

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Auditor, the public interests required that the Lake County Council, should be called to meet in regular session at this time, for the purpose of considering additional appropriations, a written notice was sent to each member of the Council, and proper advertisement made, and all other acts performed in accordance with the laws governing such matters.

And now in obedience to such call, come Christine Cid, President, David Hamm, Ronald Brewer, Pete Lindemulder, Ted Bilski and Randy Niemeyer, County Councilpersons, together with Tom O'Donnell and Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorneys. Councilman Charlie Brown was in attendance via WebEx.

In the Matter of Minutes – December 10, 2024

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to defer to February 11, 2025. Majority voted yes. Motion to defer to February 11, 2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Reorganization – President

Cid opened nominations.

Brewer nominated Cid for Council President.

Cid declared herself as Council President.

In the Matter of Reorganization – Vice President

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Ronald Brewer.

Cid declared Ronald Brewer Vice-President.

In the Matter of Announcements:

Niemeyer – It was announced to me that our Assistant Elections Director, LeAnn Angerman, has taken a position with Senator Banks as their regional director, so we had a vacancy that we needed to fill in the election's office, which I have asked Jessica Messler to fill. She's been my right hand for a while, and I trust her to do a great job in elections. February 1st is LeAnn's official first day with Senator Banks office, so Jessica will be starting her training next week.

ORDINANCE #1503

Section 1. Be It Ordained by the County Council of Lake County, IN., that for the expenses of the County Government and its institutions, the following sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein appropriated, and shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided by law.

	Appropriation Requested	Appropriated
County General Fund 1001		
<u>Hammond and Gary Courthouses 9302</u>		
63510 Utilities	\$100,000.00	NO ACTION
Emergency Local Planning Fund 1185		
<u>Emergency Planning 9310</u>		
63995 Other Services & Charges	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Non-Reverting LC Fairgrounds Fund 1131		
<u>Fairgrounds 9201</u>		
61190 Part-Time	\$8,480.00	\$8,480.00

Clerk's Records Perpetuation Fund 1194

Clerk 1001

61100 Overtime	\$50,000.00	NO ACTION
61290 Supplemental Pay	\$5,000.00	“”

Lake County 911 Fund 1399

Lake County Commissioners 6002

63995 Other Services & Charges	\$14,000.00	NO ACTION
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C.A.S.A. Fund 1706

Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006

61210 Longevity – Deduction	\$620.00	\$620.00
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C.A.S.A. Fund 1706

Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006

61320 FICA – Deduction	(\$201.00)	(\$201.00)
61330 PERF – Deduction	(\$393.00)	(\$393.00)
61340 Group Insurance – Deduction	(\$116,000.00)	(\$116,000.00)
61360 Workman's Comp – Deduction	(\$9,099.00)	(\$9,099.00)

LC R.D.F. For Juveniles Fund 4392

Juvenile Detention Center 8003

61290 Supplemental Pay	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
61320 FICA – Deduction	\$459.00	\$459.00
61330 PERF – Deduction	\$852.00	\$852.00

Homeland Security Grant Fund 8249

Emergency Management 9304

64490 Other Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
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LCCEDD ARP Home Fund 8272

Economic Development 9307

63145 Legal Services	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
63150 Consultant Fees	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
64220 Building & Improvements	\$2,165,379.00	\$2,165,379.00

Child Support IV-D/FSSA Fund 8297

IV-D Court 4007

61140 Protective Services	\$46,171.00	\$46,171.00
61320 FICA – Deduction	\$3,533.00	\$3,533.00
61330 PERF – Deduction	\$6,557.00	\$6,557.00
61340 Group Insurance – Deduction	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00
61360 Workman's Comp – Deduction	\$910.00	\$910.00

Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345

Juvenile Court 4005

61190 Part-Time	(\$21,216.00)	(\$21,216.00)
61320 FICA – Deduction	(\$1,623.00)	(1,623.00)
62110 Office Supplies	(\$1,500.00)	(\$1,500.00)
63231 Travel – Registration	(\$1,700.00)	(\$1,700.00)
63232 Travel – Meals	(\$600.00)	(\$600.00)
63233 Travel – Lodging	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)
63234 Travel – Trans/Other	(\$425.00)	(\$425.00)
63235 Travel – Mileage	(\$1,275.00)	(\$1,275.00)
63310 Printing	(\$2,000.00)	(\$2,000.00)
63910 Dues & Subscriptions	(\$840.00)	(\$840.00)
63920 Food & Lodging	(\$1,500.00)	(\$1,500.00)
63995 Other Services & Charges	(\$7,000.00)	(\$7,000.00)

2025 Juvenile Mental Health Court Grant Fund 9355

Juvenile Court 4005

61290 Supplemental Pay	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
61320 FICA – Deduction	\$1,605.00	\$1,605.00
61330 PERF – Deduction	\$1,605.00	\$1,605.00
63190 Other Professional Service	\$54,288.00	\$54,288.00
63231 Travel – Registration	\$700.00	\$700.00
63232 Travel – Meals	\$200.00	\$200.00
63233 Travel – Lodging	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
63234 Travel – Trans/Other	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
63235 Travel – Mileage	\$400.00	\$400.00
63995 Other Services & Charges	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00

LC CASA Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377

Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006

61320 FICA – Deduction	\$2,532.00	\$2,532.00
61330 PERF – Deduction	\$1,756.00	\$1,756.00
63235 Travel – Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
63995 Other Services & Charges	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

LC CASA Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377

Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006

61290 Supplemental Pay	(\$8,000.00)	(\$8,000.00)
61340 Group Insurance – Deduction	(\$144,999.00)	(\$144,999.00)
61360 Workman’s Comp – Deduction	(\$4,549.00)	(\$4,549.00)

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2024.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS CERTIFICATE

I, the proper legal officer of Lake County Council, Lake County, IN., hereby certify to the Auditor of Lake County, that the Lake County Council, approved the following transfers:

	Requested	Approved
<u>Clerk 1001*</u>		
County General Fund 1001		
From: 1001-61190 Part-Time	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
To: 1001-61100 Overtime	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
 <u>Lake Sup Crt-County Div-Rm 1 4002</u>		
County General Fund 1001		
From: 1001-61120 Professionals	\$31,122.00	\$31,122.00
To: 1001-63190 Other Professional Service	\$31,122.00	\$31,122.00

*Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to add transfer to the agenda along with the creation of new line item for overtime. Majority voted yes. Motion to add transfer and creation of a new line item to the agenda carried 7-0.

and that such transfer does not necessitate expenditure of more money than was set out in detail in the budget as finally approved by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This transfer was made at a regular public meeting according to proper ordinance, a copy of which is attached to this certificate.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2024.

Additional

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>County General Fund 1001</u> Hammond and Gary Courthouses 9302 (\$100,000)			NO ACTION
<u>Emergency Local Planning Fund 1185</u> Emergency Planning 9310 (\$18,000)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Non-Reverting LC Fairgrounds Fund 1131</u> Fairgrounds 9201 (\$8,480)	Niemeyer	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Clerk's Records Perpetuation Fund 1194</u> Clerk 1001 (\$55,000)			NO ACTION
<u>Lake County 911 Fund 1399</u> Lake County Commissioners 6002 (\$14,000)			NO ACTION
<u>C.A.S.A. Fund 1706</u> <u>Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006</u> (\$620)	Hamm	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>C.A.S.A. Fund 1706</u> <u>Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006</u> (-\$125,693)	Hamm	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>LC R.D.F. For Juveniles Fund 4392</u> Juvenile Detention Center 8003 (\$7,311)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Homeland Security Grant Fund 8249</u> Emergency Management 9304 (\$50,000)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>LCCEDD ARP Home Fund 8272</u> Economic Development 9307 (\$2,197,879)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Child Support IV-D/FSSA Fund 8297</u> IV-D Court 4007 (\$86,171)	Hamm	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345</u> Juvenile Court 4005 (-\$40,679)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>2025 Juvenile Mental Health Court Grant Fund 9355</u> Juvenile Court 4005 (\$85,498)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>LC CASA Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377</u> Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006 (\$9,288)	Hamm	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>LC CASA Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377</u> Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006 (-\$157,548)	Hamm	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

Transfers

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Clerk 1001</u> County General Fund 1001 (\$50,000)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion carried 7-0.
<u>Lake Sup Crt-County Division-Rm 1 4002</u> County General Fund 1001 (\$31,122)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Clerk 1001 – Create New Line Item – County General Fund 1001

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve the creation of the following new line item:

61100 Overtime

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Clerk 1001 – Create New Line Items – Clerks Records Perpetuation Fund 1194

61290 Supplemental Pay
61100 Overtime

NO ACTION

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Revised 144 – 2025 Juvenile Mental Health Court Grant Fund 9355 – Effective 01-01-2025

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144 effective 01-01-2025:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
39002-XXX Supplemental Pay	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
39002-XXX Supplemental Pay	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Create New Line Items – 2025 Juvenile Mental Health Court Grant Fund 9355

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the creation of the following new line items:

61290 Supplemental Pay
61320 FICA – Deduction
61330 PERF – Deduction
63190 Other Professional Service
63231 Travel – Registration
63232 Travel – Meals
63233 Travel – Lodging
63234 Travel – Trans/Other
63235 Travel – Mileage
63995 Other Services & Charges

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001 – Effective (01-01-2025)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approved the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
16952-001 Personnel Assistant	\$46,179.00	\$49,500.00	\$3,321.00
11514-001 Chief Operating Officer	\$74,187.00	\$76,584.00	\$2,397.00
12209-001 System Network Manager	\$45,311.00	\$47,708.00	\$2,397.00

Majority voted yes. Motion to approved Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Detention Center 8003 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001 – Effective (01-01-2025)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
11410-001 Technology Officer	\$54,677.00	\$46,562.00	(\$8,115.00)

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Detention Center 8003 – Revised 144 – LC R.D.F. For Juveniles Fund 4392 Effective (01-01-2025)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
39002-XXX Supplemental Pay	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Detention Center 8003 – Create New Line Items – LC R.D.F. For Juveniles Fund 4392

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve the creation of the following new line items:

61290 Supplemental Pay
61320 FICA – Deduction
61330 PERF – Deduction

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 7-0.

In the Matter of IV-D Court 4007 – Revised 144 – Child Support IV-D/FSSA Fund 8297 – Effective (01-01-2025)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
14401-XXX Bailiff	\$0.00	\$46,171.00	\$46,171.00

Majority voted yes. Motion approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 01-01-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of IV-D Court 4007 – Create New Line Item – Child Support IV-D/FSSA Fund 8297

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve the creation of the following new line item:

61140 Protective Services

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Emergency Planning 9310 – Create New Line Item – Emergency Local Planning Fund 1185

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve the creation of the following new line item:

63995 Other Services & Charges

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Health Department 9306 – Revised 144 – County Health Fund 1105

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
11711-001 Administrator	\$94,387.00	\$110,000.00	\$15,613.00

Niemeyer – In advertising for the replacement of Nick Doffin, was there a clear job description? Also, was there a process that you underwent to advertise, interview and vet candidates?

Cid – She went through human resources.

Niemeyer – As I look at these sorts of positions, I just want to make sure that if we're hiring someone, we have clarity of job descriptions and a good, robust process of vetting candidates because this is a pretty substantial increase after the budget has already been adopted. I was looking through some other health departments, and it does seem that the \$110,000, while it's in line with some, the state-wide average is still below \$94,387. I would love to see this be a range of salary rather than us having to pay someone \$110,000.

Brewer – My concern still remains with the increase of salary. With the advertisement and with the individuals that came to apply for it, what would you say the range or number is that people have said the salary is too low for them to take this position?

Dr. Vavilala – There wasn't much discussion about the salary. None of the members specifically asked for this salary. However, this is based on the Indiana Local Health Department Assessment, which was done by the Richard Fairfax School of Medicine in 2022, comparing the local health departments across the State of Indiana, which basically showed that local health departments, especially Lake County, are one of the lower paid salaries. Hence the reason why we believe that this particular salary of \$110,000 is a reasonable ask for a job of this much responsibility: overseeing the second largest county in the state of Indiana. There is a lot more additional responsibility even when compared to when Nick started, as well as an additional grant that is millions of dollars, which requires someone who is dedicated and also someone who is going to be hardworking to achieve what we want and want to see, as well as the health department being run responsibly.

Brewer – My concern is if we go with \$110,000, we kind of max it out to where there is no room to grow for increases. Let's get a person in and see how they do. If we're looking at a range, we can always entertain a raise next year during budget time if we see that they are producing the way we think they should. The big increase right off the bat is a concern for me.

Dr. Vavilala – With the salary Nick is being paid, we might be able to find a candidate that will do a decent job. However, for a county of this size, there is a lot of responsibility that goes with this administrator job. If we are going to underpay, then we'll get two kinds of candidates: one is probably not as qualified, and the other is we might find people that are qualified for the job, and they'll take the salary, but they would immediately be looking for a job somewhere else that they would be paid extra. If we are going to compensate someone, I think this is reasonable compensation. As I have said, we may be comparing with some other counties, but if we are comparing with a county of similar size, like Allen County, the administrator is being paid \$120,000 per year, and that county is smaller than Lake County.

Cid – It's not an unreasonable ask in my opinion; however, I think if you have someone in mind, is this the salary that they are willing to accept?

Vavilala – Yes.

Bilski – Although we may not be equal to some of the other counties, we have an outstanding benefit package. I hope it's told to the applicant that even though we may be \$10,000 less than what they're looking for, we have attractive benefits like vacation and holiday.

Niemeyer – Was the replacement for Nick already chosen prior to the interview process, or did we do the interview process first? And how many candidates did you interview?

Vavilala – We interviewed three people who have applied for the job. We have not offered the job to anyone. I did not want to offer, not knowing what to expect.

Brewer – It hasn't been offered, but there's an individual who is going to take the \$110,000. How do you know the individual is going to take the \$110,000 if it has not been offered to someone?

Vavilala – During the interview process, if we feel that the candidate is viable, we ask them what is the salary that they're looking at. That doesn't mean that we are offering them the salary.

Majority voted yes. Brewer and Niemeyer voted no. Motion to approve Revised 144 carried 5-yes, 2-no.

In the Matter of Economic Development 9307 – Create New Line Items – LCCEDD ARP Home Fund 8272

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve the creation of the following line items:

63145 Legal Services
63150 Consultant Fees
64220 Building & Improvements

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Superior Court Civil 3001 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Indiana Supreme Court – FY 2025 Adult Guardianship Services Grant (VASIA) Grant Renewal Award

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Detention Center – 8003 Grant Application(s) & Grant Approval(s) – Grant Oversight Committee – Lake County Juvenile Community Corrections Program FY2026 Grant Application Renewal

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Notice to Taxpayers of Public Hearing on Proposed Additional Appropriations for the Lake Ridge Fire Protection District for the 2025 Budget

Cid opened Public Hearing.

There were no remonstrators present.

Cid closed Public Hearing.

In the Matter of County Council – Citizen Appointment – Parks & Recreations Board – One (1) Republican Member for a four-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Niemeyer nominated Christopher W. Dilts.

Cid appointed Christopher W. Dilts to the Parks & Recreation Board.

In the Matter of County Council – County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: One (1) Domestic Violence Direct Service Provider for a two-year term, One (1) Law Enforcement Member for a two-year term, One (1) Special Victim Unit Supervisor for a two-year term, One (1) Intervention Program Provider for a two-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Lindemulder nominated Pam Serrano (Domestic Violence Direct Service Provider), Dave Marshall (Law Enforcement), Infinity Westberg (Special Victim Unit Supervisor) and John Toigo (Intervention Program Provider).

Cid declared Pam Serrano (Domestic Violence Direct Service Provider), Dave Marshall (Law Enforcement), Infinity Westberg (Special Victim Unit Supervisor) and John Toigo (Intervention Program Provider) to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

In the Matter of County Council – Councilmanic Post – County Plan Commission – One (1) Council Member and Proxy for a one-year term (Current Member: Randy Niemeyer, Current Proxy: Charlie Brown)

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Randy Niemeyer with Charlie Brown as his proxy.

Cid declared Randy Niemeyer with Charlie Brown as his proxy to the County Plan Commission.

In the Matter of County Council – Data Processing Board – Two (2) Council Members and One (1) Council Administrator for a one-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Lindemulder nominated Charlie Brown, Randy Niemeyer and Scott Schmal (Administrator).

Cid declared Charlie Brown, Randy Niemeyer and Scott Schmal (Administrator) to the Data Processing Board.

In the Matter of County Council – Insurance Review Board – One (1) Council Member and One (1) Council Administrator for a one-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated himself and Scott Schmal.

Cid declared Dave Hamm and Scott Schmal to the Insurance Review Board.

In the Matter of County Council – Lake County Child Abuse Prevention Council – One (1) Council Member for a one-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Niemeyer nominated Dave Hamm.

Cid declared Dave Hamm to the Lake County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

In the Matter of County Council – Northwestern Indiana Regional Plan Commission – One (1) Council Member for a one-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Randy Niemeyer.

Cid declared Randy Niemeyer to the Northwestern Indiana Regional Plan Commission.

In the Matter of County Council – Northwest Indiana Private Industry Council/Local Elected Officials Committee – One (1) Council Member for a two-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Charlie Brown.

Cid declared Charlie Brown to the Northwest Indiana Private Industry Council/Local Elected Officials Committee.

In the Matter of County Council – Solid Waste District Board – Two (2) Council Members for a one-year term

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Christine Cid and Pete Lindemulder.

Cid declared herself and Pete Lindemulder to the Lake County Solid Waste Board.

In the Matter of County Council – Citizen Nomination(s) – Economic Development Commission – The Council shall nominate for appointment one (1) nominee each from the city or town of Hammond, Lake Station, Merrillville and St. John for a term of one-year for first time nominees or four-years for re-appointed nominees

Cid opened nominations for Economic Development Commission (Hammond).

Hamm nominated John Vezmar (Hammond).

Cid declared John Vezmar (Hammond) to the Economic Development Commission.

Cid opened nominations for Economic Development Commission (Lake Station).

Hamm nominated Rick Long (Lake Station).

Cid declared Rick Long (Lake Station) to the Economic Development Commission.

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to defer the Merrillville Economic Development Commission appointment to February 11, 2025. Majority voted yes. Motion to defer to February 11, 2025 carried 7-0.

Cid opened nominations for Economic Development Commission (St. John).

Lindemulder nominated Lauren Behrens.

Cid declared Lauren Behrens to the Economic Development Commission.

In the Matter of County Council – Approval of Data Board Nominees

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve the following nominees:

Clerk	Michael A. Brown (Proxy: Shawn Miller)
County Treasurer	John E. Petalas (Proxy: Ofelia Gregoline & Priscilla Kirrin)
Surveyor	Bill Emerson Jr. (Proxy: Matthew Cashen)
County Assessor	LaTonya Spearman (Proxy: Jerri Floyd)
Sheriff	Sheriff Oscar Martinez Jr. (Proxy: Deputy Commander Brad Bosse)
Prosecutor	Bernard A. Carter (Proxy: Hogir Saeed)

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

Cid asked if any one would agree to serve as the proxy for Solid Waste.

Councilman Brewer accepted.

Cid opened nominations for a proxy to Solid Waste.

Hamm nominated Ronald Brewer.

Cid declared Ronald Brewer as a proxy to Solid Waste.

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-1


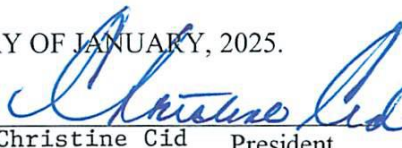

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

- WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that exploits the most vulnerable among us and weakens the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities, often across generations; and
- WHEREAS, nearly 25 years after the passing of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, an estimated 27.6 million people are subjected to human trafficking globally, with cases reported in every U.S. state and territory; and
- WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are at greater risk, including people affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations, social disconnection or discrimination; and
- WHEREAS, human trafficking is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation, and often shares common risk and protective factors—such as lack of resources and unsafe environments; and
- WHEREAS, strengthening communities requires collective action to reduce the conditions that contribute to exploitation, build resilience, and create environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County is dedicated to ensuring that anyone impacted by human trafficking can receive services that provide individualized care, understand the impact of trauma, and acknowledges a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

The Lake County Council does hereby proclaim January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, reaffirming our commitment to increase awareness and improving education on human trafficking.

SO RESOLVED THIS 14TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

 _____ David Hamm	 _____ Christine Cid President	 _____ Ronald Brewer
 _____ Randy Niemeyer	 _____ Charlie Brown	 _____ Ted F. Bilski
 _____ Pete Lindemulder	_____ Members of the Lake County Council	

In the Matter of Resolution Recognizing Lake County Community Corrections Custody Officer Alan Andrews

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

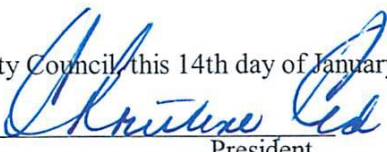
RESOLUTION NO. 25-2



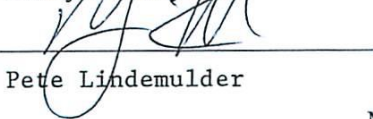


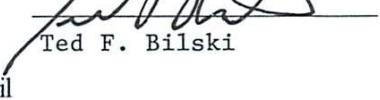
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LAKE COUTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CUSTODY OFFICER ALAN ANDREWS

- WHEREAS,** Alan Andrews is employed as a Custody Officer with Lake County Community Corrections; and
- WHEREAS,** Custody Officer Alan Andrews was assigned to the Lake County Community Corrections Center on November 20, 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** on November 20, 2024, at approximately 2:15 P.M., Custody Officer Andrews was advised by a resident that a 24 year-old male resident was lying on the bathroom floor; and
- WHEREAS,** Custody Officer Andrews rushed into the bathroom and found the resident was blue in the face with no signs of life; he immediately requested assistance from any available officers and with another resident turned the patient on his back and began chest compressions; and
- WHEREAS,** Lake County Community Corrections staff arrived with a defibrillator, the defibrillator pads were placed on the patient and the male resident began to show signs of life; Crown Point Fire Department Ambulance arrived and took over the care of the patient.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE Lake County Council recognizes Lake County Community Corrections Custody Officer Alan Andrews and the Lake County Community Corrections staff for their quick response, professionalism and heroic actions in saving the life of the Lake County Community Corrections Center resident; and that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Custody Officer Alan Andrews.

SO RESOLVED by the Lake County Council, this 14th day of January, 2025.


Christine Cid, President

<p> David Hamm</p> <p> Randy Niemeyer</p> <p> Pete Lindemulder</p>	<p> Ronald Brewer</p> <p> Charlie Brown</p> <p> Ted F. Bilski</p>
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Members of Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Nick Doffin

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-3

RESOLUTION HONORING NICK DOFFIN

WHEREAS, Nick Doffin has been an employee of the Lake County Health Department for 52 years; having held the positions of Administrative Assistant from 1973 to 2000 and Administrator from 2001 to his retirement on January 8, 2025; and

WHEREAS, during the tenure of his employment, Nick performed his work competently, diligently, in a professional manner and assisted in implementing many health initiatives in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, Nick Doffin is held in high esteem by all who worked with him throughout his career in Lake County Government; and

WHEREAS, Nick Doffin has served by his example to maintain the high standards of professionalism in Lake County Government; and


WHEREAS, Nick Doffin is an outstanding citizen of Lake County, Indiana and commands the respect of all who know him for his dedication, integrity, selflessness and humanitarianism.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:


The Lake County Council commends Nick Doffin for his long and meritorious service to the citizens of Lake County, Indiana; that a copy of the Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council and an official copy be delivered to Nick Doffin.

SO RESOLVED BY THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL, this 14th day of January, 2025.


Christine Cid, President


David Hamm


Randy Nieneyer


Pete Lindemulder


Ronald Brewer


Charlie Brown


Ted F. Bilski

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Approving Purchase of Merrillville Fire Protection Territory's 2000, F750 Super Duty Truck by the Lake County Board of Commissioners and Rescinding and Replacing Resolution No. 21-73, Resolution of Lake County Council, Approving Purchase of Merrillville Fire Department Territories 2000, F750 Super Duty Truck, by the Lake County Commissioners

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 25-4

**Resolution Approving Purchase of
Merrillville Fire Protection Territory's 2000, F750 Super Duty Truck
by the Lake County Board of Commissioners
and
Rescinding and Replacing Resolution No. 21-73,
Resolution of Lake County Council, Approving Purchase
of Merrillville Fire Department Territories 2000,
F750 Super Duty Truck, by the Lake County Board of Commissioners**

- WHEREAS,** upon proper Notice the Lake County Council held a public meeting on January 14, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., at the Lake County Government Complex located at 2293 North Main Street, Crown Point, Indiana 46307; and
- WHEREAS,** the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory (*hereinafter*, "MFPT") was established according to I.C. §§ 36-8-19 *et seq.*, pursuant to an "Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, and Ross Township of Lake County, Indiana, for the Establishment of the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory," (*hereinafter*, "Interlocal Agreement"), which was recorded on 3-30-2011 at the office of the Recorder of Lake County, Indiana under document number 2011 018656; and
- WHEREAS,** the MFPT owns a 2000, Ford, F750 Super Duty Truck (VIN #3FDXF75R3YMA30871), which is equipped with a rescue box and associated equipment and titled in the name of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana as required by the Interlocal Agreement (*hereinafter*, F750 Super Duty Truck). *See*, attached "STATE OF INDIANA, CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR A VEHICLE" marked as EXHIBIT A; and
- WHEREAS,** the MFPT no longer has any use for this F750 Super Duty Truck, rescue box and associated equipment; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Directors of the MFPT desires to dispose of the F750 Super Duty Truck, rescue box and associated equipment by selling it to the government of Lake County, Indiana; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Directors of the MFPT desires to sell MFPT's F750 Super Duty Truck to Lake County for Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00); and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners of Lake County desires to purchase for Lake County government's use the MFPT's F750 Super Duty Truck for Fifty Thousand Dollars

(\$50,000.00) from the following funding sources:

- A. Lake County, Indiana will provide \$40,000.00; and
- B. The Lake County Fire Chiefs Association will provide \$10,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the MFPT is adopting a resolution that is substantially identical to this Lake County, Indiana, Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:


The Lake County Council hereby approves the purchase of MFPT's F750 Super Duty Truck, (VIN #3FDXF75R3YMA30871) rescue box and associated equipment by the government of Lake County, Indiana for Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00); and


The MFPT will transfer ownership and custody of MFPT's F750 Super Duty Truck, rescue box and associated equipment to the government of Lake County, Indiana upon:

- 1. Lake County's payment of \$40,000.00 to MFPT; and
- 2. The Lake County Fire Chief's Association's payment of \$10,000.00 to the MFPT; and
- 3. Lake County's receipt of a MFPT Board resolution that is substantially identical to this Lake County resolution.

That this Resolution rescinds and replaces Resolution No. 21-73 adopted on December 14, 2021.

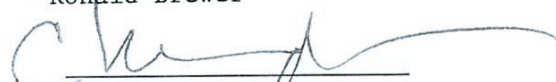
SO RESOLVED THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.


Christine Cid President

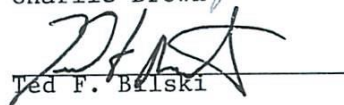

David Hamm


Ronald Brewer


Randy Niemeyer


Charlie Brown


Pete Lindemulder


Ted F. Bliski

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance of the Lake County Council, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing additional appropriations in the Cumulative Fire Fund of the Lake Ridge Fire Protection District for the 2025 budget – Deferred December

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 7-0.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 7-0.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1503A

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CUMULATIVE FIRE FUND OF THE LAKE RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget in the Cumulative Fire - Capital Outlays ("Fund"), of the Lake Ridge Fire Protection District ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Fire Trustees ("Board") is aware and notifies the Lake County Council ("Council") that the Fund currently holds sufficient cash balance and is expected to receive additional miscellaneous revenues throughout the year to support the requested additional appropriations; and

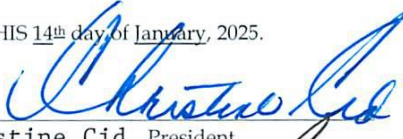
WHEREAS, the Board and Council recognize this additional appropriation is for the purpose of repairing an engine on one of the fire trucks; and

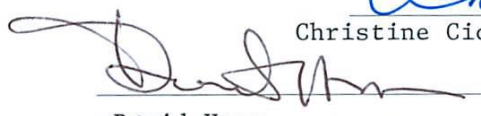

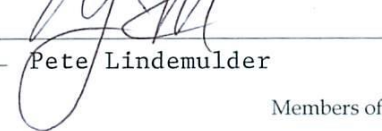

WHEREAS, the Board passed a Recommendation Resolution on November __, 2024, recognizing the Council has approval authority over the District's budget and recommending the Council approve said requested additional appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, that it is hereby recommended for the expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sums of money be appropriated out of the funds named, subject to laws governing the same:

<u>LAKE RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</u>	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED BY FISCAL BODY
Fund 101: <u>CUMULATIVE FIRE FUND</u>		
Capital Outlays	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Total for GENERAL Fund:	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage. SO ORDAINED THIS 14th day of January, 2025.


Christine Cid, President

 - David Hamm  - Randy Niemeyer  - Pete Lindemulder	 - Ronald Brewer  - Charlie Brown  - Tedm F. Bilski
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Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Lake County Mileage Rate Ordinance for 2025 – Deferred December

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 7-0.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 7-0.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1503B

LAKE COUNTY MILEAGE RATE ORDINANCE FOR 2025


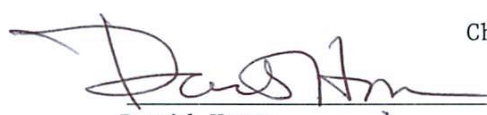

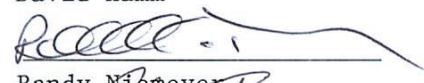

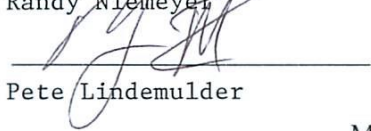

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council establishes the mileage rate for County employees entitled to expenses for use of their vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council desires to reflect the mileage rate established by the Federal government for its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Federal mileage rate established for the year 2025 is 70 cents per mile.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED that the Lake County Council does hereby establish the rate of 70 cents per mile for County employees entitled to receive mileage expenses for use of their vehicles for the year 2025, effective January 1, 2025.

SO ORDAINED this 14th day of January, 2025.

	 Christine Cid, President	
 David Hamm		 Ronald Brewer
 Randy Niemeyer		 Charlie Brown
 Pete Lindemulder		 Ted F. Bilski

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Establishing a Merit System Board for The Lake County Correction Division, Ordinance No. 1322C – Deferred December

Cid – I reached out to the corrections union and they said they were fine with the thirty days but it's the bond they still have concerns about. They have concerns on if it would be returned.

O'Donnell – The purpose of the bond is to try to cover the cost of the transcript so it wouldn't be return. Maybe there still needs to be some discussion on this.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to defer to February 11, 2025. Majority voted yes. Motion to defer to February 11, 2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Acknowledgements – RDA Update

Randy Palmateer presented:

- Construction of the \$852 million West Lake Corridor from Hammond to Dyer is 84% complete.
- Construction of \$643 million Double Track is substantially complete, and revenue service began in May 2024.
- Transit Development Districts have been established in all eligible communities in Lake County. These should begin generating increment for RDA to use to fund development in 2025.
- RDA has hired a Controller and a Director of Economic Development to manage the finances of and development in the TDDs.
- Blight elimination work around the Gary Metro Station will begin in 2025, funded by the City of Gary and the State of Indiana via the RDA.
- The State also stand ready to provide \$100 million via the RDA as matching funds to build a Lake County Convention Center.
- RDA has updated its Comprehensive Strategic Plan. This update will be available shortly and RDA would like to thank all the Lake County stakeholders who participated in this process.

Update on the Rail Investment (11/24)

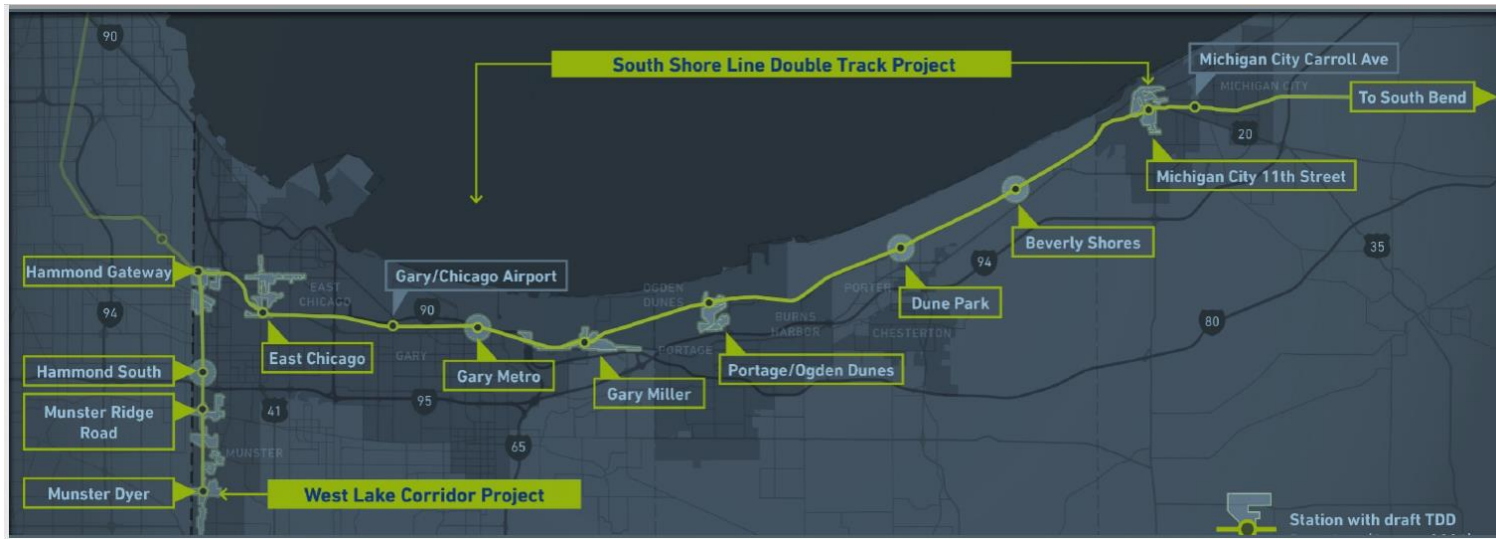
Development of the new rail lines and stations is progressing at a steady pace.

West Lake Corridor

- Design is 95% complete; train signals and operating systems remain in progress. Design of the last bridge (BR101) is complete as approval from the CSX railroad was received.
- With the exception of BR101 and the Main Street underpass at Munster Dyer station civil works are mostly done.
- Trackwork along the full length of the project is largely complete. Work is focused on installing poles for the catenary system and system (e.g. communications and power) installation.
- Paving is scheduled to begin for the west parking lot at Munster/Dyer stations, while work on the station and preparations for installation of the bridge over Main Street continue.
- Construction is 84% complete.
- An extended period of testing and commissioning is required between construction completion and Revenue Service.
- The NICTD team is focused on when the trains will be running. Revenue Service Date of May 1, 2025, is NICTD's current target. The FTA grant commitment is May 20, 2026.

Double Track

- 25-mile project area includes 16 miles of new second track, the closing of 20 grade-level crossings in Michigan City, and the elimination of "street running" in Michigan City.
- DT1 (Main rail project): Contract is substantially complete and very small number of punch list items remain.
- DT2 (MC 11th Street Station): Completion of the garage is scheduled for February 2025.
- Gary Miller Station (DT3), Portage/Ogden Dunes Parking Lot (DT4), Dune Park East Parking Lot (DT5) are complete.
- Positive Train Control (DT6) is complete.
- Overall, construction is 95% complete, 5% is attributable to the parking garage in Michigan City
- Revenue Service began on May 14, 2024, earlier than the FTA grant commitment of November 6, 2024.



- TDDs incentivize and promote development around South Shore stations.
- TDDs begin as a ½ square mile, or 320-acre, area around a station, and may be expanded once up to one square mile or 640 acres. They capture incremental property and income tax revenues, similar to a TIF district.
- All 7 TDDs in Lake County have been approved: Munster/Dyer Main Street, Munster Ridge Road, Hammond South, Hammond Gateway/Downtown, East Chicago, Gary Metro and Gary Miller.

Gary Blight Elimination and Metro Station Programs

- The State of Indiana has offered up to \$6 million in matching funds for blight elimination in downtown Gary around the Metro Station and within the Metro Station TDD.
- RDA would match up to \$3 million from Gary in 2024 and 2025, for a total of \$12 million in blight elimination funds. The state will reimburse the RDA in 2026.
- Gary secured a \$3 million commitment from the Hard Rock Casino to gain the 2024 RDA match. RDA is currently awaiting approval from the State AG's office on our Owner's Rep contract with Egis BLN, after which we and Gary will begin work ASAP.
- The same legislation also provides up to \$75 million in state matching funds for the construction of a new Gary Metro multi-modal station, also subject to matching funds from Gary.

Lake County Convention Center

- At the request of the legislature, RDA updated its 2018 feasibility study regarding a Lake County Convention Center in 2024. The update confirmed that such a facility was still viable post-COVID.
- Proposals for a convention center have been submitted by Gary and Hobart.
- The State is offering to provide up to \$100 million in matching funds over 20 years for construction of the facility. Those funds would be passed through the RDA, which would act as the state's fiscal agent on the project.

RDA Strategic Plan Update

- RDA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for firms to develop a comprehensive strategic development plan in November 2023.
- The RDA's mission to build the Region's major multi-jurisdictional infrastructure assets continues. However, the specific projects, the timing of those investments, and the possible returns to the regional economy have yet to be determined. The RDA sought a team of firms with several different skills sets, in combination and under the RDA's leadership, to construct a Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan to guide its mission and investments during the next two decades.
- Three firms were selected in Q1 2024: WSP, Avenew and JQOL
- Update is being finalized now.

Public Comments:

Barbara Koteles of Hobart – Dr. Vavilala mentioned a study, and as we all know, studies are funded by people who want a certain outcome. When I looked on the State of Indiana website for the average salary for an administrator, it was lower than that by twenty thousand dollars at least. This need to pay someone top dollar doesn't always work. In a recent health board meeting, they said that they hired someone for a position at top dollar. Something they could almost not afford, and that person quit before the end of the day because they had a better offer. I feel like, especially in the health industry, we expect people who are dealing with sick or unhealthy people to be empathetic. Is the desire to make money more powerful than the desire to be empathetic and do a good job? The correlation of the salary to the size of the county, that's not anything that's written in stone. I think it should be what we can afford. Most jobs that pay this kind of money do have a range of salary.

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded that this Council does now adjourn, to meet again as required by law.

President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

Peggy Holinga Katona,
Lake County Auditor