

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 – April 8, 2025

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Acknowledgments:

1. The Lake County Sheriff issued the following commendations and special recognitions:

Patrol Officers of the Month (January, February and March)

- Officers Matt Anderson, John Garreffa, and Morgan Kral

Outstanding Felony Case Support

- Detective Shane Ratkovich, Detective Sergeant Cody Mansfield, and Officers James Madere and Eric Smith Jr.

Sustained Superior Performance

- Detective Sergeants Michael Hinch and Joseph Molina

Outstanding Law Enforcement Support

- Reserve Police Officers Michael Tabor and Ashley Coniglio

2. The School City of East Chicago Earns Honor in 2025 Magna Awards Program for Innovation

3. The Lake County Veterans Treatment Court Received National Recognition for being named one of just five National Mentor Courts by All Rise’s Justice for Vets division and the U.S. Department of Justice

ORDINANCE #1507

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
Cumulative Park Building Fund 1650		
<u>Parks & Recreation 9203</u>		
63145 Legal Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
63320 Advertising	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
64110 Land Purchases	\$375,000.00	\$375,000.00
64120 Land Improvements	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund 4350		
<u>Cumulative Bridge 7006</u>		
63650 Cumulative Bridge Project	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
Weights & Measures User Fees Fund 7255		
<u>Weights & Measure 5005</u>		
64440 Motor Vehicles	\$32,402.00	\$32,402.00

Adopted this 13th day of May, 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
Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006		
<u>LC C.A.S.A. Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377</u>		
From: 9377-63320 Advertising	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
To: 9377-62410 Other Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Sheriff 8001		
<u>Sheriff's Firearm Training Fund 1125</u>		
From: 1125-63995 Other Services & Charges	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
To: 1125-64490 Other Equipment	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Prosecutor IV-D 9003		
<u>County General Fund 1001</u>		
From: 1001-61150 Paraprofessionals	\$137,796.00	\$137,796.00
1001-61190 Part-Time	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
1001-61290 Supplemental Pay	\$12,644.00	\$12,644.00
To: 1001-61125 Discretionary Salaries	\$170,440.00	\$170,440.00
Sheriff 8001		
<u>LC Sheriff's DCE/SP Fund 9342</u>		
From: 9342-61100 Overtime	\$15,779.37	\$15,779.37
To: 9342-63620 Equipment Repair	\$15,779.37	\$15,779.37
JAG 2022 Grant 8011		
Justice Assistance Grant Fund 8262		
From: 8262-64490 Other Equipment	\$24,960.00	\$24,960.00
To: 8262-62410 Other Supplies	\$24,828.39	\$24,828.39
8262-63995 Other Services & Charges	\$131.61	\$131.61
Economic Development 9307		
<u>Economic Development Cares Act CDBG CV Fund 9346</u>		
From: 9346-64220 Building Improvements	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
To: 9346-62410 Other Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

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 13th day of May, 2025.

<u>Additional</u>			
	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Cumulative Park Building Fund 1650</u>			
Parks & Recreation 9203 (\$850,000)	Niemeyer	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Cumulative Bridge Fund 4350</u>			
Cumulative Bridge 7006 (\$2,000,000)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Weights & Measures User Fees Fund 7255</u>			
Weights & Measure 5005 (\$32,402)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

<u>Transfers</u>			
	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006</u>			
LC C.A.S.A. Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377 (\$3,000)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Sheriff 8001</u>			
Sheriff's Firearm Training Fund 1125 (\$35,000)	Brown	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Prosecutor IV-D 9003</u>			
County General Fund 1001 (\$170,440)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Sheriff 8001</u>			
LC Sheriff's DCE/SP Fund 9342 (\$15,779.37)	Brown	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>JAG 2022 Grant 8011</u>			
Justice Assistance Grant Fund 8262 (\$24,960)	Brown	Brewer	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Economic Development 9307</u>			
Economic Development Cares Act CDBG CV Fund 9346 (\$5,000)	Brown	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Lake Sup. Ct. County Div. Rm. 3 4004 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001

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

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
13608-003 Court Reporter	\$37,604.00	\$40,000.00	\$2,396.00

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006 – Create New Line Item – LC C.A.S.A. Capacity Building Grant Fund 9377

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 Sheriff 8001 – Create New Line Item – Sheriff’s Firearm Training Fund 1125

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

64490 Other Equipment

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

In the Matter of Parks & Recreation 9203 – Create New Line Items – Cumulative Park Building Fund 1650

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

- 63145 Legal Services
- 63320 Advertising
- 64110 Land Purchases
- 64120 Land Improvements

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

In the Matter of Health Department 9306 – Revised 144 – LC Health Dept. Local Public Health Services Fund 1161 **Effective (01-01-2025)**

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

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
14241-001 Health First Indiana Project Manager	\$57,750.00	\$72,100.00	\$14,350.00

Niemeyer – With the passage of Senate Bill 1 and with the reductions in local health department funding, have you been looking at and considering positions like this and others that were funded by this fund as to what their future looks like?

Paul – We took a big gut punch with learning we’re getting 2.5 million instead on nine million which is a significant decrease so Really for us all options are on the table right now. Right off the top we had about six positions planned to hire this year to meet our maternal and child health KPI’s. We’re going to eliminate that entire program and try to find ways to either partner with others or do it in house with the staff that we currently have. We’ve also been working with the budget to determine where we can cut. Unfortunately, a large portion of that is going to come from the money that we sub award out to local partners. Currently we were able to sub award out about four to five million in a year so that’s going to decrease significantly. So we’re trying to figure out how to optimize all of our budgets and how we can work on possibly cross training staff so that we are filling gaps wherever we can.

Niemeyer – When we see this request from various departments on either reorg’s or job titles, rarely do we have in our hands a job description; So, what are the KPI’s of this individual position for that salary?

Paul – I was not there when she was hired on but it is my understanding she is a project manager so basically managing all aspects of the project from budgeting, program development, partner relations, reporting and maintaining our data analysis. I will tell you that since I have come on that I have observed her expanding way beyond that. She has gone into some staff development, assisting the teams with how to optimize their work output and really bringing our department together.

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

In the Matter of Economic Development 9307 – Create New Line Item – General Fund 1001

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

63630 Maintenance & Service Contracts

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

In the Matter of Prosecutor 9001 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Community Based Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grants – Geminus Community Partners = Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program New Grant Application

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

In the Matter of Community Corrections 9101 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Indiana Department of Corrections – Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment (CCJR) Grants = 2026 CCJR Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Community Corrections 9101 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Indiana Supreme Court – Problem-Solving Courts Program = 2026 Problem-Solving Courts Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Community Corrections 9101 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Supporting Addiction-Free Environments (SAFE) Collaboration – Administered by Geminus = FY 2025-2026 SAFE Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of County Council 6001 – Citizen Appointment – County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team:

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Judge Cantrell.

There were no other nominations.

Cid closed nominations.

Cid appointed Judge Cantrell to the County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team serving as the Civil Judge.

LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
2283 NORTH MAIN STREET
CROWN POINT, INDIANA 46307
219-755-3280
FAX: 219-755-3283



LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

March 20, 2025

1ST DISTRICT
DAVID HAMM

★

2ND DISTRICT
CLORIUS L. LAY

★

3RD DISTRICT
CHARLIE BROWN

★

4TH DISTRICT
PETE LINDEMULDER

★

5TH DISTRICT
CHRISTINE CID

★

6TH DISTRICT
TED F. BILSKI

★

7TH DISTRICT
RANDALL NIEMEYER

★

Via Email: hawkid@lakecountyin.org

Hon. Calvin D. Hawkins
Judge, Lake Superior Court, Room Two
3711 Main Street
East Chicago, IN 46312

RE: Appointment to Lake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Dear Judge Hawkins:

At the County Council meeting held on March 11, 2025, a motion was made and unanimously approved to send a letter requesting that you resign from the Lake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team as the judicial representative based on the fact that you are currently facing a suspension of your judicial position.

Although, the Council believes we have just cause to remove you from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, we are offering you the opportunity to resign. If you agree to voluntarily resign, that letter should be sent to my attention, as President of the County Council, and could be directed either to my email through the County or to Victoria Rivera at the Lake County Council office. We need a response by March 31, 2025 so the matter can be placed on the April agenda so a new appointment can be made. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christine Cid, President
Lake County Council

CC/pb

County Council

2025 Regular Meeting

May 13, 2025
10:00 A.M.

LORENZO ARREDONDO JUSTICE CENTER
SUPERIOR COURT OF LAKE COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION, ROOM TWO

CALVIN D. HAWKINS, JUDGE

3711 MAIN STREET
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312
TELEPHONE: (219) 398-2443
FAX: (219) 392-0047

March 24, 2025

Christine Cid, President
Lake County Council
Lake County Government Center
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Re: Appointment to Lake County Domestic
Violence Fatality Review Team

Dear President Cid:

Thank you and the members of the Lake County Council for your correspondence of March 20, 2025. Please excuse the delay of my response.

Per the Council's request I am respectfully resigning my position as the judicial representative on the Lake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. My biggest regret, other than the circumstances prompting this resignation, was the Review Team's unwillingness to recommend to the State to review and consider changing our liberal gun laws. All but one case that our Review Team examined involved a firearm. We can do better!

I will continue to underscore the need to change our gun laws as they relate to family violence. This will be underscored during Family Violence Month

(October) in our free continuing education programs which the Review Team and Council members are welcome to attend.

Thank you and your colleagues again for your courtesies.

Yours sincerely,

Calvin D. Hawkins
Judge, Lake Superior Court
Civil Division, Room Two

CDH/erbw

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

Cid opened nominations.

Brown nominated Robert Farag.

There were no other nominations.

Cid closed nominations.

Cid appointed Robert Farag to the Gary Library Board.

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

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Tom Novak.

There were no other nominations.

Cid closed nominations.

Cid appointed Tom Novak to the Hammond Library Board.

In the Matter of County Council 6001 – Appointments – Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Cid opened nominations.

Hamm nominated Randy Palmateer.

There were no other nominations.

Cid closed nominations.

Cid declared Randy Palmateer to the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority.

In the Matter of Lake County Commissioners 6002 – Interlocal Governmental Agreement – Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Cedar Creek Township, Indiana and Lake County, Indiana for Roof Repairs in Cedar Creek Township, Lake County, Indiana

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

Docusign Envelope ID: 51BC0EBE-143B-4F82-B2EA-91A256D1AD17

JOINT INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, INDIANA AND LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR ROOF REPAIRS IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

THIS JOINT INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, INDIANA AND LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR ROOF REPAIRS IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP (hereinafter referred to as this "Agreement") is made and entered into in accordance with Indiana Code §36-1-7, *et seq.*, as amended from time to time, by and between the CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, Lake County, Indiana, a Municipal Corporation, by its ADVISORY BOARD as its executive and fiscal body (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAR CREEK"), and LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, a unit of local government, by its BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS as its executive and its COUNTY COUNCIL as its fiscal body (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, CEDAR CREEK is a unit of local government located in Lake County, Indiana, with jurisdiction over real property located within the Municipal Corporate Boundaries of CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY is a unit of local government located in Lake County, Indiana, with jurisdiction over certain real property located within the corporate boundaries of Lake County; and

WHEREAS, CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY have each been advised that the provisions of Indiana Code §36-1-7-1, *et seq.* (Interlocal Cooperation Act and referred to hereinafter as the "Act"), as amended from time to time, permit local governmental units and entities to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling governmental units to mutually contract and utilize services for the mutual benefit of the participating governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY are political subdivisions empowered by the Act with authority to contract on behalf of each other on a basis of mutual advantage so as to better provide public services and facilities at a lesser cost; and

WHEREAS, CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY each seek to enter into a joint interlocal cooperation agreement based upon the terms and provisions of the Act, as amended from time to time, together, for ROOF REPAIRS; and

WHEREAS, CEDAR CREEK, and COUNTY have determined that entry into a joint interlocal cooperation agreement for the ROOF REPAIRS is a public improvement in the best interests of the residents of CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP and COUNTY, and therefore, have determined that it is advisable to enter into and become a participating unit under such a joint interlocal cooperation agreement pursuant to the applicable provisions of State Law, as amended from time to time.

Docusign Envelope ID: 51BC0EBE-143B-4F82-B2EA-91A256D1AD17

COVENANTS

NOW, THEREFORE, CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY, in consideration of the terms and conditions set forth herein, all of which are hereby acknowledged, do hereby agree as follows:

SECTION 1: DURATION.

The duration of this Agreement shall be from its effective date to completion and delivery of the Roof Repairs as defined herein.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth and establish the responsibilities and obligations of CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY concerning the ROOF REPAIRS.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this act shall be after the agreement has been signed by a majority of the elected officials of each party necessary to constitute an official act and a copy of the executed agreement is placed on record and filed with the Lake County Recorder.

SECTION 4: ROOF REPAIRS DEFINED.

This ROOF REPAIRS are for emergency roof repairs as requested by the CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE which will improve economic conditions which will benefit the citizens of Lake County, Indiana.

SECTION 5: ROOF REPAIRS FUNDING.

COUNTY agrees to pay to CEDAR CREEK within thirty (30) days of CEDAR CREEK commencing the Roof Repairs, the amount of FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUDRED DOLLARS and NO CENTS (\$54,800.00) to help fund the Roof Repairs. This contribution of COUNTY is solely for costs CEDAR CREEK will incur for the ROOF REPAIRS.

SECTION 6: ADMINISTRATION AND AUTHORITY DELEGATION.

- A. This Agreement shall be administered as follows:
- 1) CEDAR CREEK shall use the funds for Roof Repairs costs which will be incurred by the Township.
 - 2) With the \$54,800.00 received from LAKE COUNTY, CEDAR CREEK shall use the funds for roof repairs.

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- B. The TRUSTEE OF THE CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY is hereby designated to receive, disburse, and account for all funds pursuant to this Agreement.
- C. CEDAR CREEK shall use the funds in accordance with all state and local rules and laws.
- D. Because the COUNTY will have no supervisory responsibility for the purchases made by CEDAR CREEK, the COUNTY will not be in privity of contract with any person or company contacted by CEDAR CREEK to provide the Roof Repairs, and COUNTY'S only involvement is to provide funding, the County of Lake and any and all of its elected officials, appointed officials, offices, departments, divisions, employees, to include those of the Lake County Highway Department shall not be liable for and CEDAR CREEK shall hold the aforementioned unit, bodies, and persons harmless from any loss or damage to any party that may occur during these purchases.
- E. The purchases will be deemed completed when CEDAR CREEK certifies to COUNTY the purchases has been made and the products delivered and provides COUNTY with a detailed list of how the funds were used for the purchased Roof Repairs.

SECTION 7: ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS.

No Party shall assign, delegate, or otherwise transfer its rights and obligations as set forth in this Agreement to any other entity.

SECTION 8: AMENDMENTS.

The terms of this Agreement may not be amended, supplemented, waived or modified without the prior written approval of all Parties.

SECTION 9: FORCE MAJEURE.

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY, shall not be deemed in default or in breach of this Agreement to the extent it is unable to perform due to an event of Force Majeure. For the purpose of this Agreement, Force Majeure shall mean and include any act of God, accident, fire, lockout, strike or other labor dispute, riot or civil commotion, act of public enemy, failure of transportation facilities, enactment, rule, order, or act of government or governmental instrumentality (whether domestic or international and whether federal, state or local, or the international equivalent thereof), failure of technical difficulties, or any other cause of any nature whatsoever beyond the control of CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY, which was not avoidable in the exercise of reasonable care and foresight.

SECTION 10: NOTICES.

All notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing, and deemed sufficient to each Party when sent by United States Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, to the following:

Cedar Creek Township

Commissioner Mike Repay

Councilwoman Christine Cid

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Township Trustee	2293 North Main Street	2293 North Main Street
15 North Fremont St.	Crown Pt., In 46307	Crown Pt., In 46307
Lowell, IN 46356		

SECTION 11: CAPTIONS.

The captions and section designations herein set forth are for convenience only, and shall have no substantive meaning.

SECTION 12: SEVERABILITY.

In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or provision hereof is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this Agreement, and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13: ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT.

This Agreement represents the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes all other negotiations, representations, or agreements, whether written or verbal, relating to this Agreement. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and shall be binding upon the Parties, and their respective assigns and successors in interest.

SECTION 14: MATERIAL DISPUTE.

The parties agree that CEDAR CREEK and COUNTY shall meet for resolution purposes. Thereafter, if the dispute is unable to be resolved, the Parties agree that the dispute will be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Parties agree that each Party shall be responsible for its own attorney fees, absent any applicable provision of law to the contrary.

SECTION 15: COUNTERPARTS.

This Agreement shall be signed in counterparts and each of said counterparts shall be considered an original.

SECTION 16: RECORDING AND FILING.

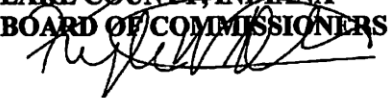
- A. Before this Agreement takes effect, it must be recorded with the Office of the Lake County Recorder.
- B. No later than sixty (60) days after it takes effect and is recorded, the Agreement must be filed with the Office of the State Board of Accounts for audit purposes all pursuant to I.C. §36-1-7-6.

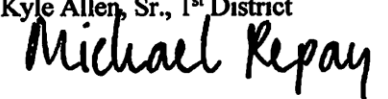
SECTION 17: PUBLIC ACTION AND RATIFICATION.

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- A. Because there exists a situation where time is of the essence, the parties will have their respective elected officials sign the agreement to make it effective and then ratify it at a subsequent public meeting.
- B. To be effective with a retroactive ratification, the following must occur at a public meeting:
- 1) The Town Advisory Board as the executive and fiscal body of Cedar Creek Township, Lake County, Indiana, a Municipal Corporation.
 - 2) The Lake County Council has the fiscal body of the County of Lake, Indiana.
 - 3) The Board of Commissioners as the county executive of the County of Lake, Indiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized Officials and Representatives have caused this Agreement to be executed this 4/23/2025 day of _____, 2025.


LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Kyle Allen, Sr., 1st District


Michael C. Repay, 3rd District



Jerry Tippy, 2nd District

ATTEST:


Peggy Katona, Auditor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized Officials and Representatives have caused this Agreement to be executed this 13th day of May, 2025.

Docusign Envelope ID: 51BC0EBE-143B-4F82-B2EA-91A256D1AD17

LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
COUNTY COUNCIL:

David Hamm

David Hamm, 1st District

Charlie Brown

Charlie Brown, 3rd District

Christine Cid

Christine Cid, 5th District

Randy Niemeyer

Randy Niemeyer, 7th District

Ronald G. Brewer

Ronald G. Brewer, 2nd District

Pete Lindemulder

Pete Lindemulder, 4th District

Ted Bilski

Ted Bilski, 6th District

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized Officials and
Representatives have caused this Agreement to be executed this 8TH day of
APRIL, 2025.

CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP,
INDIANA ADVISORY BOARD:

Randy Wietbrock

Randy Wietbrock

Dorothy Eich

Dorothy Eich

Dan Blankenship

Dan Blankenship

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming May 15-21, 2025 as National Police Week

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

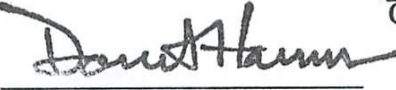
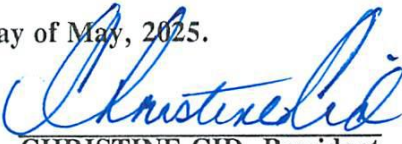
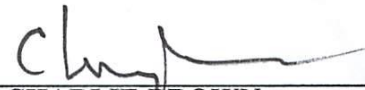


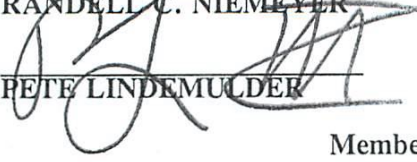
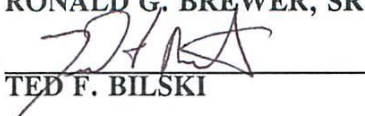
RESOLUTION NO. -25-29
RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 15-21, 2025
AS NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

- WHEREAS, National Police Week was created in 1962, after President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, designating May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and stating that the week in which the day falls should be National Police Week; and
- WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton amended President Kennedy's declaration by signing a law directing that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff in all government buildings on May 15th every year; and
- WHEREAS, the United States police force has developed into a powerful one, with dedicated officers; and
- WHEREAS, National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year; and
- WHEREAS, National Police Week is a time to honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty; it is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, as well as to remember their commitment to keeping people safe; and
- WHEREAS, the Lake County Council desires to proclaim May 15-21, 2025 as National Police Week, a time for citizens and civilians to express gratitude to law enforcement officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Lake County Council proclaims May 15-21, 2025 as National Police Week. National Police Week is all about honor, gratitude, remembrances, servitude and peer support.

SO RESOLVED THIS 13th day of May, 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 Permitting Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency to Pay an Outstanding 2023 Invoices/Debts from the 2025 Budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-30

RESOLUTION PERMITTING LAKE COUNTY HOMELAND
SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO
PAY OUTSTANDING 2023 INVOICES/DEBTS FROM THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency is currently operating in the 2025 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the following invoices/debts incurred in the Budget year of 2023, have not been paid:

<u>1001-9304-63910</u>	<u>Dues and Subscriptions</u>
Microsoft	\$ 175.00; and



WHEREAS, Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency desires to pay the above invoices/debts due.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the following 2023 expenses shall be paid from
Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Agency's 2025 Budget:

<u>1001-9304-63910</u>	<u>Dues and Subscriptions</u>
Microsoft	\$ 175.00.

SO RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY, 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 Ordinance Creating the Lake County Juvenile Center Flower Farm Project Grant 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 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. 1507A

**ORDINANCE CREATING THE LAKE COUNTY
JUVENILE CENTER FLOWER FARM PROJECT GRANT
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,** 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 Master Gardeners Association (LCMGA) (Purdue Extension) has established the Lake County Master Gardeners Association “Helping Others Grow” Grant; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Juvenile Center has been awarded a grant from Lake County Master Gardeners Association in the sum of Four Hundred (\$400.00) Dollars; pursuant to the grant the funds shall be used for seeds and flowers for the Flower Farm project at the Lake County Juvenile Center; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create the Lake County Juvenile Center Flower Farm Project Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund.

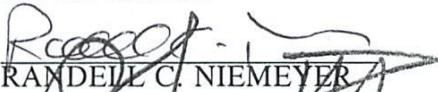
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Lake County Council hereby establishes the Lake County Juvenile Center Flower Farm Project Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the deposit of Four Hundred (\$400.00) Dollars from the Lake County Master Gardeners Association (Purdue Extension).
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 Juvenile Center Flower Farm Project Grant Fund, subject to appropriation by the Lake County Council.


4. In the event future Lake County Master Gardeners Association Grants are awarded to the Lake County Juvenile Center, such grants may be accounted for using this Fund.


SO ORDAINED THIS 13th DAY OF May, 2025.


DAVID HAMM

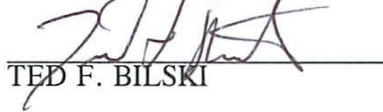

RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHRISTINE CID, President


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Establishing the 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads and Bridges Matching/INDOT Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

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

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, 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. 1507B

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE 2024-2 LAKE COUNTY LOCAL ROADS
AND BRIDGES MATCHING/INDOT COMMUNITY CROSSINGS
MATCHING GRANT 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,** 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,** pursuant to I.C. 8-23-30-2, the State of Indiana has established a Local Roads & Bridges Matching Grant Fund (Grant Fund) to provide matching grants to local units of government for certain eligible projects; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to I.C. 8-23-30-3, a county may apply to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for a grant from the Grant Fund for an eligible project; and
- WHEREAS,** Lake County and the Indiana Department of Transportation have entered into the Local Roads and Bridges/Community Crossings Matching Grant Agreement awarding Lake County a grant of \$1,233,234.25 to be used to reconstruct Mississippi Street from State Route 2 north to 153rd Avenue and reconstruct Iowa Street from 153rd Avenue north to 129th Avenue; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create the 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads and Bridges/Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the deposit of matching grant funds received pursuant to I.C. 8-23-30-3(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads and Bridges/Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, is established for the deposit of matching grant funds received pursuant to I.C. 8-23-30-3(2).
2. That the 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads and Bridges/Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, shall be used to reconstruct Mississippi Street from State Route 2 north to 153rd Avenue and reconstruct Iowa Street from 153rd Avenue north to 129th Avenue.

- 3 That pursuant to I.C. 36-2-5-2(b), the Lake County fiscal body shall appropriate all money to be paid out of the fund, except as otherwise provided by law.
- 4 Any money remaining in the fund at the end of the year shall not revert to any other fund but continues in the 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads and Bridges/Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund.

SO ORDAINED THIS 13th DAY OF MAY, 2025.

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

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Amending the Lake County 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1500F, Establishing Salary Increases for Seventeen (17) Full-time Positions in the Lake County Prosecutor’s IV-D Department (Department 9003)

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

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1500F-3

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAKE COUNTY
2025 SALARY ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 1500F,
ESTABLISHING SALARY INCREASES FOR SEVENTEEN (17)
FULL-TIME POSITIONS IN THE LAKE COUNTY
PROSECUTOR’S IV-D DEPARTMENT (DEPARTMENT 9003)


- WHEREAS,** on October 15, 2024, the Lake County Council adopted the Lake County 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1500F; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Prosecutor’s IV-D Department’s seventeen (17) salary increases will eliminate supplemental pay from the various IV-D funds and place the sole source of the employee’s salary in the County General Fund; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council now desires to amend Ordinance No. 1500F to establish a revised Form No. 144 establishing salary increases for seventeen (17) full-time positions for the Lake County Prosecutor’s IV-D Department (Department 9003), effective upon adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

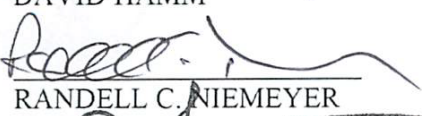
That it be ordained by the Lake County Council that the attached Form No. 144, Exhibit “A”, establishing salary increases for seventeen (17) full time positions in the Lake County Prosecutor’s IV-D Department (Department 9003), is hereby approved, effective upon adoption.

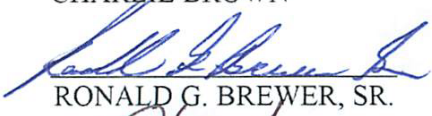
SO ORDAINED THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY, 2025.

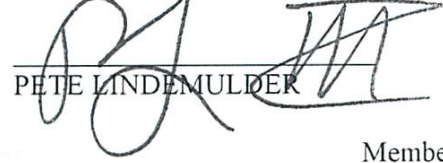

CHRISTINE CID, President



DAVID HAMM


CHARLIE BROWN


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


PETE LINDEMULDER


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

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 2025

Prosecutor IV-D, Department 6003, 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

FULL TIME SALARIED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

<small>Title of Position or Employee Classification</small>			
JOB CODE # AND POSITION #	\$ PRESENT	\$ PROPOSED	\$ DIFFERENCE
12461/001	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 138,241.00	\$ 43,241.00
12501/001	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 110,286.00	\$ 40,286.00
12501/002	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 109,251.00	\$ 39,251.00
12501/003	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 75,135.00	\$ 30,135.00
12501/004	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 94,350.00	\$ 34,350.00
12501/005	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 94,567.00	\$ 34,567.00
12501/006	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 94,350.00	\$ 34,350.00
12501/007	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 109,251.00	\$ 39,251.00
15705/003	\$ 60,581.00	\$ 62,340.00	\$ 1,749.00
45708/003	\$ 46,939.00	\$ 48,764.00	\$ 1,825.00
15706/004	\$ 41,574.00	\$ 43,953.00	\$ 2,379.00
15706/008	\$ 42,283.00	\$ 42,642.00	\$ 359.00
15706/009	\$ 40,446.00	\$ 40,803.00	\$ 357.00
15706/010	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 42,565.00	\$ 2,565.00
15706/012	\$ 43,208.00	\$ 43,565.00	\$ 357.00
15707/020	\$ 47,448.00	\$ 65,310.00	\$ 17,862.00
15707/026	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ (40,000.00)
Totals	\$ 932,489.00		\$ 282,884.00

ok y

PART TIME AND HOURLY RATED EMPLOYEES

<small>Title of Position or Employee Classification</small>		<small>Rate of Pay</small>	
	\$	Per	
	\$	Per	
	\$	Per	
	\$	Per	
	\$	Per	

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

Submitted by: Jacob Paxton
(Signature)
Date 4/29/2025 Administrative Director
(Title)

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 Planning Commission Ordinance No. 2585 – Pam Purkey, Owner, Phillip Purkey, Petitioner, 4/16/2025, A-1 to RR, Favorable Recommendation, (Vote 5-0)

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

ORDINANCE #2585
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 April 16, 2025).

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

ZONE CHANGE from A-1 (Agricultural Zone) to RR (Rural Residential) owned by Pam Purkey and petitioned by Phillip Purkey to allow for a proposed residential subdivision on the following described property:


General Location: Located approximately 6/10 of a mile north of W. 205th Avenue on the east side of Colfax Street, a/k/a 20009 Colfax Street in Cedar Creek Township.


LEGAL DESCRIPTION: PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST OF THE SECOND PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 1 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING: THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 580.8 FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 750 FEET; THENCE WEST PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 580.8 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 750 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 10.0 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

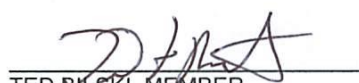
IS HEREBY X APPROVED DENIED REMANDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 13th DAY OF May , 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 LINDERMULDER, MEMBER


RANDY NIEMEYER, MEMBER

In the Matter of Plan Commission Ordinance No. 2586 – Alyssa and Joshua Thompson, Owners/Petitioners, 4/16/2025, A-1 to RR, Favorable Recommendation, (Vote 5-0)

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

ORDINANCE #2586
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 April 16, 2025).

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

ZONE CHANGE from A-1 (Agricultural Zone) to RR (Rural Residential) owned and petitioned by Alyssa and Joshua Thompson to allow for a proposed residential subdivision on the following described property:

General Location: Located approximately 2/10 of a mile south of W. 169th Avenue on the east side of State Line Road, a/k/a 17027 State Line Road in West Creek Township.


Parcel "A" Description: Part of the SW ¼ of Section 13, Township 33 North, Range 10 West of the 2nd P.M., described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said SW 1/4; thence South 00°12'23" West, along the West line of said SW ¼, 661.42 feet to the South line of the parcel described in Warranty Deed to Patrick and Donna Lukasik as recorded as Document No. 1998-054374 in the Office of the Recorder of said County and the point of beginning; thence South 89°38'44" East, along said South line, 593.16 feet, thence North 00°12'23" East, parallel to said West line, 63.68 feet; thence North 89°38'44" West, parallel to said South line, 593.16 feet to said West line; thence South 00°12'23" West, along said West line, 63.68 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.867 acres more or less.

IS HEREBY X BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL
APPROVED DENIED REMANDED

OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 13th DAY OF May , 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 LINDERMULDER, MEMBER


RANDY NIEMEYER, MEMBER

Additional Council Comments:

Niemeyer – Earlier I mentioned Senate Bill 1, passage of the state budget, and there has been a narrative that was developed around this entire process that shifted the blame of increased property taxes to the “evil” local government. Having served in local government as an elected official for fifteen years, I can tell you the councils that I’ve sat on, both in Cedar Lake and here, don’t run massive surpluses. We are, I think, for the most part, good stewards of taxpayer money. Is there a need to every so often look at modernizing our business model? Sure. Everybody should go through that process of tearing things apart and putting them back together to determine what is effective today compared to yesterday. Those are good, healthy processes, but the idea that somehow or another the 22% in levy increases over the last five years somehow created the 50% to 60% raise in taxation to residential properties is a completely false narrative and lacks factual basis. I think it’s irresponsible that there are folks that serve us in Indianapolis that have perpetuated that narrative because 22% doesn’t equal 50% to 60% in any math. I’m no math wizard and don’t have a degree in it, but I can figure that much out. So, I think it’s important that instead of there being this us-versus-them narrative, if you look at recent surveys and polls, up to 70% of people surveyed believe that local government is to blame for their property tax increases when, in all actuality, it was driven by inflation like everything else that we see. Inflation and a flaw within the assessment system and the equations used to assess properties, namely, commercial properties. So, I want to make this statement on the record because I think we need to start pushing back against this narrative that somehow or another your local units of government are lavishly spending your taxpayer dollars that, by the way, are approved by the state before we get our budget order. So, this idea is a false narrative. I’m tired of hearing it. I know that a lot of it was pushed by my own party in Indianapolis, and I’ve expressed my displeasure with some of those folks directly that we need to do a better job at communicating honestly with our people about some of the flaws within the system, but also some of the services that are provided at the local level are not duplicated at the state level, and if they were, it would probably be provided at a much higher cost and with much less effectiveness, so I want to stand up for local government here and say we’re not the cause to the average person’s property tax bills going up. This was inflation-driven; that cycle began in about 2020/2021 with the passage of numerous excess spending bills at the federal level helped to spur that inflation, and local governments’ costs went upright along with it, but our levy only increased in that time 22%. So, I just wanted to say that for the record, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this. It’s just been weighing on me. I’m disappointed in what people are talking about with this because, yes, we’re going to undertake the process on this council of improving, modernizing, and making our government more efficient, but that alone won’t alleviate some of those pressures that are going to be put on the provision of basic essential local services.

Bilski – I concur, and they completely forgot when we had a frozen levy here and the cuts we did to our government here, the number of departments shut down, and the layoffs that happened. They didn’t recognize that and operated under a frozen levy, which passed on a savings to the taxpayers of Lake County that will never come back. When we closed the TIF district on 51, we gave that tax break back to the taxpayers; there’s no other county out there that did that. So, they need to wake up down there and realize that we’re supposed to be an extension of state government. We’re supposed to be working together, not them against us. Maybe someday that’ll happen.

Cid – It was definitely a false narrative. More of a campaign promise and misunderstanding of the assessment process.

Bilski – There’s a threshold in there that they can adjust, there’s 30% adjustability in there. Ask any state legislator. I think that as said, it’s easier to point the finger at every local person.

Niemeyer – When I started here on the council a few years ago, one of the first conversations I had with Scott was about moving us towards zero-based budgeting. This was before any talk of property tax reform, and I will say that the bill that was passed is not reform; it’s a shifting of the deck chairs on the Titanic. It's not property tax reform. As pointed out, there will be other taxation that backfills the entire process that will likely increase the burden on the average taxpayer even in counties that aren't Lake County that have 500,000 people. If you're a county with 30,000 people, you're likely to see those municipal units of government try to backfill what they're losing with income tax dollars and other user fees. If we want to reform a system, I don't think you do it in a four-month period. You take several summer study sessions, you dive into all the details, and you look at fundamental reform that creates a more productive playing field for everyone. You don't just pass a bill and say, “Well, we'll figure it out over the next few years.” That, to me, was just not a good process, and this begs for a heck of a lot more work. I say, as the chairman of a majority party here in Lake County, I will be working diligently to make sure that the legislators on my side of the aisle are focused on diving into those details, especially here in Lake County. Right now, I think there are a lot of question marks and very few answers.

Lindemulder – I’d like to thank former colleague, Senator Dan Dernulc, who voted against Senate Bill One.

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