for their second reading/approval so that would be the procedure. **Commissioner Haney motioned to read by title only with one change of five days to fifteen days for posting on our website. Commissioner Holifield seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Attorney DiMartino** read the title, 'an Ordinance establishing publishing requirements for Ordinances and Resolutions of the County Board of Commissioners and County Council.'

President Holifield, something happened last week, he's not pointing fingers or anything else but we had in excess of over 100 law enforcement officers here Friday, EMA asked me to help find lunch for them, they'd been on this manhunt way before breakfast in the morning because it started in Michigan, he suggested we do it, we'd figure out where it would come from later, thinks La Porte County can do better considering every year we seem to find hundreds of thousands of dollars for the fairgrounds, but we were only looking for a few hundred dollars to feed some law enforcement officers that were risking their lives to protect the citizens of La Porte County, went on the record with his statement. **Attorney DiMartino**, typically we have that ordinance that says it has to go before the body in order to spend money for food so you could probably have done something in writing then ratified it at this meeting. **Commissioner Haney**, since then he spoke to EMA Director Rob Sabie asking him to add it to his budget, say \$2,000 or something, it can be replenished later if it needs to be, that way the Council gets a pre-approved amount in there and then we can work on our end from straightening it out. **Auditor Mike Rosenbaum**, appreciates being allowed to speak, the Sheriff's office has the ability to do the food and if they were the ones in charge that morning, they would be the logical ones to be contacted, it was nice that they reached out to you, we were just trying to find the right protocol because this was not a usual circumstance. Just to make sure that everybody's aware, things could have been provided at that time. **President Holifield**, the Sheriff was rather busy. **Auditor Rosenbaum**, we get it but there's still a protocol, there's still - a decision could have been made to speak to them afterwards but he only understood there to be a certain protocol and there were other people with the Sheriff that could have helped. Just a bit of an explanation, wanted people to know that in a crisis situation, one of the suggestions was also to do something in the budget. **President Holifield**, Rob Sabie will approach that at the budget hearing, he's tried before but we all know budgets, he's not so sure the Council understands what a budget is so - **Auditor Rosenbaum**, your comment. **Attorney DiMartino**, okay mister...**President Holifield**, just telling you if I took that paperwork to my banker, he'd laugh me out of the building.

Commissioner Haney motioned to adjourn at 6:14 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 8-5-2026

[Signature]
[Signature]

ATTEST: [Signature]

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA



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