

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, Charlie Brown, Pete Lindemulder, Ted Bilski and Randy Niemeyer, County Councilpersons, together with Tom O'Donnell and Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorneys.

In the Matter of Minutes – March 11, 2025

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

ORDINANCE #1506

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
Supplemental Adult Probation Fund 2143		
<u>Lake Sup. Court-County Division Room 1 4002</u>		
61190 Part-Time	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Coroner's Motherhood & Infant Health Initiative Program Grant/SUID/SDY Grant Fund 8126		
<u>Coroner's Office 1007</u>		
64490 Other Equipment	\$2,616.84	\$2,616.84
Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345		
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>		
61290 Supplemental Pay	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
61320 FICA – Deduction	\$459.00	\$459.00
61330 PERF – Deduction	\$852.00	\$852.00
Superior Court Criminal Division Safe Grant Fund 9448		
<u>Criminal Court 3002</u>		
63190 Other Professional Service	\$24,185.01	\$24,185.01

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2025.

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>Coroner's Office 1007</u>		
General Fund 1001		
From: 1001-62255 Pathology Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
1001-63130 Toxicology Lab	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
To: 1001-64490 Other Equipment	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
1001-63620 Equipment Repair	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<u>Hobart Township Assessor 2004</u>		
Reassessment 2015 Fund 1337		
From: 1337-61100 Overtime	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
To: 1337-63190 Other Professional Service	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

<u>Ross Township Assessor 2005</u>		
Reassessment 2015 Fund 1337		
From: 1337-64440 Motor Vehicles	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
To: 1337-62210 Petroleum Products	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>		
Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345		
From: 9345-63995 Other Services & Charges	\$7,117.81	\$7,117.81
To: 9345-62410 Other Supplies	\$6,117.81	\$6,117.81
9345-63920 Food & Lodging	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>		
LC Superior Court Juvenile Mental Health Problem Solving Court Grant Fund 9355		
From: 9355-63995 Other Services & Charges	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
To: 9355-62410 Other Supplies	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00

<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>		
Juvenile LC Community Corrections Grant Fund 9391		
From: 9391-63195 Contractual Services	\$5,572.00	\$5,572.00
9391-63232 Travel – Meals	\$150.00	\$150.00
9391-63233 Travel – Lodging	\$1,362.00	\$1,362.00
9391-63234 Travel – Trans/Other	\$345.00	\$345.00
9391-63235 Travel – Mileage	\$1,340.00	\$1,340.00
To: 9391-62410 Other Supplies	\$8,769.00	\$8,769.00

<u>LADOS Division 1 4008</u>		
Division 1 LADOS Fund 4217		
From: 4217-61120 Professionals	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
To: 4217-61190 Part-Time	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

<u>Health Department 9306</u>		
LC Health Department PHEP Grant Fund 8443		
From: 8443-62110 Office Supplies	\$6,043.66	\$6,043.66
8443-63232 Travel – Meals	\$575.00	\$575.00
8443-63233 Travel – Lodging	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
8443-63234 Travel – Trans/Other	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
8443-63235 Travel – Mileage	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
8443-64410 Furniture & Fixtures	\$26,029.56	\$26,029.56
To: 8443-62250 Health Care & Lab Supplies	\$10,743.66	\$10,743.66
8443-64490 Other Equipment	\$29,104.56	\$29,104.56

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

<u>Additional</u>			
	Made Motion	Seconded	
Supplemental Adult Probation Fund 2143			
<u>Lake Sup. Court-County Division Room 1 4002</u>			
(\$5,000)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
Coroner's Motherhood & Infant Health Initiative Program Grant/SUID/SDY Grant Fund 8126			
<u>Coroner's Office 1007</u>			
(\$2,616.84)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brewer was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.
Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345			
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>			
(\$7,311)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

Superior Court Criminal Division Safe Grant Fund 9448  
Criminal Court 3002  
(\$24,185.01)

Hamm

Bilski

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

Transfers

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Coroner's Office 1007</u> General Fund 1001 (\$6,500)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Hobart Township Assessor 2004</u> Reassessment 2015 Fund 1337 (\$5,000)	Bilski	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Ross Township Assessor 2005</u> Reassessment 2015 Fund 1337 (\$1,000)	Bilski	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u> Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345 (\$7,117.81)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u> LC Superior Court Juvenile Mental Health Problem Solving Court Grant Fund 9355 (\$5,500)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u> Juvenile LC Community Corrections Grant Fund 9391 (\$8,769.00)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>LADOS Division 1 4008</u> Division 1 LADOS Fund 4217 (\$10,000)	Hamm	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>*Health Department 9306</u> LC Health Department PHEP Grant Fund 8443 (\$39,848.22)	Brown	Hamm	Majority voted yes, Motion to approve carried 7-0.

\*Niemeyer asked for a description of health care/lab supplies and other equipment needed.

Sheila Paul – We were discussing purchasing vaccine coolers and cold packs for when citizens receive vaccinations as well as first aids kits to distribute.

Niemeyer – How many total coolers?

Paul – Six.

In the Matter of Auditor 1002 – Revised 144 – Auditor Ineligible Deduction Fund 1329

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
39002-046 Supplemental Pay NGenFnd	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	(\$4,200.00)
39002-059 Supplemental Pay NGenFnd	\$13,124.00	\$0.00	(\$13,124.00)
39002-XXX Supplemental Pay NGenFnd	\$0.00	\$17,324.00	(\$17,324.00)

WITHDRAWN

In the Matter of Coroner’s Office 1007 – Create New Line Item – Coroner’s Motherhood & Infant Health Initiative Program Grant/SUID/SDY Grant Fund 8126

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

64490 Other Equipment

Majority voted yes. Brewer was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Coroner’s Office 1007 – Create New Line Item – General Fund 1001

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

63620 Equipment Repair

Majority voted yes. Brewer was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Ross Township Assessor 2005 – Create New Line Item – Reassessment 2015 Fund 1337

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

62210 Petroleum

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

In the Matter of Criminal Courts 3002 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001 – **Effective (4-14-2025)**

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 4-14-2025:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
12428-013 Probation Officer	\$ 72,828.00	\$45,548.00	(\$27,280.00)

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 4-14-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Lake Sup. Ct. County Div. Rm. 1 4002 – Create New Line Item – Supplemental Adult Probation Fund 2143

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

61190 Part-Time

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Create New Line Item – Family Recovery Court Grant Fund 9345

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

63920 Food & Lodging

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Create New Line Item – LC Superior Court Juvenile Mental Health Problem Solving Court Grant Fund 9355

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

62410 Other Supplies

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Lake County HOPE Court – Indiana Office of Court Services Improvement Grant – FY26 Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Lake County Family Recovery Court – Indiana Supreme Court-Family Recovery Court – FY26 Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Sheriff 8001 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – FY26 CHIRP Grant – Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP) – New Grant Application

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

In the Matter of Parks & Recreation 9203 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Oak Savannah Trail Corridor/Former GEO Parcel Recreation Development - Delta Institute/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – New Grant Application

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

In the Matter of County Council 6001 – Citizen Appointment – Whiting Library Board

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Amy Holmes.

Cid closed nominations.

Cid appointed Amy Holmes to the Whiting Public Library Board.

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month and recognizing Logan's Love- Logan Speaks

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

Nicole Reveliotis shared that she is honored to be part of the special need's community in Lake County, where they have been working to provide resources and support for families with special needs. They have been involved in events such as the annual Easter egg hunt, and the introduction of Ben's Blue Bags to Dyer. Reveliotis also highlighted the importance of educating first responders on handling situations with special needs individuals, which they have expanded to include Project Life Saver. Reveliotis hopes to continue setting new goals and providing all-inclusive events to make Lake County a safer, more loving, and educated community for special needs families. They also emphasize the importance of supporting autism and the families of those affected by autism. The walk on August 24th is a reminder to remember and support these efforts.

Elaine Reyna stated that over 400 first responder vehicles in Lake County have received sensory and communications support and training. Project Lifesaver Fundraising is ongoing, with a new initiative involving Logan's sister, Jasmine, and a sibling scholarship for neurodivergent and neurotypical siblings. The biggest fundraiser is a golf outing on June 13th at Wicker Park.

Brewer – My condolences go out to your family, especially with the loss of your daughter. I'm happy to see something like this going forward. It changes the landscape of parenting, and I have seen it firsthand learning how to navigate through life with a child with autism. I would like to support you all with a five-hundred-dollar donation personally to show how much I support this. I've been supporting autism since I've been on the city council, and I will continue to support it. I appreciate everything that you continue to do.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-23

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING  
APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH  
AND RECOGNIZING LOGAN’S LOVE - LOGAN SPEAKS

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a general term for a group of disorders characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors; and can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention; and

WHEREAS, presently there is no cure for autism and there is no one cause of autism; and according to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in 36 children in the U.S. were diagnosed with ASD in 2020; impacting individuals and families, sometimes in devastating ways; and

WHEREAS, the family of the late Logan Ruiz, a Dyer 10-year-old with ASD is one such family; Logan was tragically killed in an accident on August 27, 2022 after eloping from his home, a fortress with multiple layers of security in place to keep him safe; and

WHEREAS, following this tragedy and the outpouring of support to the family from loved ones and the community, Logan’s mother and other supporters started the grassroots organization Logan’s Love - Logan Speaks to raise awareness about ASD; and

WHEREAS, Logan’s Love - Logan Speaks strives, along with its community partners, to provide enriching experiences and vital resources to support individuals and families in the Autism and Disability communities; and advocate for and educate first responders about what disability are, and what they are not, in order to promote safety and acceptance in Northwest Indiana and beyond; and


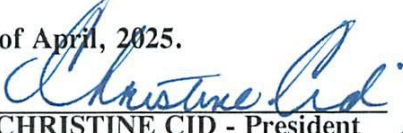

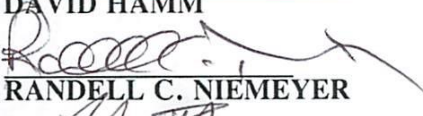

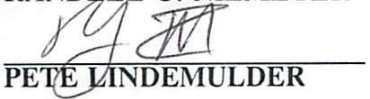
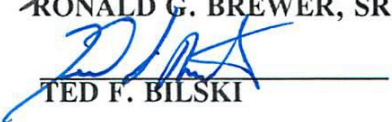
WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2025; every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events; and

WHEREAS, Lake County is committed to take steps to raise awareness of autism, and of organizations in Lake County such as Logan’s Love - Logan Speaks, that work tirelessly every day on that mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Lake County Council declares April as Autism Awareness Month in Lake County and celebrates World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2025 as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community and recognizes Logan’s Love - Logan Speaks in these efforts.

SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

 _____ DAVID HAMM	 _____ CHRISTINE CID - President	 _____ CHARLIE BROWN
 _____ RANDELL C. NIEMEYER		 _____ RONALD G. BREWER, SR.
 _____ PETE LINDEMULDER		 _____ TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council



In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Merrillville High School Senior Adrian Pellot, IHSAA State Wrestling Champion – 165 Pound Weight Division

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-24

RESOLUTION HONORING MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
ADRIAN PELLOT,  
IHSAA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPION - 165 POUND WEIGHT DIVISION

WHEREAS, students and professional athletes nurtured and trained in Lake County, Indiana, have consistently shown excellence in all sporting endeavors; and


WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited and athletic youth to compete with other youths of this state and of every country and nation of this world; and


WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and


WHEREAS, Adrian Pellot, a Merrillville High School Senior, with an undefeated season (45-0), captured the IHSAA State Wrestling Championship - 165 Pound Weight Division, on February 22, 2025 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

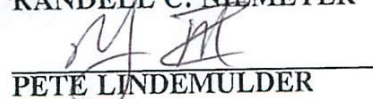
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County extend congratulations and praise to Adrian Pellot for capturing first place in the IHSAA State Wrestling Meet - 165 Pound Weight Division; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Adrian Pellot.

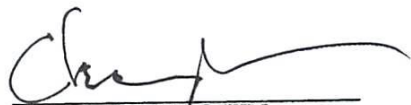
DULY ADOPTED by the Lake County Council, this 8th day of April, 2025.

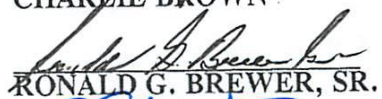
  
CHRISTINE CID, President


  
DAVID HAMM

  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

  
PETE LINDEMULDER

  
CHARLIE BROWN

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Lowell High School Freshman Kameron Hazelett, IHSA State Wrestling Champion – 285 Pound Weight Division

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-25

RESOLUTION HONORING LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN  
KAMERON HAZELETT,  
IHSA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPION - 285 POUND WEIGHT DIVISION

WHEREAS, students and professional athletes nurtured and trained in Lake County, Indiana, have consistently shown excellence in all sporting endeavors; and

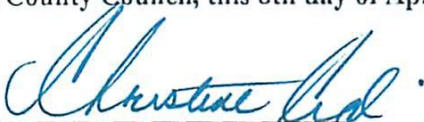
WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited and athletic youth to compete with other youths of this state and of every country and nation of this world; and


WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and


WHEREAS, Kameron Hazelett, a Lowell High School Freshman, with a 40-1 season, captured the IHSA Wrestling Championship - 285 Pound Weight Division, on February 22, 2025 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis; making history by becoming Indiana's first ever Freshman Heavyweight Champion.


NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County extend congratulations and praise to Kameron Hazelett for capturing first place in the IHSA State Wrestling Meet - 285 Pound Weight Division; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Kameron Hazelett.


DULY ADOPTED by the Lake County Council, this 8th day of April, 2025.


  
CHRISTINE CID, President


  
DAVID HAMM

  
CHARLIE BROWN

  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
PETE LINDEMULDER

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council



In the Matter of Resolution Permitting the Lake County Auditor to pay an outstanding 2024 Invoice/Debt from the 2025 Budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-26

RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE LAKE COUNTY  
AUDITOR TO PAY AN  
OUTSTANDING 2024 INVOICE/DEBT FROM THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Lake County Auditor is currently operating in the 2025 Budget; and  
WHEREAS, the following invoice/debt incurred in the Budget year of 2024, has not been paid:

<u>1001-1002-63150</u>	<u>Consultant Fees</u>
Crowe LLP	\$19,700.00; and


WHEREAS, the Lake County Auditor desires to pay the above invoice/debt due.


NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:


That the following 2024 expense shall be paid from the Lake County Auditor's 2025 Budget:


<u>1001-1002-63150</u>	<u>Consultant Fees</u>
Crowe LLP	\$19,700.00.


SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

  
DAVID HAMM


  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


  
PETE LINDEMULDER

  
CHRISTINE CID, President

  
CHARLIE BROWN

ABSENT

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Permitting the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration to pay an outstanding 2022 Invoice/Debt from the 2025 budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-27

RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE LAKE COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION TO PAY  
AN OUTSTANDING 2022 INVOICE/DEBT FROM THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration, is currently operating in the 2025 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the following invoice/debt incurred in the Budget year of 2022 has not been paid:

<u>1001-5001-63730</u>	<u>Property Rental</u>
Rise Church	\$ 300.00; and


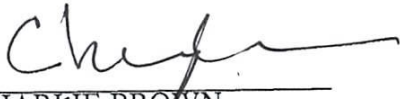
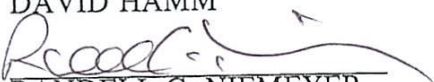

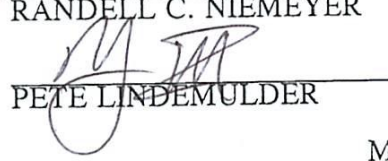
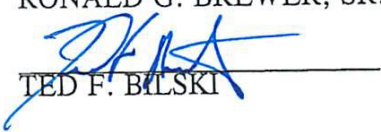
WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration desires to pay the above invoice/debt due.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the following 2022 expense shall be paid from the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration's 2025 Budget:

<u>1001-5001-63730</u>	<u>Property Rental</u>
Rise Church	\$ 300.00.

SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

 DAVID HAMM	 CHRISTINE CID, President	 CHARLIE BROWN
 RANDELL C. NIEMEYER		 RONALD G. BREWER, SR.
 PETE LINDEMULDER		 TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill 1's Provision to Eliminate Business Personal Property Tax

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve.

Bilski – I don't think they realize what's going on. The taxing obsolescence laws back in the day when it was House Bill 1001, and they picked out of the air the 1%, 2%, and 3%; we gave this huge tax break to industry, and we put them in the 3%. There's supposed to be a threshold. I was told by legislators that they can address that. So, instead of them driving their taxes down and our taxes up, this needs to be addressed. They need to stop messing with this. We need to put as much pressure and say, quit trying to destroy everything for all 92 counties. This isn't just a Lake County thing. It's all 92 counties. I'm disgusted with what's going on down there. They're completely wrong, and they have the mechanisms in there to adjust it. Unfortunately, they don't know what the hell they did, so they don't know how to fix it.

Niemeyer – As a small business owner, I am in favor of an elimination of personal property tax but with a caveat: There always has to be a replacement. I've served in local government for seventeen years now and understand that the essential services provided here at the local level are not duplicated at any other level. The state government is not coming in to pay your police or firefighters or to fill your pothole work and any of the other essential services that local government provides. So, while, in concept, I'm in favor of any kind of tax reform that creates more clarity, less burden of taxation, and more accountability in the process, I don't think this bill has gone to the detailed length that, as Scott outlined in his presentations, it deserves. I was at the governor's residence last week and mentioned to him that I felt like if you want to do this right, review the report that our financial director gave your team, work on the fundamentals of the system, because it's clear the fundamentals are not correct, and give this thing another year. Put a pause on it. If you want to freeze the levy to kind of give everything a chance to catch up, while that is going to cause some pain, it's not insurmountable. We can get by a year on a frozen levy, but it's more difficult when you're creating tax reform to a system that is, as Ted outlined, imperfect, that needs modernization, and that needs rethinking, but yet the property taxpayers have seen, as a result of inflation and other metrics. And as Scott pointed out, the burden shifts from commercial to residential because of how assessments are done, which Latonya can speak quite knowledgeably to; the mathematical equations are broken, and I just want to make a record that I'm not opposed to the reform. I think that reform is a healthy thing that we should probably do once every ten years anyway, which is to take a look at all of our systems and make sure they match the current environment and the needs of services to the people. So, I'm going to vote against this resolution, but the reason is not because I oppose the opposition of HB1; the whole process lacks detail. Like AIC's approach to some of this stuff, commentary on it is narrowly focused when this is a really broad issue that we face that needs to be addressed in more of a methodical fashion with more detail, and right now there's just not enough detail in this resolution, in my opinion, nor is there enough detail in the process of legislating tax reform. So, everybody's got to do a heck of a lot more work, and I sure hope that the legislators take their time with this and get it right rather than slapping us with something that we're going to be recovering from for the next five years on a local government level that creates tremendous hardship for most municipal governments in providing basic services.

Hamm – I want to point out that since 2022, my taxes at my residence have doubled. And as was pointed out by our financial director, Walmart has gone down. How is this fair? I'm not complaining, but how could Walmart's go down and mine double since 2022? It's a bunch of BS, and they can fix it by borrowing Scott Schmal for about a week, and he'll get it fixed.

Niemeyer – Dave, to your point, I own a small business. We have a property, and we have buildings. Mine have gone up. I'm a small business. I don't get the benefit of these big businesses.

Bilski – Yeah, but with the small businesses, it does get a savings from the PTRC credits. It's adopted by a county option income tax, which small businesses don't pay but get the advantage of.

Lindemulder – I've talked to a state legislator, and my issue with what they are trying to do right now is I think somebody came in with a plan. I'm not going to say who because I don't necessarily know where it came from, but they wanted to do something, and I think they got caught going, oh, we don't know what we were talking about. So now they're trying to fix it, and they're just scattershotting this whole thing. The problem that I have is that I think that by what they were trying to do, it's going to force municipalities to put in innkeepers' tax or food/beverage taxes. Whatever tax you can think of. Which those taxes are never going away. It's like a toll road. We're just increasing taxes long-term by trying to show a win in the short term. For this resolution that we have in front of us, I'm not for or against it. I'm going to abstain from voting on it. I think it's part of a bigger problem that I don't even know how I would write a resolution to send to the state, but I have voiced personally to them that I think they're barking up the wrong tree.

Cid – To me, this all started with a campaign promise, and it always sounds good to say we're going to lower your taxes, but the way they want to lower the taxes is to take from one and put it on another. The replacement is to increase your income tax if you already have one or adopt a new tax, so if they're not getting it from your property taxes, they're going to get it through income taxes. I don't want to defund any department that we have, especially public safety. So, I'm going to support this bill.

Niemeyer – You mentioned income taxes and this was another part of the conversation I had with some folks down state is, if you went to a income tax as a replacement, for instance there is one community in my district, St. John that has an extremely high per household median income and about 26-27,000 people and you have cities like Gary and East Chicago where that income is about half of what it is or less than half than what it is in St. John, so then you would basically be punishing the folks in some of these communities with the lower household income and they wouldn't have the available services, the essential things, like public safety and the communities where the people have a higher median household income would have all the means that they need to provide service. Again, to me, it's the basic service of local government. The reason it was created was for public safety. That was the essential core purpose; and if anything out there goes to reduce that ability of local government to provide that essential service, I think it needs to be rethought.

Cid – It's the assessment process that's the issue.

Majority voted yes. Lindemulder voted to abstain. Niemeyer voted no. Motion to approve carried 5-yes,1-abstention,1-no.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-28

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 1'S  
PROVISION TO ELIMINATE BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

**WHEREAS,** state leaders and lawmakers have advocated for and proposed multiple pieces of legislation in the 2025 legislative session that will cut residential and business personal property bills for homeowners and businesses and change how these tax liabilities are calculated; and

**WHEREAS,** homeowners deserve affordable tax bills and adequate public services in exchange; and

**WHEREAS,** the proposals garnering the most attention would have an impact on municipal taxing units exceeding \$2 Billion; and

**WHEREAS,** a local income tax adoption option could be a helpful tool for some units; however, it is not at all adequate to replace the magnitude of what is being eliminated, making it a necessity rather than an option; and

**WHEREAS,** with an essentially mandated income tax increase being the only alternative proposed by lawmakers, the homeowners who these tax measures endeavor to assist will be among the same individuals paying the income tax, making businesses the only recipient of the tax cuts; and

**WHEREAS,** those individuals who do not own their own home would see a tax increase; and

**WHEREAS,** if the proposed measures are adopted, Lake County will be forced to make significant cuts to services provided its residents; and

**WHEREAS,** with the stress the measures being considered will put on the County budget, bonding or saving money for new development will be nearly impossible, sending Indiana several steps back in our efforts to attract and retain a talented workforce; and

**WHEREAS,** these unprecedented cuts in government services are being proposed when, despite the success of Community Crossings, counties are imploring legislators to at least preserve the status quo in terms of road funding so as not to compound the well-documented, high percentage of Hoosier roads that continue to be in less than satisfactory condition; and

**WHEREAS,** as of this date the statewide local impact of the primary tax-related bills is estimated to be a staggering figure, that would cause widespread negative effects, increase tax burdens on individuals, while offering even more to businesses in an already business tax-friendly state; and




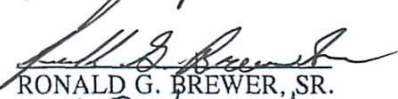



WHEREAS, the impact to Lake County of these significant real property and business personal property tax cuts, as well as changes to how property taxes are calculated, the County would lose tax revenues estimated at Tens of Millions of Dollars; and

WHEREAS, eliminating funding on top of the County’s loss of tax revenues would result in annual losses to local government units associated with constitutional property tax caps.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Lake County Council opposes any tax policy that impacts local units of government that does not come with a corresponding replacement revenue stream implemented by the State of Indiana and does no harm to our ability to carry out the expectations of Hoosiers now and into the future; the Lake County Council opposes Senate Bill 1's provision to eliminate business personal property tax.

SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

 _____ DAVID HAMM	 _____ CHRISTINE CID, President	 _____ CHARLIE BROWN
<p>NO</p> _____ RANDELL C. NIEMEYER		 _____ RONALD G. BREWER, SR.
<p>ABSTAIN</p> _____ PETE LINDEMULDER		 _____ TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

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[SB 2 >](#)

Senate Bill 1



Local government finance.

Senate Bill (H)

Authored by: [Sen. Travis Holdman](#), [Sen. Chris Garten](#), [Sen. Scott Baldwin](#).  
Co-Authored by: [Sen. Mike Gaskill](#), [Sen. Linda Rogers](#), [Sen. Brian Buchanan](#), [Sen. Tyler Johnson](#).  
Sponsored by: [Rep. Jeffrey Thompson](#), [Rep. Edward Clere](#), [Rep. Craig Snow](#), [Rep. Jack Jordan](#).

Digest

Places restrictions on the issuance of certain general obligation bonds. Amends a capitalization rate percentage under the statewide agricultural land base rate determination. Provides that the percentage cap used to determine the maximum levy growth quotient is 4% in 2026. Provides that, notwithstanding any growth in a political subdivision's assessed value (AV) in the previous year, a political subdivision's ad valorem property tax levy shall not exceed the ad valorem property tax levy for its last preceding annual budget, unless the fiscal body of the political subdivision adopts an affirmative tax rate and tax levy increase by ordinance following a separate public hearing. Requires a resulting decrease in tax rates for each political subdivision in which there was an increase in the political subdivision's AV in the previous year, subject to any affirmative tax rate and tax levy increase adopted by the fiscal body of the political subdivision. Phases out the authority for the department of local government finance (department) to permit an excess tax levy that is based on AV growth, school transportation costs, and other circumstances. Retains the provisions that permit an excess tax levy if the civil taxing unit cannot carry out its governmental functions in the case of annexation, a natural disaster, an accident, or an emergency. Phases in a total exemption for business personal property that is placed in service after January 1, 2025. Phases in an increase in the acquisition cost threshold for the business personal property tax exemption from \$80,000 to \$150,000. Provides that the 30% minimum valuation limitation does not apply to business personal property placed in service after January 1, 2025. Phases down the homestead standard deduction over five years to zero beginning for taxes due and payable in 2031. Phases in an increase in the supplemental homestead deduction to 2/3 of the AV of the homestead. Phases in an AV deduction for all property that is subject to the 2% circuit breaker credit for excessive property taxes for assessment dates beginning in 2025 up to a 1/3 AV deduction for taxes due and payable in 2031, and each taxable year thereafter. Expires certain property tax deductions allowed in current law, and instead allows a credit against local property taxes in certain instances. Makes certain changes to the qualification requirements and credit amount for the over 65 circuit breaker credit. Provides a supplemental homestead tax credit for property taxes for a person's homestead if the person qualifies for a standard homestead deduction for the same homestead property. Provides that specified referendums may be placed on the ballot only at a general election. Amends the ballot language for controlled project, school operating, and school public safety referendums. Provides that a school corporation may not adopt a resolution to place a controlled project referendum on the ballot during the second calendar year after the final calendar year in which a previously approved controlled project referendum levy is imposed. Modifies the threshold amounts used for determining whether a political subdivision's project is a controlled project and whether the petition and remonstrance process or the referendum process applies based on the political subdivision's total debt service tax rate. Adds provisions to authorize a county fiscal body to adopt an ordinance to establish a property tax payment deferral program (program). Provides that a qualified individual participating in the program may defer the payment of part of the property taxes that would otherwise be due on a homestead. Provides that property taxes deferred under the program are due after the occurrence of a deferral termination event. Provides that the maximum amount of taxes that may be deferred cumulatively year over year may not exceed \$10,000. Increases, beginning in 2028, the maximum local income tax (LIT) expenditure rate for all counties to 2.9%. Authorizes a city or town to impose a municipal LIT rate beginning in 2028 not to exceed 1.2%. Provides that within a county's total expenditure rate, the county may adopt: (1) up to a 1.2% rate for county general purpose revenue; (2) up to a 0.4% rate for fire protection and emergency medical services; (3) up to a 0.2% rate for nonmunicipal civil taxing unit general purpose revenue; and (4) up to 1.2% for certain cities and towns that are not eligible to adopt a municipal LIT rate. Eliminates provisions that provide for a distribution of LIT expenditure rate revenue to schools and civil taxing units in counties that imposed a rate under the prior county adjusted gross income tax. Authorizes a county fiscal body to impose a local income tax expenditure rate to provide property tax relief for property tax liability attributable to homesteads in the county before January 1, 2028. Expires the authority to impose a property tax relief rate under the LIT and repeals the levy freeze rate. Provides that, in order to continue to impose an expenditure tax rate after 2027, each county must adopt a new ordinance on or before October 1, 2027, to impose the rate. Provides that, for counties that fail to adopt an ordinance to renew an existing expenditure tax rate in 2027, the expenditure tax rate for the county in 2028 shall be the minimum tax rate necessary for existing debt service. Specifies that

this does not prevent the county from renewing, imposing, or modifying an expenditure tax rate in subsequent years. Eliminates local income tax councils beginning July 1, 2027, and instead provides that the county fiscal body is the adopting body in all counties for purposes of the county LIT, and the city or town fiscal body is the adopting body in the case of a municipal LIT. Establishes the state and local income tax holding account within the state general fund for purposes of LIT distributions. Requires the budget agency to maintain an accounting for each county imposing a county LIT based on annual returns filed by or for county taxpayers (same as current law). Requires undistributed amounts so accounted to be held for purposes of the state and local income tax holding account beginning after December 31, 2026. (Under current law, undistributed amounts are required to be held in reserve separate from the state general fund.) Requires the budget agency to present each December to the budget committee a report of the following: (1) An estimate of the monthly certified distribution amounts for the immediately succeeding calendar year. (2) A description of the method used to determine the monthly estimates. Beginning in 2028, requires the budget agency to make monthly transfers to the state and local income tax holding account of the amount determined for the month in the budget agency's report to the budget committee. Repeals a provision that requires the budget agency to adjust the certified distribution of a county for the succeeding year following a tax rate change. Requires the department to develop and maintain a property tax transparency portal through which taxpayers may: (1) compare the property tax liability in their current tax statement compared to their potential property tax liability based on changes under a proposed tax rate; and (2) provide taxpayer feedback to the department. Prohibits the northern Indiana commuter transportation district from issuing new bonds after May 9, 2025, that are payable in whole or in part from amounts distributed from the commuter rail service fund or the electric rail service fund. Requires all school corporations that adopt a resolution for an operating referendum tax levy that is imposed for the first time with property taxes first due and payable beginning after 2027 to share revenue with certain charter schools. Requires, beginning with distributions in 2028, that all school corporations begin sharing revenue from the school corporation's operations fund levy with certain charter schools. Provides for the phasing in of the sharing of revenue with certain charter schools from the school corporation's operations fund levy. Provides for the appointment of additional board members to the governing board of a charter school that receives property tax revenue. Sets forth additional procedures related to the closure of a charter school. Makes conforming changes. Dissolves the Union School Corporation. Provides that for a fire protection territory established after January 1, 2025, each unit in a territory may not impose a tax rate that exceeds \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Makes technical corrections. Makes an appropriation.

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Latest Bill Actions

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H	04/07/2025	Committee report: amend do pass, adopted
H	03/03/2025	First reading; referred to Committee on <a href="#">Ways and Means</a>
H	02/19/2025	Representatives Snow and Jordan added as cosponsors
S	02/18/2025	Referred to the House
H	02/18/2025	Representative Clere added as cosponsor

In the Matter of Ordinance Amending the Lake County 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1500F, Reorganizing Existing Supplemental Pay Positions in The Lake County Auditor's office, (Fund 7293-1002)

WITHDRAWN

In the Matter of Ordinance Amending the Lake County 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1500F, Reorganizing Positions in The Lake County Coroner's Office, (Fund 1001-1007)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on First Reading.

Niemeyer – I am in favor and support the effort of Mr. Pastrick in reorganizing this department. I think there is good justification for it. I am however, not a fan of the mid-year pay raises because everybody else is getting one. So, I think we need to curtail that practice here going forward especially with some of the uncertainty in local government funding. When we get into this budget cycle, people are going to have to get in the habit of making their request at budget time and “no” is going to have to become an answer to this.

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 7-0.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO.1500F-2

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAKE COUNTY  
2025 SALARY ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 1500F,  
REORGANIZING POSITIONS IN THE  
LAKE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE, (FUND 1001-1007)


WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Lake County Council adopted the Lake County 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1500F; and

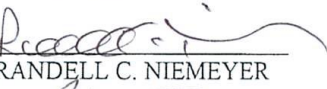
WHEREAS, the Lake County Council now desires to amend Ordinance No. 1500F to establish a revised Form No. 144 to reorganize positions in the Lake County Coroner's Office (1001-1007), retroactive to April 7, 2025.


NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:


That it be ordained by the Lake County Council that the attached Form No. 144, Exhibit “A”, reorganizing positions in the Lake County Coroner's Office (1001-1007), is hereby approved, retroactive to April 7, 2025.

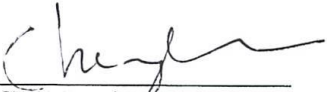
SO ORDAINED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2025.


  
DAVID HAMM


  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

  
PETE LINDEMULDER

  
CHRISTINE CID, President

  
CHARLIE BROWN

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

Form Prescribed by State Board of Accounts

County Form No. 144 (1971)

STATEMENT OF SALARIES AND WAGES  
PROPOSED TO BE PAID OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES  
CALENDAR YEAR 20\_\_

Coroner 1001-1007, LAKE County, Indiana  
(Name of Office, Department, Board Agency)

The following statement shows the salaries and wages proposed to be paid to officers and employees of the above named office, department, board or agency during the calendar year 2025  
(Calendar Year)

FULL TIME SALARIED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

<u>Title of Position or Employee Classification</u>			
JOB CODE # AND POSITION #	\$ PRESENT	\$ PROPOSED	\$ DIFFERENCE
15519-001 Chief Investigator	\$65,625.00	\$0.00	(\$65,625.00)
15130-002 Entry Level Med/Death Investigator	\$50,232.00	\$0.00	(\$50,232.00)
XXXXX-XXX Pathology Tech 1	\$0.00	\$59,989.00	\$59,989.00
XXXXX-XXX Pathology Tech 2	\$0.00	\$50,232.00	\$50,232.00
15132-004 Senior Med Legal Death Investigator	\$58,968.00	\$59,718.00	\$750.00
15132-001 Senior Med Legal Death Investigator	\$58,989.00	\$59,489.00	\$500.00
16707-002 Case Coordinator	\$50,400.00	\$52,900.00	\$2,500.00
16402-001 Administrative Assistant	\$60,375.00	\$61,875.00	\$1,500.00
			\$0.00
Total(s):	\$344,589.00	\$344,203.00	(\$386.00)

PART TIME AND HOURLY RATED EMPLOYEES

<u>Title of Position or Employee Classification</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate of Pay*</u>	<u>Hour, day, week, month, etc.</u>
		Per	
		Per	
		Per	
		Per	
		Per	

\*Show rate of pay per month, week, day, hour, etc.

Submitted by:

David J. Pastorek / gm  
(Signature)  
Lake County Coroner  
(Title)

Date 3/18/25

NOTES:

- (1) This statement must be filed IN DUPLICATE with the County Auditor on or before July 1 each year for salaries and wages to be paid in the ensuing year.
- (2) The number and salaries to be paid full time officers and employees must be fixed by the County Council. The rates of pay for part time and hourly employees shall likewise be fixed by the County Council but the number to be employed is limited only by the funds appropriated therefore; thus, the amount to be requested in the budget for part time and hourly employees need not be included in this statement
- (3) The County Auditor shall complete the reserve side of this of this form and return one copy to the officer or head of the department, board or agency within 3 days after action thereon by the County Council.

Ex. A.



In the Matter of Ordinance Creating the Lake County Superior Court, County Division 3, Veteran Treatment Court All Rise Mentor Court Network Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

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 Brewer, 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. 1506A**

**ORDINANCE CREATING THE LAKE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, COUNTY DIVISION 3, VETERAN TREATMENT COURT ALL RISE MENTOR COURT NETWORK FUND, A NON-REVERTING FUND**



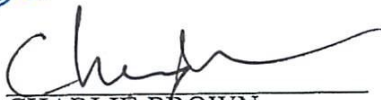

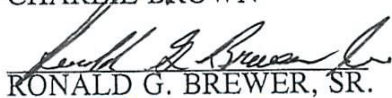
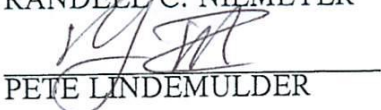

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to I.C. 36-2-3.5-5, the County Council shall adopt ordinances to promote efficient County Government; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to I.C. 36-2-5-2(b), the County Council shall appropriate money to be paid out of the County Treasury, and money may be paid from the County Treasury only under appropriation made by the County Council, except as otherwise provided as law; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to I.C. 36-1-8-4, the Lake County Council may by ordinance or resolution transfer money from one fund to another; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to establish by ordinance all funds within the County Treasury, from which appropriations and transfers require County Council approval; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Veterans Treatment Court has been named one of the five national mentor courts by All Rise’s Justice for Vets Division and the U.S. Department of Justice; and
- WHEREAS,** based on this recognition, the Lake County Veterans Treatment Court will receive an annual stipend of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars from the All Rise Mentor Court Network; the funds shall be expended pursuant to the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding, the stipend funds may also be used for training, travel for training and bus tokens and must be expended by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create the Lake County Superior Court, County Division 3, Veterans Treatment Court All Rise Mentor Court Network Fund, a non-reverting fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the Lake County Council hereby establishes the Lake County Superior Court, County Division 3, Veterans Treatment Court All Rise Mentor Court Network Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the deposit of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars from the All Rise’s Justice for Vets Division.
2. That pursuant to I.C. 36-2-5-2(b), the Lake County Council as the fiscal body, shall appropriate all money to be paid out of the fund, except as otherwise provided by law.
3. Any money remaining in the fund at the end of the year shall not revert to any other fund but continues in the Lake County Superior Court, County Division 3,

Veterans Treatment Court All Rise Mentor Court Network  
Fund, a non-reverting fund, subject to appropriation by the  
Lake County Council.

SO ORDAINED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

 _____ DAVID HAMM	 _____ CHRISTINE CID, President	 _____ CHARLIE BROWN
 _____ RANDELL C. NIEMEYER		 _____ RONALD G. BREWER, SR.
 _____ PETE LINDEMULDER		 _____ TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Planning Commission – Ordinance No. 2584 – William Rojas, Owner/Petitioner, 3/19/2025, B-1 to B-3, Favorable Recommendation, (Vote 5-2)

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve.

Niemeyer asked that the motion include the conditions spelled out by the plan commission.

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve with the following commitments:

1.
2.
3.
- Landscaping and snow removal business only;
- Storage of items related to the landscaping and snow removal business exclusively; and,
- Any change in the use of the property from the above commitments shall require anyone to revisit the B-3 (General Business) Zoning District Classification.

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

ORDINANCE #2584  
OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND the Certified Zoning Maps of the County of Lake, Indiana to make provisions for a ZONE CHANGE (Lake County Plan Commission made a favorable recommendation March 19, 2025).

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Lake County, Indiana as follows:

ZONE CHANGE from B-1 (Neighborhood Business Zone) to B-3 (General Business Zone) owned and petitioned by William Rojas to allow for a proposed Landscaping Contractor’s Business on the following described property:

General Location: Located approximately 1/10 of a mile north of the northwest quadrant at the intersection of W. 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Arthur Street, a/k/a 4454 Arthur Street in Calumet Township.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 7 BLOCK 4, IN OAKINGTON PARK 3<sup>RD</sup> SUBDIVISION, TO THE CITY OF GARY, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13 PAGE 11A, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

Recommend approval of B-3 based on the following Commitments:

1.
2.
3.
- Landscaping and snow removal business only;
- Storage of items related to the landscaping and snow removal business exclusively; and,
- Any change in the use of the property from the above commitments shall require anyone to revisit the B-3 (General Business) Zoning District Classification.

IS HEREBY 

X

APPROVED

DENIED


REMANDED

 BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2025.

MEMBERS OF THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

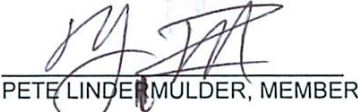
  
CHRISTINE CID, PRESIDENT

  
RONALD BREWER, SR., VICE PRESIDENT

  
TED BILSKI, MEMBER

  
DAVE HAMM, MEMBER

  
CHARLIE BROWN, MEMBER

  
PETE LINDEMULDER, MEMBER

  
RANDY NIEMEYER, MEMBER

In the Matter of Acknowledgments – Syd Garner Scholarship Award – Jaclyn Cavillo

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to award the Syd Garner Scholarship Award to Jaclyn Cavallo. Majority voted yes. Motion to award carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Acknowledgments

Niemeyer presented a certificate to the Surveyor’s office who earned the Certificate of Platinum Achievement from the Indiana Geographic Information Office.

Gavel was passed to Vice-President Brewer.

Cid presented a certificate of congratulations to Tamarrion Ellis of East Chicago for achieving a perfect score on the SAT.

In the Matter of Discussion/Update – Health Services Update

Michelle Arnold, Manager of the Health First Indiana Project, presented.

Arnold – When HFI first came about they gave local health department a set of key performance indicators. When coming on board in 2024 we strategically planned what our immediate gaps were and the services we’re providing as a local health department. We work very closely with Indiana Department of Health so that we can identify through data what our specific needs were. That helped us in 2025 where the state now recommends that we come forward with our own local health department KPI’s. Those are what is specific to our community needs. We selected four local KPI’s and these will be some of our main focus.



health first  
LAKE COUNTY

April 8, 2025

**Lake County Council**  
Health Department Updates

Chandana Vavilala, MD- Health Officer  
Sheila Paul- Administrator  
Michelle Arnold, MPH - HFI Project Manager

Local Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s)

1

Decrease the rate of mothers not receiving early prenatal care from 33.7% in 2022 to 28% in 2027.

2

Decrease the count of congenital syphilis cases in Lake County from 4 in 2023 to 0 in 2027.

3

Decrease the rate of opioid overdose deaths by 15% from 27.5 per 100,000 in 2018-2022 to 23.4 per 100,000 in 2025-2029.

4

Increase the rate of children under three years of age receiving the recommended vaccine series from 46.7 to 50 by 2027.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mobile Clinic Launch
- Increased lead screenings and risk assessments
- Implemented Mobile Integrated Health
- Increased childhood vaccinations through outreach clinics
- Strengthened community partners
- Expanded school health programs
- Public Health AmeriCorps Partnership



**Purdue Extension**

- A Matter of Balance
- Heart Smart
- Nutrition Education Program

**Foodbank NWI**

- Increased Pantry Packs
- Overhead Locker

**Mental Health America NWI**

- 1.Safe Sleep
- 2.Thumbbody Special
- 3.Gun Safety

**St. John Fire**

- Mobile Integrated Health and Community Risk Reduction

**Franciscan Health**

- Lake Co. Community Health Worker Pilot Program (2) CHW's



Community Partners

Faith CDC

Marshalltown Area Community Youth Programs

Indiana University School of Medicine

- Health Screenings
- Referral to clinical care

VicTory 4 Kidz

The Aliveness Project

For The Love of Arts

Sounds of Sarah

Geminus CIT

SAFE Coalition for Human Rights

Geminus Head Start

- (non funded partner)



# ALL Eyes on Lake County

- Showcased at Public Health Day for MIH
- IDOH Leadership Symposium
- White County Strategic Planning Workshop



# Community Outreach and Engagement

- Established Outreach Team
- Supporting Community Events
- Lead Testing
- Immunizations
- Maternal & Child Health Support
- Chronic Disease Screenings and Education

# Digitization Efforts

- Food Division – **100% completed**
- Environmental – **90% completed**
- Vital Records – **Planning Phase**
- Now offering online and credit card payment options
- Billing for services
- Food inspection software to improve efficiency and transparency
- Software to streamline HFI awards and review





## Looking Ahead

- Expanding Maternal and Child Health Efforts
- Community Needs Assessment(s)
- Aging Population Program

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Join us on **August 2**  
for the Lake county  
Family Day!  
*Hanover High School*

## Lake County Community Assessment



**Established Framework**

Organization Assessment  
Residential Assessment



**Partnership with Data Processing**

Data Implementation Plan  
Data Analytics Plan  
Reporting Plan



**HFI Committee**

Internal Review Team  
Increase Transparency  
Program Evaluation

Additional Council Comments/Action:

Hamm – This probably couldn’t be resolved in one year, but as I brought up in the workshop, regarding the supplemental pays, I think the wisest thing to do is to have Scott work on that and slowly chip away at it. Some of these funds are strictly general fund dollars. Some of them are specific grants that have to go specially for one thing or another. I’d like to make a motion so that Scott can deal with all bookkeepers in all departments and let them know that Scott has our support.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brown, to support Scott Schmal working to decreasing the number of supplemental pays.

Lindemulder – Does this have any teeth to it?

Hamm – I’d like the departments to know that Scott’s not just going out there and freelancing and that he has our support. This is coming from us.

Niemeyer – I think we should take this a step further; Dave I think it's important when we get into the budget time that on our various budget committees we take that active role to not just talk about our support for some of these reform efforts, but we put it into practice when we’re adopting the budget and start to move that needle in the right direction. Again, if we’re going to be under a frozen levy or a reformed system, we’re going to have to get very good at what we do here from an efficiency standpoint, and Scott can lead the charge on that.



Brown – I would not like to see Scott hanging out there on his own. I think that there should be volunteer help from the council itself so that they, the entire county, are aware of the fact that this is not as vague as indicated. This is not just a matter of the (inaudible) wanting to do these things as opposed to having the backing and the support of the council itself. So, I would like to amend that motion to say that along with Scott, there are volunteers from the council itself working on this issue. I have had an interest in this since day one of this issue of supplemental pay. We know what the intent is, but how can it be better managed and have more transparency?

Hamm – I agree with councilman Brown but not to get technical, do you want me to withdraw the motion?

Brown – No. It's just a matter of that there is an intent and hopefully support that certain councilpersons are volunteering as well to participate in this endeavor.

Hamm – I agree wholeheartedly and if we can get something in writing from Tom or Ray to show departments we have his back.

Cid – It's a lot of work.

Hamm – I know. I don't expect Scott to finish it necessarily the first year because some of these things are going to be tricky when it comes to grants and so forth. The grants might be very cost-specific. They have to be used for x, y, and z. You can't throw that in the general fund. But we can give Scott something to work with.

Cid – You have to look at each fund where these supplemental pays are derived from and what the statute itself says on what the use is, and if it can be used, then what are we asking? Are we asking what that person is doing to earn that supplemental pay? Are those questions that we want to ask? Maybe for these mid-year supplemental pays, the council should start saying no. Just no. We have a budget time. This is when you request a salary for that position. Let's use the funds to offset the general fund, if we can. Maybe if a fee is collected, maybe that fee is for the use of someone doing that work. So, they get paid extra to work just on that. It's a lot of work. We have to look at the statute and compare that to who's getting it. Some of these are very healthy supplemental pays.

Hamm – If somebody agrees to work and they get supplemental pay from a grant, that grant goes away, so does that pay.

Cid – I just typed up a letter that says, if you are receiving supplemental pay or you're hired under a grant and that grant money goes away, or even a fee goes away, you're signing off that you understand that it's gone. It doesn't move to the general fund. It's gone.

Scott Schmal – There is some low-hanging fruit. There are some obvious ones. There're actually some supplemental positions paid out of the general fund, which seems kind of goofy. So, you have a position paid out of the general fund, and then that person is also receiving supplemental pay out of the general fund. So, I think those could be cleaned up pretty quickly. It's no different than when we had some budget reform in 2023, where we went to more of a zero-based budgeting. We had a small amount of pushback during that experience, but a lot of the departments bought in and moved forward, and I think we can do the same thing with this. This might be a little easier than back in 2023 just because I think it established some trust within the council and the departments in being consistent and matching the actions and the dialogue along the way. I think in the end it'll be a good project, and it'll take some time.

Majority voted yes. Motion to support Scott Schmal working to decreasing the number of supplemental pays carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Dorian Patel of Schererville made comments regarding obtaining an updated reporting system for diseases in Lake County.

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President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

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Peggy Holinga Katona,  
Lake County Auditor