

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 – July 8, 2025

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

Acknowledgements: Cid announced that the Lake County Government Center will be closed on September 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of Labor Day. Furthermore, Cid spoke on the success of the Lake County Fair.

ORDINANCE #1510

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<br>Requested | Appropriated |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| County Highway Fund 1102   |                            |              |
| <u>Gen Undistributed Motor Expense 7004</u>                          |                            |              |
| 62210 Petroleum Products   | \$25,000.00                | \$25,000.00  |
| 62220 Garage & Motors  | \$60,000.00                | \$60,000.00  |
| 62310 Equipment Repair Parts   | \$70,000.00                | \$70,000.00  |
| 62390 Other Repair & Maintenance Supplies                            | \$5,000.00                 | \$5,000.00   |
| 62410 Other Supplies   | \$70,000.00                | \$70,000.00  |
| 63620 Equipment Repair   | \$50,000.00                | \$50,000.00  |
| Sheriff's Sale Program & Service Fund 4289                           |                            |              |
| <u>Sheriff 8001</u>  |                            |              |
| 64490 Other Equipment  | \$145,768.00               | \$145,768.00 |
| Juvenile Behavioral Health Competitive Grant Pilot Program Fund 9351 |                            |              |
| <u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>   |                            |              |
| 61290 Supplemental Pay   | \$5,000.00                 | \$5,000.00   |
| 61320 FICA – Deduction   | \$382.50                   | \$382.50     |
| 61330 PERF – Deduction   | \$710.00                   | \$710.00     |
| 63195 Contractual Services   | \$86,400.00                | \$86,400.00  |
| Adult Guardianship Svcs Grant Fund 9371                              |                            |              |
| <u>Superior Court Civil 3001</u>                                     |                            |              |
| 63190 Other Professional Services                                    | \$1,000.00                 | \$1,000.00   |

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 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>Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006</u> |             |                  |
| County General Fund 1001            |             |                  |
| From: 1001-62110 Office Supplies    | \$500.00    | <b>WITHDRAWN</b> |
| 1001-63231 Travel – Registration    | \$500.00    | “”               |
| 1001-63233 Travel – Lodging         | \$1,000.00  | “”               |
| 1001-63234 Travel – Trans/Other     | \$500.00    | “”               |
| To: 1001-64490 Other Equipment      | \$2,500.00  | “”               |
| <br><u>Health Department 9306</u>   |             |                  |
| Health Maintenance Fund 1153        |             |                  |
| From: 1153-64490 Other Equipment    | \$29,200.00 | \$29,200.00      |
| To: 1153-61280 Seasonal Employees   | \$19,200.00 | \$19,200.00      |
| 1153-63210 Freight & Express        | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00      |

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

Additionals

|   | Made Motion | Seconded    |  |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|
| <u>County Highway Fund 1102</u>   |             |             |  |
| Gen Undistributed Motor Expense 7004<br>(\$280,000)                             | Niemeyer    | Lindemulder | Majority voted yes.<br>Motion to approve<br>carried 7-0. |
| <br><u>Sheriff's Sale Program &amp; Service Fund 4289</u>                       |             |             |  |
| Sheriff 8001<br>(\$145,768)   | Brown       | Hamm        | Majority voted yes.<br>Motion to approve<br>carried 7-0. |
| <br><u>Juvenile Behavioral Health Competitive Grant Pilot Program Fund 9351</u> |             |             |  |
| Juvenile Court 4005<br>(\$92,492.50)  | Hamm        | Bilski      | Majority voted yes.<br>Motion to approve<br>carried 7-0. |
| <br><u>Adult Guardianship Svcs Grant Fund 9371</u>                              |             |             |  |
| Superior Court Civil 3001<br>(\$1,000)  | Hamm        | Bilski      | Majority voted yes.<br>Motion to approve<br>carried 7-0. |

Transfers

|  | Made Motion      | Seconded |  |
|--|------------------|----------|--|
| <u>Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006</u>        |                  |          |  |
| County General Fund 1001<br>(\$2,500)      | <b>WITHDRAWN</b> |          |  |
| <br><u>Health Department 9306</u>          |                  |          |  |
| Health Maintenance Fund 1153<br>(\$29,200) | Brown            | Hamm     | Majority voted yes.<br>Motion to approve<br>carried 7-0. |

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Revised 144 – Juvenile Behavioral Health Competitive Grant Pilot Program Fund 9351 **Effective (07-01-2025)**

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 7-1-2025:

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

Majority voted yes. Motion to approved Revised 144 with an effective date of 7-1-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Revised 144 – LC Juvenile Center’s High-Juvenile Court-Supplemental Pay 9130 **Effective (04-01-2025)**

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 4-1-2025:

|                            | <u>Present</u> | <u>Proposed</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 39002-XXX Supplemental Pay | \$0.00         | \$2,250.00      | \$2,250.00        |

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 4-1-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Health Department 9306 – Create New Line Items – Health Maintenance Fund 1153

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

- 61280 Seasonal Employees
- 63210 Freight & Express

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

In the Matter of Community Corrections 9101 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Legacy Foundation Teambuilding Grant – New Grant Application

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

In the Matter of Health Department 9306 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement Grant – Grant Renewal

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

In the Matter of Non-Binding Review – I.C. 6-1.1-17-3.6 – Estimated Maximum Levy 2026 – Estimated Circuit Breaker 2026

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

Hamm :

Sec. 3.6 (a) At the first meeting of the county fiscal body in August, the county fiscal body shall review the following:

- (1) The estimated levy limits provided by the department of local government finance under IC 6-1.1-18.5-24
- (2) The estimate provided by the department of local government finance under IC 6-1.1-20.6-11.1 of how each taxing unit’s distribution of property taxes will be reduced by credits under IC 6-1.1-20.6.
  - (b) The county fiscal body may request that representatives from the taxing units located within the county attend the meeting described above
  - (c) The county fiscal body must allow a representative of a taxing unit that attends the meeting described above to comment on the taxing unit’s proposed budgets, tax levies, and tax rates for the ensuing calendar year.
  - (d) After the county fiscal body has held the meeting required by this section, the county fiscal body may prepare and distribute a written recommendation for taxing units in the county. If the county fiscal body does not prepare a written recommendation, the minutes of the meeting held under this

section shall be distributed by the county auditor to all taxing units in the county after the minutes have been approved by the county fiscal body.

Cid confirmed all councilmen read IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 and the estimates attached in Exhibit "A".

| Unit   | Type | 2025 Maximum Levy | 2025 Permanent Appeals | 2025 Maximum Levy for Growth Quotient | MLGQ   | 2026 Initial Maximum Levy | 2026 Potential Appeals | Estimated Maximum Levy Prior to Allowable Adj. | Cumulative Capital Development Adjustment | Mental Health Adjustment | Developmental Disability Adjustment | 2026 Estimated Maximum Levy |
|--|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4510000 - Lake County                          | UT   | 174,203,033       | -                      | 174,203,033                           | 1.0400 | 181,171,154               | -                      | 181,171,154                                    | 10,546,199                                | 3,835,146                | 10,654,436                          | 206,206,935                 |
| 4520001 - Calumet Township                     | UT   | 4,021,525         | -                      | 4,021,525                             | 1.0400 | 4,182,386                 | -                      | 4,182,386                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,182,386                   |
| 4520001 - Calumet Township                     | TA   | 8,712,157         | -                      | 8,712,157                             | 1.0400 | 9,060,643                 | -                      | 9,060,643                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 9,060,643                   |
| 4520001 - Calumet Township                     | TB   | 10,613,360        | -                      | 10,613,360                            | 1.0400 | 11,037,894                | -                      | 11,037,894                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 11,037,894                  |
| 4520002 - Cedar Creek Township                 | TF   | 250,063           | -                      | 250,063                               | 1.0400 | 260,066                   | -                      | 260,066  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 260,066                     |
| 4520002 - Cedar Creek Township                 | UT   | 718,813           | -                      | 718,813                               | 1.0400 | 747,566                   | -                      | 747,566  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 747,566                     |
| 4520003 - Center Township                      | UT   | 375,786           | -                      | 375,786                               | 1.0400 | 390,817                   | -                      | 390,817  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 390,817                     |
| 4520003 - Center Township                      | TF   | 507,723           | -                      | 507,723                               | 1.0400 | 528,032                   | -                      | 528,032  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 528,032                     |
| 4520004 - Eagle Creek Township                 | TF   | 126,066           | -                      | 126,066                               | 1.0400 | 131,109                   | -                      | 131,109  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 131,109                     |
| 4520004 - Eagle Creek Township                 | UT   | 80,191            | -                      | 80,191                                | 1.0400 | 83,399                    | -                      | 83,399   | -   | -                        | -                                   | 83,399                      |
| 4520005 - Hanover Township                     | UT   | 368,690           | -                      | 368,690                               | 1.0400 | 383,438                   | -                      | 383,438  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 383,438                     |
| 4520005 - Hanover Township                     | TF   | 311,393           | -                      | 311,393                               | 1.0400 | 323,849                   | -                      | 323,849  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 323,849                     |
| 4520006 - Hobart Township                      | TF   | 1,237             | -                      | 1,237                                 | 1.0400 | 1,286                     | -                      | 1,286  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,286                       |
| 4520006 - Hobart Township                      | UT   | 889,487           | -                      | 889,487                               | 1.0400 | 925,066                   | -                      | 925,066  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 925,066                     |
| 4520007 - North Township                       | UT   | 8,197,988         | -                      | 8,197,988                             | 1.0400 | 8,525,908                 | -                      | 8,525,908                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 8,525,908                   |
| 4520008 - Ross Township                        | UT   | 1,678,632         | -                      | 1,678,632                             | 1.0400 | 1,745,777                 | -                      | 1,745,777                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,745,777                   |
| 4520009 - St. John Township                    | UT   | 608,857           | -                      | 608,857                               | 1.0400 | 633,211                   | -                      | 633,211  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 633,211                     |
| 4520009 - St. John Township                    | TF   | 414,855           | -                      | 414,855                               | 1.0400 | 431,449                   | -                      | 431,449  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 431,449                     |
| 4520010 - West Creek Township                  | TF   | 85,984            | -                      | 85,984                                | 1.0400 | 89,423                    | -                      | 89,423   | -   | -                        | -                                   | 89,423                      |
| 4520010 - West Creek Township                  | UT   | 347,969           | -                      | 347,969                               | 1.0400 | 361,888                   | -                      | 361,888  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 361,888                     |
| 4520011 - Winfield Township                    | UT   | 210,946           | -                      | 210,946                               | 1.0400 | 219,384                   | -                      | 219,384  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 219,384                     |
| 4520011 - Winfield Township                    | TF   | 592,045           | -                      | 592,045                               | 1.0400 | 615,727                   | -                      | 615,727  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 615,727                     |
| 4530101 - Gary Civil City                      | UT   | 97,843,911        | -                      | 97,843,911                            | 1.0400 | 101,757,667               | -                      | 101,757,667                                    | 652,929                                   | -                        | -                                   | 102,410,596                 |
| 4530104 - Hammond Civil City                   | UT   | 58,129,704        | -                      | 58,129,704                            | 1.0400 | 60,454,892                | -                      | 60,454,892                                     | 1,795,021                                 | -                        | -                                   | 62,249,913                  |
| 4530108 - East Chicago Civil City              | UT   | 53,193,921        | -                      | 53,193,921                            | 1.0400 | 55,321,678                | -                      | 55,321,678                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 55,321,678                  |
| 4550124 - East Chicago Public Library          | UT   | 7,851,502         | -                      | 7,851,502                             | 1.0400 | 8,165,562                 | -                      | 8,165,562                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 8,165,562                   |
| 4550125 - Gary Public Library                  | UT   | 10,362,832        | -                      | 10,362,832                            | 1.0400 | 10,777,345                | -                      | 10,777,345                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 10,777,345                  |
| 4550126 - Hammond Public Library               | UT   | 5,717,708         | -                      | 5,717,708                             | 1.0400 | 5,946,416                 | -                      | 5,946,416                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 5,946,416                   |
| 4550127 - Lowell Public Library                | UT   | 1,294,156         | -                      | 1,294,156                             | 1.0400 | 1,345,922                 | -                      | 1,345,922                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,345,922                   |
| 4550128 - Whiting Public Library               | UT   | 1,578,626         | -                      | 1,578,626                             | 1.0400 | 1,641,771                 | -                      | 1,641,771                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,641,771                   |
| 4550129 - Lake County Public Library           | UT   | 14,634,999        | -                      | 14,634,999                            | 1.0400 | 15,220,399                | -                      | 15,220,399                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 15,220,399                  |
| 4530202 - Hobart Civil City                    | UT   | 19,651,129        | -                      | 19,651,129                            | 1.0400 | 20,437,174                | 1,223,253              | 21,660,427                                     | 891,609                                   | -                        | -                                   | 22,552,036                  |
| 4550276 - Crown Point Community Public Library | UT   | 2,033,580         | -                      | 2,033,580                             | 1.0400 | 2,114,923                 | -                      | 2,114,923                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 2,114,923                   |
| 4530321 - Crown Point Civil City               | UT   | 15,447,340        | -                      | 15,447,340                            | 1.0400 | 16,065,234                | -                      | 16,065,234                                     | 1,317,897                                 | -                        | -                                   | 17,383,131                  |
| 4530322 - Whiting Civil City                   | UT   | 9,465,668         | -                      | 9,465,668                             | 1.0400 | 9,844,295                 | -                      | 9,844,295                                      | 243,340                                   | -                        | -                                   | 10,087,635                  |
| 4530401 - Lake Station Civil City              | UT   | 5,657,930         | -                      | 5,657,930                             | 1.0400 | 5,884,247                 | -                      | 5,884,247                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 5,884,247                   |
| 4530504 - Cedar Lake Civil Town                | UT   | 4,961,343         | 423,411                | 5,384,754                             | 1.0400 | 5,600,144                 | -                      | 5,600,144                                      | 527,101                                   | -                        | -                                   | 6,127,245                   |
| 4530505 - Griffith Civil Town                  | UT   | 7,516,822         | 505,000                | 8,021,822                             | 1.0400 | 8,342,695                 | -                      | 8,342,695                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 8,342,695                   |
| 4530506 - Highland Civil Town                  | UT   | 8,797,194         | -                      | 8,797,194                             | 1.0400 | 9,149,082                 | -                      | 9,149,082                                      | 828,198                                   | -                        | -                                   | 9,977,280                   |
| 4530507 - Munster Civil Town                   | UT   | 8,683,128         | -                      | 8,683,128                             | 1.0400 | 9,030,453                 | -                      | 9,030,453                                      | 1,100,720                                 | -                        | -                                   | 10,131,173                  |
| 4530512 - Merrillville Civil Town              | UT   | 8,409,270         | -                      | 8,409,270                             | 1.0400 | 8,745,641                 | -                      | 8,745,641                                      | 1,232,706                                 | -                        | -                                   | 9,978,347                   |
| 4530512 - Merrillville Civil Town              | FT   | 2,620,675         | -                      | 2,620,675                             | 1.0400 | 2,725,502                 | -                      | 2,725,502                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 2,725,502                   |
| 4530730 - Dyer Civil Town                      | UT   | 4,518,384         | -                      | 4,518,384                             | 1.0400 | 4,699,119                 | -                      | 4,699,119                                      | 596,983                                   | -                        | -                                   | 5,296,102                   |
| 4530731 - Lowell Civil Town                    | UT   | 4,371,545         | 358,130                | 4,729,675                             | 1.0400 | 4,918,862                 | -                      | 4,918,862                                      | 367,607                                   | -                        | -                                   | 5,286,469                   |
| 4530732 - New Chicago Civil Town               | UT   | 466,851           | -                      | 466,851                               | 1.0400 | 485,525                   | -                      | 485,525  | 27,650                                    | -                        | -                                   | 513,175                     |
| 4530733 - St. John Civil Town                  | UT   | 6,718,992         | -                      | 6,718,992                             | 1.0400 | 6,987,752                 | -                      | 6,987,752                                      | 1,138,896                                 | -                        | -                                   | 8,126,648                   |
| 4530734 - Schererville Civil Town              | UT   | 11,450,840        | -                      | 11,450,840                            | 1.0400 | 11,908,874                | -                      | 11,908,874                                     | 1,399,043                                 | -                        | -                                   | 13,307,917                  |
| 4530735 - Schneider Civil Town                 | UT   | 195,064           | -                      | 195,064                               | 1.0400 | 202,867                   | -                      | 202,867  | 6,302                                     | -                        | -                                   | 209,169                     |
| 4530736 - Winfield Civil Town                  | UT   | 1,955,659         | 150,247                | 2,105,906                             | 1.0400 | 2,190,142                 | -                      | 2,190,142                                      | 394,972                                   | -                        | -                                   | 2,585,114                   |
| 4560808 - East Chicago Sanitary                | UT   | 15,240,264        | -                      | 15,240,264                            | 1.0400 | 15,849,875                | -                      | 15,849,875                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 15,849,875                  |
| 4560810 - Hammond Sanitary                     | UT   | 4,505,603         | -                      | 4,505,603                             | 1.0400 | 4,685,827                 | -                      | 4,685,827                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,685,827                   |
| 4560811 - Highland Sanitary District           | UT   | 272,013           | -                      | 272,013                               | 1.0400 | 282,894                   | -                      | 282,894  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 282,894                     |
| 4560812 - Whiting Sanitary                     | UT   | 2,762,941         | -                      | 2,762,941                             | 1.0400 | 2,873,459                 | -                      | 2,873,459                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 2,873,459                   |
| 4560813 - Gary Airport                         | UT   | 2,179,906         | -                      | 2,179,906                             | 1.0400 | 2,267,102                 | -                      | 2,267,102                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 2,267,102                   |
| 4560814 - Gary Redevelopment                   | UT   | 393,214           | -                      | 393,214                               | 1.0400 | 408,943                   | -                      | 408,943  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 408,943                     |
| 4560815 - Hammond Redevelopment                | UT   | 705,931           | -                      | 705,931                               | 1.0400 | 734,168                   | -                      | 734,168  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 734,168                     |
| 4560816 - Gary Public Transportation           | UT   | 4,130,825         | -                      | 4,130,825                             | 1.0400 | 4,296,058                 | -                      | 4,296,058                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,296,058                   |
| 4560959 - St. John Sanitary                    | UT   | 445,699           | -                      | 445,699                               | 1.0400 | 463,527                   | -                      | 463,527  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 463,527                     |
| 4560961 - Lake Ridge Fire Prntertion           | UT   | 662,374           | -                      | 662,374                               | 1.0400 | 688,869                   | -                      | 688,869  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 688,869                     |

| Unit  | Type | 2025 Maximum Levy | 2025 Permanent Appeals | 2025 Maximum Levy for Growth Quotient | MLGQ   | 2026 Initial Maximum Levy | 2026 Potential Appeals | Estimated Maximum Levy Prior to Allowable Adj. | Cumulative Capital Development Adjustment | Mental Health Adjustment | Developmental Disability Adjustment | 2026 Estimated Maximum Levy |
|---|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4560995 - St. John Water District                     | UT   | 364,831           | -                      | 364,831                               | 1.0400 | 379,424                   | -                      | 379,424  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 379,424                     |
| 4561002 - Town Of Dyer Sanitary District              | UT   | 436,342           | -                      | 436,342                               | 1.0400 | 453,796                   | -                      | 453,796  | -   | -                        | -                                   | 453,796                     |
| 4561058 - Lake County Solid Waste Management District | UT   | 7,271,346         | -                      | 7,271,346                             | 1.0400 | 7,562,200                 | -                      | 7,562,200                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 7,562,200                   |
| 4544580 - Hanover Community School Corporation        | SO   | 3,000,883         | -                      | 3,000,883                             | 1.0400 | 3,120,918                 | -                      | 3,120,918                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 3,120,918                   |
| 4544590 - River Forest Community School Corporation   | SO   | 1,740,892         | 123,567                | 1,864,459                             | 1.0400 | 1,939,037                 | -                      | 1,939,037                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,939,037                   |
| 4544600 - Merrillville School Corporation             | SO   | 16,986,707        | -                      | 16,986,707                            | 1.0400 | 17,666,175                | -                      | 17,666,175                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 17,666,175                  |
| 4544615 - Lake Central School Corporation             | SO   | 18,852,404        | -                      | 18,852,404                            | 1.0400 | 19,606,500                | -                      | 19,606,500                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 19,606,500                  |
| 4544645 - Tri Creek School Corporation                | SO   | 5,888,872         | -                      | 5,888,872                             | 1.0400 | 6,124,427                 | -                      | 6,124,427                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 6,124,427                   |
| 4544650 - Lake Ridge School Corporation               | SO   | 4,102,336         | -                      | 4,102,336                             | 1.0400 | 4,266,429                 | -                      | 4,266,429                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,266,429                   |
| 4544660 - Crown Point Community School Corporation    | SO   | 11,293,016        | -                      | 11,293,016                            | 1.0400 | 11,744,737                | -                      | 11,744,737                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 11,744,737                  |
| 4544670 - School City Of East Chicago                 | SO   | 12,402,025        | -                      | 12,402,025                            | 1.0400 | 12,898,106                | -                      | 12,898,106                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 12,898,106                  |
| 4544680 - Lake Station School Corporation             | SO   | 1,401,366         | -                      | 1,401,366                             | 1.0400 | 1,457,421                 | -                      | 1,457,421                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 1,457,421                   |
| 4544690 - Gary Community School Corporation           | SO   | 31,880,571        | -                      | 31,880,571                            | 1.0400 | 33,155,794                | -                      | 33,155,794                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 33,155,794                  |
| 4544700 - Griffith Public School Corporation          | SO   | 3,013,509         | -                      | 3,013,509                             | 1.0400 | 3,134,049                 | -                      | 3,134,049                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 3,134,049                   |
| 4544710 - Hammond City School Corporation             | SO   | 16,886,371        | -                      | 16,886,371                            | 1.0400 | 17,561,826                | -                      | 17,561,826                                     | -   | -                        | -                                   | 17,561,826                  |
| 4544720 - Highland Town School Corporation            | SO   | 4,625,900         | -                      | 4,625,900                             | 1.0400 | 4,810,936                 | -                      | 4,810,936                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,810,936                   |
| 4544730 - School City Of Hobart School Corporation    | SO   | 4,482,138         | -                      | 4,482,138                             | 1.0400 | 4,661,424                 | -                      | 4,661,424                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 4,661,424                   |
| 4544740 - Munster Community School Corporation        | SO   | 7,136,175         | -                      | 7,136,175                             | 1.0400 | 7,421,622                 | -                      | 7,421,622                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 7,421,622                   |
| 4544760 - Whiting City School Corporation             | SO   | 2,713,998         | -                      | 2,713,998                             | 1.0400 | 2,822,558                 | -                      | 2,822,558                                      | -   | -                        | -                                   | 2,822,558                   |

**IC 6-1.1-17-3.6County fiscal body review of levy limits and tax reductions from credits; meeting by county fiscal body; recommendations**  
 Sec. 3.6. (a) At the first meeting of the county fiscal body in August, the county fiscal body shall review the following:  
 (1) The estimated levy limits provided by the department of local government finance under IC 6-1.1-18.5-24.  
 (2) The estimate provided by the department of local government finance under IC 6-1.1-20.6-11.1 of how each taxing unit's distribution of property taxes will be reduced by credits under IC 6-1.1-20.6.  
 (b) The county fiscal body may request that representatives from the taxing units located within the county attend the meeting described in subsection (a).  
 (c) The county fiscal body must allow a representative of a taxing unit that attends the meeting described in subsection (a) to comment on the taxing unit's proposed budgets, tax levies, and tax rates for the ensuing calendar year.  
 (d) After the county fiscal body has held the meeting required by this section, the county fiscal body may prepare and distribute a written recommendation for taxing units in the county. If the county fiscal body does not prepare a written recommendation, the minutes *As added by P.L.184-2016, SEC.8.*

| Unit                              | Type     |   | Total 1/2/3%<br>Credit - Rounded | Total Local<br>Property<br>Credits -<br>Rounded | Total -<br>Homestead<br>Credit Rounded | Total Projected<br>Credit Loss |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 4510000 - Lake County             | 4510000C | C | \$ 20,208,700.00                 | \$ 237,900.00                                   | \$ 5,870,000.00                        | \$ 26,316,600.00               |
| 4520001 - Calumet Township        | 4520001C | C | \$ 7,030,000.00                  | \$ 20,300.00                                    | \$ 79,100.00                           | \$ 7,129,400.00                |
| 4520002 - Cedar Creek Township    | 4520002F | F | \$ 380.00                        | \$ 570.00                                       | \$ 20,600.00                           | \$ 21,550.00                   |
| 4520002 - Cedar Creek Township    | 4520002C | C | \$ 39,200.00                     | \$ 1,100.00                                     | \$ 34,600.00                           | \$ 74,900.00                   |
| 4520003 - Center Township         | 4520003F | F | \$ 1,600.00                      | \$ 670.00                                       | \$ 33,600.00                           | \$ 35,870.00                   |
| 4520003 - Center Township         | 4520003C | C | \$ 21,000.00                     | \$ 460.00                                       | \$ 18,900.00                           | \$ 40,360.00                   |
| 4520004 - Eagle Creek Township    | 4520004F | F | \$ 190.00                        | \$ 180.00                                       | \$ 5,400.00                            | \$ 5,770.00                    |
| 4520004 - Eagle Creek Township    | 4520004C | C | \$ 80.00                         | \$ 80.00  | \$ 2,200.00                            | \$ 2,360.00                    |
| 4520005 - Hanover Township        | 4520005F | F | \$ 240.00                        | \$ 430.00                                       | \$ 24,600.00                           | \$ 25,270.00                   |
| 4520005 - Hanover Township        | 4520005C | C | \$ 900.00                        | \$ 320.00                                       | \$ 24,400.00                           | \$ 25,620.00                   |
| 4520006 - Hobart Township         | 4520006F | F | \$ 20.00                         | \$ 10.00  | \$ 50.00                               | \$ 80.00                       |
| 4520006 - Hobart Township         | 4520006C | C | \$ 270,000.00                    | \$ 2,600.00                                     | \$ 30,000.00                           | \$ 302,600.00                  |
| 4520007 - North Township          | 4520007C | C | \$ 1,410,000.00                  | \$ 13,900.00                                    | \$ 230,000.00                          | \$ 1,653,900.00                |
| 4520008 - Ross Township           | 4520008C | C | \$ 74,600.00                     | \$ 3,200.00                                     | \$ 52,800.00                           | \$ 130,600.00                  |
| 4520009 - St. John Township       | 4520009F | F | \$ 780.00                        | \$ 1,500.00                                     | \$ 47,200.00                           | \$ 49,480.00                   |
| 4520009 - St. John Township       | 4520009C | C | \$ 8,500.00                      | \$ 720.00                                       | \$ 36,000.00                           | \$ 45,220.00                   |
| 4520010 - West Creek Township     | 4520010F | F | \$ 70.00                         | \$ 230.00                                       | \$ 9,700.00                            | \$ 10,000.00                   |
| 4520010 - West Creek Township     | 4520010C | C | \$ 16,600.00                     | \$ 500.00                                       | \$ 16,700.00                           | \$ 33,800.00                   |
| 4520011 - Winfield Township       | 4520011F | F | \$ 2,100.00                      | \$ 1,200.00                                     | \$ 51,200.00                           | \$ 54,500.00                   |
| 4520011 - Winfield Township       | 4520011C | C | \$ 11,000.00                     | \$ 220.00                                       | \$ 11,700.00                           | \$ 22,920.00                   |
| 4530101 - Gary Civil City         | 4530101C | C | \$ 56,500,000.00                 | \$ 140,000.00                                   | \$ 480,000.00                          | \$ 57,120,000.00               |
| 4530104 - Hammond Civil City      | 4530104C | C | \$ 12,905,700.00                 | \$ 144,400.00                                   | \$ 1,299,200.00                        | \$ 14,349,300.00               |
| 4530108 - East Chicago Civil City | 4530108C | C | \$ 15,200,000.00                 | \$ 45,100.00                                    | \$ 180,000.00                          | \$ 15,425,100.00               |
| 4530202 - Hobart Civil City       | 4530202C | C | \$ 5,432,600.00                  | \$ 40,200.00                                    | \$ 670,200.00                          | \$ 6,143,000.00                |
| 4530321 - Crown Point Civil City  | 4530321C | C | \$ 1,312,000.00                  | \$ 23,400.00                                    | \$ 898,900.00                          | \$ 2,234,300.00                |
| 4530322 - Whiting Civil City      | 4530322C | C | \$ 2,650,090.00                  | \$ 6,360.00                                     | \$ 81,960.00                           | \$ 2,738,410.00                |
| 4530401 - Lake Station Civil City | 4530401C | C | \$ 1,998,200.00                  | \$ 32,700.00                                    | \$ 193,500.00                          | \$ 2,224,400.00                |
| 4530504 - Cedar Lake Civil Town   | 4530504C | C | \$ 273,700.00                    | \$ 13,100.00                                    | \$ 540,000.00                          | \$ 826,800.00                  |
| 4530505 - Griffith Civil Town     | 4530505C | C | \$ 1,271,200.00                  | \$ 21,200.00                                    | \$ 440,000.00                          | \$ 1,732,400.00                |
| 4530506 - Highland Civil Town     | 4530506C | C | \$ 153,600.00                    | \$ 32,400.00                                    | \$ 630,000.00                          | \$ 816,000.00                  |
| 4530507 - Munster Civil Town      | 4530507C | C | \$ 2,462,000.00                  | \$ 14,500.00                                    | \$ 820,000.00                          | \$ 3,296,500.00                |
| 4530512 - Merrillville Civil Town | 4530512C | C | \$ 348,500.00                    | \$ 26,900.00                                    | \$ 409,000.00                          | \$ 784,400.00                  |
| 4530512 - Merrillville Civil Town | 4530512F | F | \$ 120,000.00                    | \$ 7,100.00                                     | \$ 110,000.00                          | \$ 237,100.00                  |

| Unit                                      | Type     |   | Total 1/2/3%<br>Credit - Rounded | Total Local<br>Property<br>Credits -<br>Rounded | Total -<br>Homestead<br>Credit Rounded | Total Projected<br>Credit Loss |
|---|----------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 4530730 - Dyer Civil Town                 | 4530730C | C | \$ 868,700.00                    | \$ 11,600.00                                    | \$ 680,000.00                          | \$ 1,560,300.00                |
| 4530731 - Lowell Civil Town               | 4530731C | C | \$ 721,600.00                    | \$ 11,600.00                                    | \$ 308,800.00                          | \$ 1,042,000.00                |
| 4530732 - New Chicago Civil Town          | 4530732C | C | \$ 87,700.00                     | \$ 2,300.00                                     | \$ 18,600.00                           | \$ 108,600.00                  |
| 4530733 - St. John Civil Town             | 4530733C | C | \$ 7,080.00                      | \$ 4,340.00                                     | \$ 589,200.00                          | \$ 600,620.00                  |
| 4530734 - Schererville Civil Town         | 4530734C | C | \$ 21,370.00                     | \$ 18,250.00                                    | \$ 744,300.00                          | \$ 783,920.00                  |
| 4530735 - Schneider Civil Town            | 4530735C | C | \$ 16,900.00                     | \$ 600.00                                       | \$ 4,600.00                            | \$ 22,100.00                   |
| 4530736 - Winfield Civil Town             | 4530736C | C | \$ 401,500.00                    | \$ 3,600.00                                     | \$ 240,000.00                          | \$ 645,100.00                  |
| 4544580 - Hanover Community School C      | 4544580C | C | \$ 28,800.00                     | \$ 14,900.00                                    | \$ 650,000.00                          | \$ 693,700.00                  |
| 4544590 - River Forest Community Schoo    | 4544590C | C | \$ 998,900.00                    | \$ 23,100.00                                    | \$ 102,000.00                          | \$ 1,124,000.00                |
| 4544600 - Merrillville School Corporatio  | 4544600C | C | \$ 1,686,000.00                  | \$ 71,500.00                                    | \$ 1,200,000.00                        | \$ 2,957,500.00                |
| 4544615 - Lake Central School Corporati   | 4544615C | C | \$ 398,000.00                    | \$ 57,600.00                                    | \$ 1,570,000.00                        | \$ 2,025,600.00                |
| 4544645 - Tri Creek School Corporation    | 4544645C | C | \$ 914,500.00                    | \$ 28,500.00                                    | \$ 920,000.00                          | \$ 1,863,000.00                |
| 4544650 - Lake Ridge School Corporation   | 4544650C | C | \$ 3,231,600.00                  | \$ 25,300.00                                    | \$ 119,200.00                          | \$ 3,376,100.00                |
| 4544660 - Crown Point Community Schoo     | 4544660C | C | \$ 2,245,600.00                  | \$ 55,900.00                                    | \$ 2,130,000.00                        | \$ 4,431,500.00                |
| 4544670 - School City Of East Chicago     | 4544670C | C | \$ 4,052,400.00                  | \$ 12,200.00                                    | \$ 46,500.00                           | \$ 4,111,100.00                |
| 4544680 - Lake Station School Corporati   | 4544680C | C | \$ 777,200.00                    | \$ 14,200.00                                    | \$ 83,600.00                           | \$ 875,000.00                  |
| 4544690 - Gary Community School Corp      | 4544690C | C | \$ 24,745,900.00                 | \$ 76,000.00                                    | \$ 225,900.00                          | \$ 25,047,800.00               |
| 4544700 - Griffith Public School Corporat | 4544700C | C | \$ 1,101,300.00                  | \$ 23,000.00                                    | \$ 360,000.00                          | \$ 1,484,300.00                |
| 4544710 - Hammond City School Corpora     | 4544710C | C | \$ 7,249,100.00                  | \$ 84,700.00                                    | \$ 620,000.00                          | \$ 7,953,800.00                |
| 4544720 - Highland Town School Corpora    | 4544720C | C | \$ 148,000.00                    | \$ 24,700.00                                    | \$ 490,000.00                          | \$ 662,700.00                  |
| 4544730 - School City Of Hobart School C  | 4544730C | C | \$ 6,006,600.00                  | \$ 51,900.00                                    | \$ 710,000.00                          | \$ 6,768,500.00                |
| 4544740 - Munster Community School C      | 4544740C | C | \$ 2,056,400.00                  | \$ 21,100.00                                    | \$ 680,000.00                          | \$ 2,757,500.00                |
| 4544760 - Whiting City School Corporati   | 4544760C | C | \$ 1,111,300.00                  | \$ 2,650.00                                     | \$ 34,500.00                           | \$ 1,148,450.00                |
| 4550124 - East Chicago Public Library     | 4550124C | C | \$ 2,240,000.00                  | \$ 6,700.00                                     | \$ 25,600.00                           | \$ 2,272,300.00                |
| 4550125 - Gary Public Library             | 4550125C | C | \$ 5,980,000.00                  | \$ 14,400.00                                    | \$ 52,900.00                           | \$ 6,047,300.00                |
| 4550126 - Hammond Public Library          | 4550126C | C | \$ 1,180,000.00                  | \$ 13,400.00                                    | \$ 130,000.00                          | \$ 1,323,400.00                |
| 4550127 - Lowell Public Library           | 4550127C | C | \$ 59,100.00                     | \$ 1,900.00                                     | \$ 58,900.00                           | \$ 119,900.00                  |
| 4550128 - Whiting Public Library          | 4550128C | C | \$ 440,000.00                    | \$ 1,100.00                                     | \$ 13,600.00                           | \$ 454,700.00                  |
| 4550129 - Lake County Public Library      | 4550129C | C | \$ 1,000,000.00                  | \$ 23,500.00                                    | \$ 710,000.00                          | \$ 1,733,500.00                |
| 4550276 - Crown Point Community Publi     | 4550276C | C | \$ 160,780.00                    | \$ 3,330.00                                     | \$ 151,600.00                          | \$ 315,710.00                  |
| 4560808 - East Chicago Sanitary           | 4560808C | C | \$ 4,340,000.00                  | \$ 13,000.00                                    | \$ 49,700.00                           | \$ 4,402,700.00                |
| 4560810 - Hammond Sanitary                | 4560810C | C | \$ 2,016,900.00                  | \$ 20,300.00                                    | \$ 350,000.00                          | \$ 2,387,200.00                |
| 4560811 - Highland Sanitary District      | 4560811C | C | \$ 24,200.00                     | \$ 6,970.00                                     | \$ 134,800.00                          | \$ 165,970.00                  |

| Unit                                     | Type     |   | Total 1/2/3%<br>Credit - Rounded | Total Local<br>Property<br>Credits -<br>Rounded | Total -<br>Homestead<br>Credit Rounded | Total Projected<br>Credit Loss |
|--|----------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 4560812 - Whiting Sanitary               | 4560812C | C | \$ 850,290.00                    | \$ 2,100.00                                     | \$ 26,200.00                           | \$ 878,590.00                  |
| 4560813 - Gary Airport                   | 4560813C | C | \$ 1,380,000.00                  | \$ 3,300.00                                     | \$ 11,700.00                           | \$ 1,395,000.00                |
| 4560814 - Gary Redevelopment             | 4560814C | C | \$ 230,000.00                    | \$ 540.00                                       | \$ 2,000.00                            | \$ 232,540.00                  |
| 4560815 - Hammond Redevelopment          | 4560815C | C | \$ 150,000.00                    | \$ 1,700.00                                     | \$ 14,800.00                           | \$ 166,500.00                  |
| 4560816 - Gary Public Transportation     | 4560816C | C | \$ 2,390,000.00                  | \$ 5,700.00                                     | \$ 20,200.00                           | \$ 2,415,900.00                |
| Highland Water District                  | 4560901C | C | \$ 890.00                        | \$ 520.00                                       | \$ 9,900.00                            | \$ 11,310.00                   |
| 4560959 - St. John Sanitary              | 4560959C | C | \$ 130.00                        | \$ 230.00                                       | \$ 30,500.00                           | \$ 30,860.00                   |
| 4560961 - Lake Ridge Fire Protection     | 4560961C | C | \$ 210,000.00                    | \$ 3,000.00                                     | \$ 15,900.00                           | \$ 228,900.00                  |
| 4560995 - St. John Water District        | 4560995C | C | \$ 100.00                        | \$ 190.00                                       | \$ 25,000.00                           | \$ 25,290.00                   |
| 4561002 - Town Of Dyer Sanitary District | 4561002C | C | \$ 29,800.00                     | \$ 400.00                                       | \$ 23,100.00                           | \$ 53,300.00                   |
| 4561058 - Lake County Solid Waste Mana   | 4561058C | C | \$ 970,000.00                    | \$ 11,200.00                                    | \$ 290,000.00                          | \$ 1,271,200.00                |
| Dyer Water Works                         | 4569993C | C | \$ 49,500.00                     | \$ 660.00                                       | \$ 38,300.00                           | \$ 88,460.00                   |

St. John Township Trustee Cathy Lareau – As of July 1st, all townships are required to produce a capital improvement plan. Since it’s new, there’s been confusion as far as whether it should be going to the county or not. Based on Attorney Sedia, it is to go before the county council for a non-binding review. One of the things I want to explain is that the statute states that it has to be at your August meeting. That is very difficult for trustees for townships because none of us can start our budget season until July 1st, and that’s when we have to look back at the previous six months of our expenditures, and then we have a meeting with DLGF, and that didn’t start until the last week of July and it goes into August, and they are not required to give us our property tax cap credits until July 31st. We are supposed to have our CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) go before the township board with a public hearing and then for their approval and adoption. The plan was before our township board. We did not have time for me to do the budget and the CIP and to do a public hearing, so they have acknowledged it as a matter of record and will be voting on that at the end of the month. I’ve already spoken to Representative Slager, and we’ll be working with the Indiana Township Association to get that date changed because it’s really an unrealistic requirement that we come before you in August.

Adam Sedia (Attorney) – The requirement for the CIP used to be limited to only certain townships with a specified growth rate, which I think was 150%. It was made applicable to all townships in the last session, and what you have before you is what happens when they pass statutes without realizing what's on the books already. So, every township, including ours and Hanover Township, had to scramble and get this before you by the statutory August meeting deadlines. So, what you have before you is our best guess estimate for the CIP moving forward, which, unless it's amended later, will be going to the DLGF by the end of September.

Brown – Was this voted on by the Lake County Representatives, Senate and the House?

Cathy Lareau – Yes. It's the House bill 1461, which is the road funding bill, and they're looking for whatever money that is not budgeted for the next year or is not earmarked in our rainy-day fund for a specific project; thirty percent of what is not marked or accounted for has to go to roads. We had to create a road and infrastructure fund, and the two unrestricted funds that they are looking to take the money from the townships from are our rainy day and our general. That is why we have to do a CIP to show we're accounting for the money. Rainy day, you use it for a rainy day, and now we have to create a plan.

O'Donnell – I know it may have had an appearance at the last legislative session that things were kind of thrown together rapidly. Adam and I have spoken about this; he sent an email that prompted us to reach out to DLGF to ask, "What do you really want from us?" and their response was that there was confusion in the statute. The purpose of this non-binding part today is usually just about the tax levies. Are the levies approved by DLGF? If we say yes, then that's our non-binding resolution. This Capital Improvement Plan talks about having to be submitted to the county council; I think it said September 30th, which would actually give them time, and that's why DLGF says, "Sorry, yes, those statutes are in conflict," and that's what caused some confusion with Adam and me and the DLGF. The stuff we're doing today is really geared more towards the levies as opposed to the capital improvement plan, but I think Adam was right to say if it's confusing, we might as well do both.

Sedia – The consequences are we don't get our levy if we don't comply with the statute so we want to make extra sure everything was done properly before you.

Cathy Lareau – I think some of the confusion is if you go to the Indiana codes that refer to the capital improvement plan, you'll see all the changes in the different subsections about what was put in from this latest bill. If you look at IC 36-6-9-11 relating to the plan, it says county fiscal body consideration of the plan: in reviewing the township budget, a plan shall be considered by the county fiscal body in reviewing the township budget under the IC code you're talking about right now, which then refers us to your August meeting. This was updated in 2019, and it was never changed. So, if you look at the code based on the plan, it refers us to August. The other thing is, on September 30th there's new legislation that states if we don't get the CIP to DLGF by September 30th, we will not get our levy for the next year. But that has nothing to do with us presenting our CIP to the county council.

Brown – But this only has an impact on St. John? No other township in Lake County?

Niemeyer – Every township.

Brown – You all are representing all of the townships?

Cathy Lareau – No. I am here on behalf of St. John Township. Attorney Sedia represents our township as well as Hanover Township. We followed our council's advice to get this to you by August.

Brewer – I do have some concerns that we have other townships that are not before us and if this is an issue that townships should bring before this body, would you suggest that we hold a special meeting and reach out to those other townships to give them the opportunity to come here if there's a chance they may lose their levy?

O'Donnell – The problem is, as the trustee pointed out, the statute references back to this statute, which says it has to happen at our first meeting in August. So, either the ship has sailed, which we have gotten some townships that have turned in capital plans too, not just Hanover and St. John, but then again, there was confusion with the DLGF that you really don't need to do that until September 30th, and you give it to DLGF, so I'm hopeful that the townships won't take that aggressive of a stance, but you don't know.

Niemeyer – I think what we see here is the first part of the wave of impacts that are going to hit local government from SEA1, and that also goes into the things that have been presented here in these meetings on what we can do internally to help lessen that blow. I hope that as we review this stuff, we learn more, we see what that ripple effect looks like, and that we are action-oriented here. As Charlie explained, meet with our local legislatures have a very active role in ongoing discussions, but also the things we can act on here need to be acted on. We have certain things that we can and can't control. We need to focus on the things we can.

There were no other comments.

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

Cid directed the auditor to distribute the minutes to all taxing units' minutes of the review after they have been approved.

In the Matter of Discussion – Lake County Government Efficiency Proposal

Niemeyer – Hopefully you all have taken the time to review this. This is something that I worked on in conjunction with our financial director, Scott Schmal, as putting some action items behind things that we need to work on internally to lower our dependency on the property tax levy while identifying those other areas of funding that come through the county that can be used operationally to reduce our levy dependency by up to twenty percent and allow us the opportunity to also consider an income tax reduction. The general purposes are outlined in this. It also puts into play some measurables and timelines to achieve some of these goals. Listening to a number of taxing units in Lake County since SEA1's adoption, I've made my way around to a lot of places and politics. Outside of this, everybody is confused because there is a good deal of unknowns in this. People are worried, and rightfully so, about the essential services of local government, i.e., police, fire, and townships. That's one of their main functions: fire protection and ambulance service. What we can do here is not necessarily change SEA1, but we do have the ability to minimize our own impact on the property tax levy as well as the income taxes of our residents by taking some steps here over the next two budget cycles to be able to go into the full implementation of SEA1 in 2028 with a real clear path established. At the council study session Dave brought up some concerns, and I can say that one of the things that is lacking on the federal side is the actual participation of elected officials in the process of identifying and correcting processes where the opportunity lies. This would be elected officials from the council and our department elected officials, so everybody would be collaboratively working together to identify the opportunities that we have in county government to create efficiency inside of what we have as well as recommending statutory improvements that would help us to loosen up other forms of revenue that could help support the services of county government, which then, in turn, to all the other taxing units in Lake County, creates a little more space under the property tax levy as well as for the units that can implement or want to implement income taxes. They would have a little more space to do that without double taxation to the residents. So, that in a nutshell is the rundown of why this was put together for consideration, and I don't think that the council can afford to move slowly in this process simply because the time will go by very quickly as we reach towards 2027, which is the pivotal year for the 2028 budget. So, I would hope that the council would consider passage of this.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to adopt the Lake County Efficiency Committee.

Cid – Senate Bill One is a big ugly bill. It does little to reduce homeowners' property taxes and is at the expense of cutting police and fire, public school funding, basic services, feeding the needy, and cutting Medicare and Medicaid for the health of our seniors and folks in need. May I remind you that Indiana has the highest infant mortality rate? It's consideration of tolls for our public roads. Councilman Niemeyer, I recall you stating at a previous council meeting that the narrative of the Republican majority that the increase in property taxes is due to massive local taxes is false. We have been very good stewards of our taxpayer's money. We do not have lavish surpluses. We have lived within the growth quotient established by the DLGF and have had balanced budgets. The blame for increased property taxes is the lack of assessments on the three percent, commercial businesses, and reducing personal property taxes has shifted to homeowners raising property taxes and, of course, the market trends. This council currently has an efficiency committee at the request of Councilman Brown. I realize the committee has been idle. That is due to the fiscal responsibility of this council and the guidance of our financial director, Scott Schmal, working with departments and understanding the budget process. We have made many strides in reducing encumbrances and have had very limited appropriation requests by departments. Local governments also will endure higher costs due to tariffs, increasing insurance costs, and energy costs, to name a few. We are being proactive. We direct the departments to remain at the current 2025 level for 2026 and welcome reductions. I do not support a plan like DOGE, the federal government's approach of taking a machete to cut when it is clear a scalpel would be more precise. Naturally, should there be an efficiency project where an outside opinion is needed, we will contract with the consultant in the same matter we did with Oracle. No one knows the needs of the departments better than the elected official department heads. I believe we continue to allow elected officials to determine the reductions in their budgets, and as we have done in the past, if they don't find the reduction, we will. Can we be more efficient? Yes, we can. But not because our budgets are bloated or there is exorbitant waste. The county is audited every year. If anyone feels there is fraud you should report it to the State Board of Accounts and/or the Lake County Prosecutor.

Lindemulder – I view this from the perspective that we are going to have significant issues in two years. We look at the budget as revenue is going to dry out, and something's going to have to happen. I view this as an opportunity to collaboratively work with the departments to try to get ahead of the issues that we're going to have. In the absence of something like this, two years from now, we're going to be left with no option other than to potentially cut. I think this gives us the two years to talk about those revenue shortfalls and how that's going to affect the departments. Whether we have this discussion collaboratively now or have this discussion where we just have to cut things in two years, I think this is the better way to get ahead of it, in my opinion.



Bilski – I disagree with this. I've been here for quite a long time, and we've been through this. We've been through this when the state unfairly froze our levy and we had to make huge cuts. We've all had a problem with the one, two, and three percent. I asked, "Why one percent?" Why two percent? They don't have an answer. No one does. It's just that they arbitrarily picked the number out. They've given huge tax breaks, taxing obsolescence for industrial US Steel; BP Amoco received 60 million a year to produce low-sulfur fuel. That creates just as much emission as regular sulfur. I can't support this. I understand what direction you're going in, Councilman Niemeyer, and I apologize I couldn't be here for the study session, but you can't go in my backyard, light my shed on fire, then grab my garden hose, put it out, and expect me to thank you for putting out my fire on my shed. And that's kind of how I feel like they're doing to me right now because we've been through these, we're doing the right thing, and we're moving forward, and I hope that maybe someone comes to their senses and puts these folks back in their place downstate and we don't have to cross these, but there needs to be change; they need to realize they are destroying our state.

Lindemulder – I guess my question would be if someone's going to be opposed to this, in the absence of working collaboratively towards this with the other departments in two years, if we do have a revenue shortfall, are we just at that point going to go, "Ok, we've got to cut twenty percent," and just slash it? Wouldn't it be better to have this discussion now over the next two years than to all of a sudden get to the end and say, "Twenty percent of staff is cut; twenty percent of services is cut"?

Bilski – I don't think there's any discussion that's going to solve it. I think we're going to get to that point, and you're going to go two years from now, and if we're lucky, its only twenty percent compiled; with everything else, it's going to be a lot more, and in all honesty, the folks in the state of Indiana have made a decision. This is what they wanted. They put the people in charge. They want these cuts, so here it comes.

Cid – I'm not opposed to looking for more efficiency within departments and doing what's best for the taxpayers. I have always supported doing what's best for the taxpayers, and if we could decrease budgets to lessen the levy, that would be great. We do have an efficiency committee, and they can get back to work. It's just that I can't support the way this is written. I'm all for efficiency, so it's not so much that. It is bringing in outsiders. We've had the Shepard report, we've had the Maximus report, and a lot of it, to me, was to their benefit and not so much the taxpayers.

Majority voted no. Lindemulder and Niemeyer voted yes. Motion to create committee failed with 5-no, 2-yes.

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming August as National Immunization Awareness Month

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-41

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING AUGUST  
AS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the month of August is National Immunization Awareness Month, an annual observance highlighting the importance of vaccination for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, immunizations protect the health of residents, their families and their communities through a decreased risk of contracting a disease and a decreased severity of symptoms; and

WHEREAS, safe and effective vaccines have been used by millions of people for decades and contributed to the decline or eradication of polio, mumps, measles, rubella, pertussis, diphtheria, rotavirus, hepatitis, mpox and more; and

WHEREAS, many students begin their school year in August, the CDC encourages families and caregivers to use this time as a reminder to ensure that all immunizations, physicals and vision and dental health checkups are up-to-date so children are "school-ready"; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Health Department works diligently to ensure local residents have access to important vaccines through events like the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Health and Resource Fair, where individuals were able to receive necessary back-to-school vaccines, among others; and

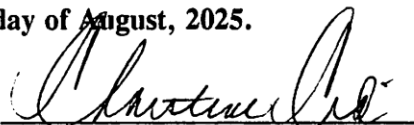
WHEREAS, the Lake County Health Department through a variety of means works to educate people about vaccines and the CDC approved vaccination schedule, and to ensure those vaccines are available to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council acknowledges August as National Immunization Awareness Month and encourages Lake County residents to receive immunizations to improve their health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Lake County Council proclaims August as National Immunization Awareness Month to highlight the importance that immunizations play in keeping families and communities healthy.

SO RESOLVED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

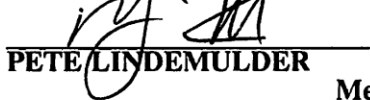
  
CHRISTINE CID - President

  
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 to Approve the Transfer of \$1,233,234.25 from CEDIT Fund, Fund No. 4012 to Lake County Roads & Bridges Matching Grant Fund, Fund 9440, Department 7007

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-42**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$1,233,234.25 FROM CEDIT FUND, FUND NO. 4012 TO LAKE COUNTY ROADS & BRIDGES MATCHING GRANT FUND, FUND 9440, DEPARTMENT 7007**

**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council by Resolution may permit the transfer to a fund from another fund with sufficient money on deposit in the County; and

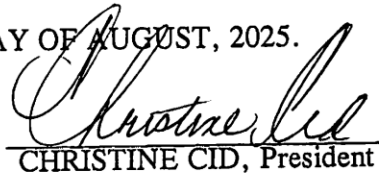
**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Commissioners request the transfer of \$1,233,234.25 from the CEDIT Fund, Fund No. 4012 to the Lake County Roads & Bridges Matching Grant Fund, Fund No. 9440, Department 7007, which transfer places all of the funds necessary to complete the 2025 Crossroads Grant Project in the Grant Fund for payment within one fund; and


**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to transfer \$1,233,234.25 from the CEDIT Fund, Fund No. 4012 to the Lake County Roads & Bridges Matching Grant Fund, Fund No. 9440, Department 7007.

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

That the sum of \$1,233,234.25 is hereby transferred from the CEDIT Fund, Fund No. 4012 to the Lake County Roads & Bridges Matching Grant Fund, Fund No. 9440, Department 7007 which transfer places all of the funds necessary to complete the 2025 Crossroads Grant Project within one fund for payment.

SO RESOLVED THIS 12 DAY OF AUGUST, 2025.

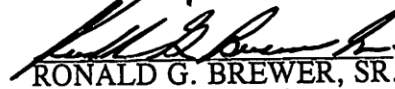
  
CHRISTINE CID, President

  
DAVID HAMM

  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

  
PETE LINDEMULDER

  
CHARLES BROWN

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Establishing the Employee Benefit Health Insurance 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.

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. 1510A**

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE EMPLOYEE  
BENEFIT HEALTH INSURANCE 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

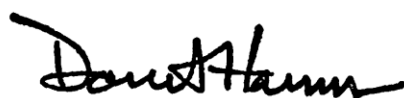
**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to establish by ordinance all funds within the County Treasury, from which appropriations and transfers require County Council approval; and

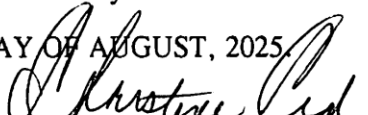
**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create an Employee Benefit Health Insurance Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the purpose of recording activity to the Auditor's general ledger related to employee benefit health insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Employee Benefit Health Insurance Fund, a non-reverting fund, is established.
2. That the purpose of the Employee Benefit Health Insurance Fund is to record activity to the Auditor's general ledger related to employee benefit health insurance.
3. That any money remaining in the Fund at the end of the year shall not revert to the General Fund but continue in the Employee Benefit Health Insurance Fund, subject to appropriation by the Lake County Council or as otherwise provided by law.

SO ORDAINED THIS 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 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 Amending the Lake County Part-Time Employees Pay Rate Ordinance for 2025, Ordinance No. 1502C

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

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Motion to Suspend Rules.

Brewer 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. 1502C-5

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAKE COUNTY PART-TIME EMPLOYEES PAY RATE ORDINANCE FOR 2025, ORDINANCE NO. 1502C

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2024, the Lake County Council adopted the Lake County Part-Time Employees Pay Rate Ordinance for 2025, Ordinance No. 1502C; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council now desires to amend the Ordinance.

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

That the following section be amended and adopted as follows:

**DELETE:**

Section IV.

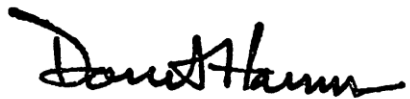
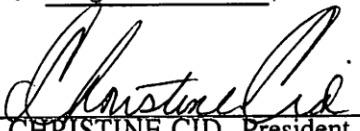

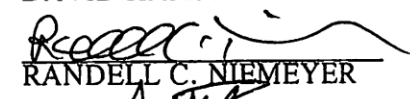
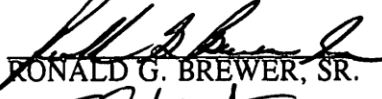


33. Lake County Recorder  
Deputy Recorders 10.00-15.00/hr.

**INSERT:**

Section IV.

33. Lake County Recorder  
Deputy Recorders 15.00-20.00/hr.

SO ORDAINED THIS 12 DAY OF August, 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 Establishing the 2025 SAFE Lake County Sheriff Department Narcan and Essentials Bag Grant Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

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

Brown made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Motion to Suspend Rules.

Brown 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. 1510B

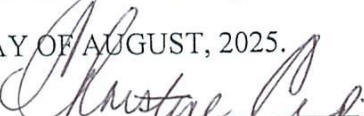
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE 2025 SAFE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT NARCAN AND ESSENTIALS BAG GRANT FUND, A NON-REVERTING FUND

- 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 Sheriff has been awarded a grant from SAFE (Supporting Addiction Free Environments)/Geminus Regional Care in the sum of Three Thousand Ninety (\$3,090.00) Dollars to be used to treat individuals who are using opiates by providing incentive bags containing the opiate reversing drug Narcan, basic hygiene items, grocery gift card, as well as materials to address basic human needs, prevent and reduce health complications, support recovery and stabilization; and
- WHEREAS, the Lake County Council desires to create a 2025 SAFE Lake County Sheriff Department Narcan and Essentials Bag Grant Fund, a Non-Reverting Fund, for the deposit of Three Thousand Ninety (\$3,090.00) dollars from SAFE/Geminus Regional Care.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the 2025 SAFE Lake County Sheriff Department Narcan and Essentials Bag Grant Fund, a Non-Reverting Fund, is established for the deposit of Three Thousand Ninety (\$3,090.00) Dollars from SAFE/Geminus Regional Care.
2. 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.
3. Any money remaining in the fund at the end of the year shall not revert to any other fund but continues in the 2025 SAFE Lake County Sheriff Department Narcan and Essentials Bag Grant Fund.

SO ORDAINED THIS 12 DAY OF AUGUST, 2025.

  
CHRISTINE CID, President

  
DAVID HAMM

  
RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

  
PEPE LINDEMULDER

  
CHARLIE BROWN

  
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

  
TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Creating the Lake County Prosecutor’s Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Grant Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

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.

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. 1510C**

**ORDINANCE CREATING THE LAKE COUNTY  
PROSECUTOR’S CAREFUL CARTER GUN SAFETY LITERACY  
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 will be made; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Prosecutor’s Office has been awarded a reimbursement grant from Geminus Community Partners Corporation titled “Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program” in the sum of Seven Thousand Three Hundred (\$7,300.00) Dollars; the Prosecutors’ Office will use the funds from this grant to purchase educational materials and deliver in-class presentations to K-5 students on the dangers of unsecured firearms at home; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create the Lake County Prosecutor’s Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program 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 Prosecutor’s Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the deposit of Seven Thousand Three Hundred (\$7,300.00) Dollars in reimbursement grant payments from Geminus Community Partners.
- 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 Prosecutor’s Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program Grant Fund, subject to appropriation by the Lake County Council.

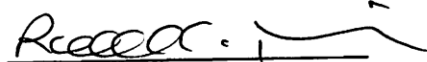
- 4. In the event future Geminus Community Partners grants are awarded to the Prosecutor's Careful Carter Gun Safety Literacy Program, such grants may be accounted for using this Fund.

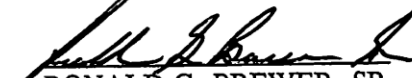
SO ORDAINED THIS 12 DAY OF AUGUST, 2025.

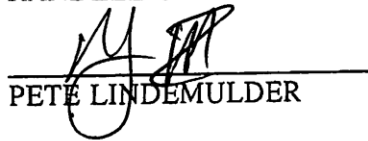
  
CHRISTINE CID, President

  
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 Ordinance Establishing the Lake County Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) Department's Legacy Foundation Teambuilding Grant Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

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

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

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1510D**

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LAKE COUNTY ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (LCACC) DEPARTMENT'S LEGACY FOUNDATION TEAMBUILDING 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,** a non-governmental grant program administered by Legacy Foundation has awarded a Teambuilding Grant to the Lake County Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) Department in the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars; the grant funds will be used to plan a team building activity at Triangle Hills Retreat Center to recognize staff dedication following a \$7,000,000.00 reduction to the IDOC grant pool offering a meaningful way to boost morale; and

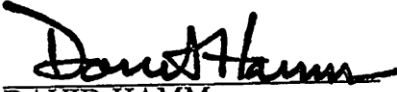
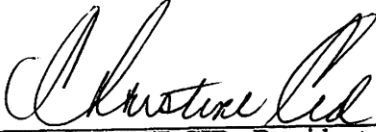



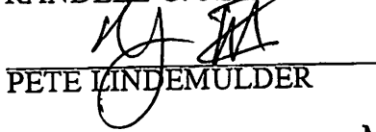

**WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council desires to create a Lake County Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) Department's Legacy Foundation Teambuilding Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, for the deposit of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars.

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

1. That the Lake County Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) Department's Legacy Foundation Teambuilding Grant Fund, a non-reverting fund, is established for the deposit of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars.
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 Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) Department's Legacy Foundation Teambuilding Grant Fund.

4. In the event the Lake County Adult Community Corrections (LCACC) receives future awards from Legacy Foundation for Teambuilding grant funds, the LCACC may account for such Grants using the established Fund.

SO ORDAINED THIS 12 DAY OF August, 2025.

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

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Planning Commission Ordinance – Ordinance No. 2590 – An Ordinance to amend the Unincorporated Lake County Unified Development Ordinance No. 2560, 7/16/2025, Favorable Recommendation, (Vote 7-0)

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

Niemeyer – This is the update to the UDO. It's an update that includes guidelines, procedures, and processes for any potential future high-tech data center-type development. This has gotten a ton of attention around the state of Indiana, really around the country, and rightfully so because they are, at times, very intrusive developments if they're not done with the proper processes and policy in place. One of the things in my seventeen years in local government that I have always believed is that where you have no policy, you have bad policy. So, in this case, coming up with guidelines that create those guardrails that also include the transparency that's required for projects like this to be properly vetted, give the public a chance to have input, and give our staff a chance to evaluate and analyze the various metrics that go along with projects of this scope and scale, which are new to this area, is paramount in making sure that the energy considerations, the environmental considerations, and the setbacks and development standards are all met. So, if you read this ordinance, it's very comprehensive, and we have a plan commission of nine members that all have varying backgrounds. We have two farmers, and we have a gentleman that served on BZA's plan commission and town council who is really skilled in planning and zoning. We have our county surveyor, who has a very sharp eye for environmental concerns; a county commissioner, who has a career in industrial project management; an attorney, who is an advocate for people; a young lady who works within the 4H extension services, who is very focused on environmental concerns; and myself on that plan commission as well. We have a very diverse group that supported this unanimously because it is comprehensive. It is something that we need here to be ahead of the game on this sort of development because if you don't have policy this whole thing is going to swallow us up, and we don't want to be trying to correct problems after it's already been built; we'd rather not have the problems before it gets developed. This doesn't guarantee that any sort of data center user is moving to Lake County. There has been a conversation with potential users, and in that conversation, there was a lot of talk about environmental energy and the like. The plan commission gave a 7-0 because it's a good ordinance.

Bilski – I'd like to ask Attorney O'Donnell to explain to us the process if someone wanted to build a data center here in Lake County.

O'Donnell – As Councilman Niemeyer pointed out, the purpose of this is to have guardrails in place, and there are about twenty different steps that they have to go through with regard to the surveyor. It's still a special exception, correct, Ned?

Ned – Initially they may have to go for zoning. Through light industrial or heavy industrial in order to qualify to go for the special exception. So, it would entail the minimum of three public hearings where everyone can speak to any concerns they have, but they would have to have the zoning in place, which comes back through you, before they can go for the special exception.

O'Donnell – So that's what Councilman Bilski wanted me to point out; it's not like this is going to be done in some back room. This is out in the public in every aspect of it, including the zoning, and if there is a request for a special exception from the ordinance that comes to the plan commission, ultimately the council is going to see all of this stuff, and people will have the right to be present for these hearings; they'll have a right to speak. For this ordinance, on this level there is no requirement of public comment, but I think the president may allow that.

Terry Steagall, second district – I have some concerns about this. I'm not opposed to what you're doing because I think you're going in the right direction; I just think you need a little more input before you finalize. A lot of people weren't aware. This came out in the paper after the planning commission voted 7-0. So, I think we might need to come back at this and do some more things because we need to make sure the community is protected and the rights of everybody is protected. I noticed something in the ordinance that needs to be addressed: you need to make sure that there is a closed-loop system, especially going through these rural areas as far as their cooling system. I think that needs to be spelled out up front. You also need to look at the environmental aspect of it too. You need to make sure that you're putting in tree canopies, pollinator gardens, and native plants. Another aspect is, what's the priority in Lake County? We have a steel industry also, and if the steel industry modernizes, they're going to need a lot of electricity. We need to have a county-wide discussion about this because with a data center you have a handful of jobs, and with the steel mills you have thousands of jobs. So, if we don't protect our steel industry and upgrade it technology-wise, we're not going to save those jobs, and we're not going to get to the point where we're not polluting like the steel industry does now. You guys are responsible for economic policy in Lake County, and this is part of economic policy. We need to get all the stakeholders involved and start talking about this stuff. The steel industry needs to have a priority for electricity in this county. So, please acknowledge this. Whether you're Republican or Democrat, we have to work together. We have to stop this divisiveness. We have to do what's right for the community, the people, and the future.

Carolyn McCrady of Gary, In – There are so many things to be concerned about with these data centers, but I'd like to speak specifically about the electrical vampires that they are, and we know this from the experience that people all around the country have had. I've heard stories of how one data center uses more electricity than five whole states. These mega centers are very voracious. They are vampires of energy, electrical use, and water use. So, I'm wondering if the guardrails anticipate the electrical bills that people in Lake County will experience because of a data center. I'm sure all of you know that in NIPSCO land we pay the highest electric rates in the state. Our rates have been going up exponentially. I'm on the budget plan, and my rate went up \$50 a month. That is \$600 more dollars per year for what? Because they can do it. They just raise the base rate. So, we know that if these data centers are going to require extraordinary amounts of electricity, they're going to have to build it. Right now, NIPSCO is trying to put together an unregulated energy company called GenCO. What I mean by unregulated is they won't have to ask the IURC for permission to do whatever they're doing. They also want to build the assets, and that is the generating facilities, to come up with the supply of electricity that data centers would need throughout the state. The IURC has not agreed to this yet, and hopefully they won't. But what if they do? Then what are we going to do? And what are you going to tell your constituents about their electric bills? I just found out about this yesterday when I read it in the paper. I'm not sure what it says about energy, and I'm not picking on NIPSCO specifically, but they are a big player in this. If they build six new energy plants to produce the electricity so this corporate entity can make lots of money but not bring jobs and also not pay taxes, there's a state law that says they don't have to pay the state sales tax on their property, which would let them off the hook for over a billion dollars. In any case, our bills will go up because if they created new assets to create more energy sources, they can put that into the rate base. We also know that residential customers pay more than commercial and more than industrial, so that means our bills, as residential consumers, are going to go up exponentially. This thing is a disaster waiting to happen. I'm glad the council is being proactive, but I think that there's a little bit of head in the sand about this issue of energy. We need to keep a close eye on what NIPSCO is doing because if they get the IURC to agree to this, they'll go out and create new assets. They are going to say they're going to look at all forms of energy, but they aren't. They're going to create assets that rely on fossil fuels, and that is where the pollution comes in. Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago are already environmental justice centers. That means we're already inundated with pollution. These data centers are the most frightening thing outside of the Trump administration that I have seen in a very long time. They will kill us financially. This is about corporate greed. We don't know where all of this is going, so it's really going to be a dance to the finish, and we need to be prepared.

Niemeyer – Within the ordinance, it does include provisions of the facilities' commitment to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources. I've heard these pleas from people, and this is why, as a plan commissioner, I felt like it was important for us to get in front of it because, again, without the policy, everything reverts to state law, case law, and precedent. We at least have something here that forces it into a funnel and gives staff, elected officials, appointed officials, and the public an opportunity to address those concerns. Without this, it doesn't mean they are not going to come. It just means that we lose our seat at the table. So, we want to make sure we have a seat at the table in that process of any sort of development to make sure that those concerns, which are valid, are addressed.

Ned – The scary thing about not having an ordinance in place is the fact that if somebody comes in for that when this is not in place, then my office is left with the responsibility of trying to fit them in a category where it's not mentioned in the ordinance, and none of these protections, these twenty or so items, are addressed and acted upon, and consequently it's brought back to you in the form of a simple zone change or something similar without any of these questions answered. Then you go to answer all these questions and defer them around and around to try to get everything addressed. I think it is a good thing. As Randy pointed out, it is unanimously recommended by the plan commission. If you remember the solar ordinances, if I don't like it, despite the plan commission's approval, I'd be talking to each one of you individually. I think we need to put it in place from the legislative body. If there's something in it you don't like, you can always change it or amend it, and we can go through that process. I agree with the gentlemen that maybe some other things are needed, but it would be nice to have something in place so that we have a starting point to go forward.

Cid – I agree. I expressed the same thing to Mr. Steagall, that we're starting at this point, and if we feel there's something that needs to be changed, someone on the plan commission or someone on the council can make those recommendations. And just a reminder to everyone, this is not a vote in favor of or against data centers; it's just in favor of approving the ordinance and putting those guardrails in place. 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 Brewer, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2590**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND** the Unincorporated Lake County Unified Development Ordinance, County of Lake, State of Indiana, adopted June 13, 2023 specifically to add to **Title 154**, Unified Development Ordinance (Ordinance 2560):

1. A definition of “Data Center” in UDO **Section 154-7-050.A**;
2. Amendments to the Business Districts Use Table of UDO **Section 154-3-020.A** (Table 3-2);
3. Amendments to the Industrial Districts Use Table of UDO **Section 154-4-020.A** (Table 4-2); and
4. New supplemental use regulations for Data Centers in UDO **Section 154-8-080**.

**WHEREAS**, companies have expressed an interest in data center projects in Lake County, Indiana.

**WHEREAS**, the Unincorporated Lake County Advisory Plan Commission, herein after “Plan Commission,” by and through their ordinances and regulations passed by the legislative body, the Lake County Council, hereinafter “Council,” is duly charged with regulating land use for the purpose to protect the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of land owners, residents and the general public.

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this amendment is to regulate the establishment and operation of data centers within Unincorporated Lake County to ensure that such facilities are compatible with local land use, minimize environmental impacts, protect natural resources, contribute positively to the community, and encourage transparency, efficiency, and public accountability.

**WHEREAS**, the Plan Commission and Council desire to implement the following regulations governing the siting, design and operation of data centers in unincorporated Lake County, Indiana.

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the County Council of the County of Lake, State of Indiana that the Unincorporated Lake County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) be amended as follows:

**1. TO ADD NEW “DATA CENTER” DEFINITION IN UDO SECTION 154-7-050.A:**

**154-7-050 Wholesale, Distribution & Storage Use Category**

This category includes uses that ~~provide store~~ and distribute goods in large quantities, principally to retail sales, commercial services, or industrial establishments. Long-term and short-term storage of supplies, equipment, commercial goods, and personal items is included. It also includes establishments that store, process, and distribute electronic data. The wholesale, distribution & storage subcategories are as follows.

**A. Data Center**

A facility used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data and that houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and other associated components related to digital data storage, processing, and related operations. Data center uses include data storage facilities, server farms, artificial intelligence training or processing, image processing, cloud computing, email servicing, and similar uses.

**~~AB.~~ Equipment and Materials Storage, Outdoor**

Uses related to outdoor storage of equipment, products, or materials, whether or not stored in containers. Examples include contractor and construction equipment storage yards.

**~~B.C.~~ Trucking and Transportation Terminals**

Uses engaged in the dispatching and long-term or short-term storage of trucks, buses, and other vehicles, including parcel service delivery vehicles, taxis, and limousines. Minor repair and maintenance of vehicles stored on the premises is also included. Includes uses engaged in the moving of household or office furniture, appliances, and equipment from one location to another, including the temporary on-site storage of those items.

**~~C.D.~~ Warehouse**

Uses conducted within a completely enclosed building that are engaged in long-term and short-term storage of goods and that do not meet the definition of a “self-service storage facility” or a “trucking and transportation terminal.”

**~~D.E.~~ Wholesale Sales and Distribution**

Uses engaged in the wholesale sales, bulk storage, and distribution of goods. Such uses may also include incidental retail sales and wholesale showrooms. Expressly includes the following uses: bottled gas and fuel oil sales, flea markets, ice distribution centers, monument sales, portable storage building sales, vending machine sales, auctioneers, and frozen food lockers.

2. TO IDENTIFY DATA CENTERS AS A PROHIBITED USE IN ALL “BUSINESS” ZONING DISTRICTS (UDO SECTION 154-3-020.A, TABLE 3-2):

| USE CATEGORY<br>Subcategory (clickable hyperlink to definition)<br>Specific use   | Zoning Districts |     |     |     |      |      | Supplemental Regulations |
|---|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--------------------------|
|   | PO               | B-1 | B-2 | B-3 | HS-1 | HS-2 |                          |
| P = permitted by-right   S = special exception approval required   – = prohibited |                  |     |     |     |      |      |                          |
| <b>WHOLESALE, DISTRIBUTION &amp; STORAGE</b>                                      |                  |     |     |     |      |      |                          |
| Data Center   | –                | –   | –   | –   | –    | –    |                          |
| Equipment and Materials Storage, Outdoor  | –                | –   | S   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| Trucking and Transportation Terminals   | –                | –   | S   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| Warehouse   | –                | –   | S   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| Wholesale Sales and Distribution  | –                | –   | S   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| <b>INDUSTRIAL</b>   |                  |     |     |     |      |      |                          |
| Artisan Manufacturing   | –                | –   | –   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| Low-Impact Manufacturing and Industry   | –                | –   | –   | S   | –    | –    |                          |
| <b>AGRICULTURAL</b>   |                  |     |     |     |      |      |                          |
| Farm, Traditional   | P                | P   | P   | P   | P    | P    |                          |
| Farm, Hobby   | –                | –   | –   | –   | –    | –    |                          |
| Farm, Non-Traditional (Indoor)  | –                | –   | S   | S   | –    | S    |                          |
| Home Garden   | –                | P   | P   | P   | –    | –    |                          |
| Community Garden  | P                | P   | P   | P   | P    | P    |                          |
| Farm Stand  | –                | S   | S   | S   | –    | –    |                          |
| Farmer’s Market   | –                | S   | S   | S   | –    | –    |                          |
| Horticulture Nursery  | –                | –   | –   | –   | –    | P    |                          |
| Agritourism   | S                | S   | S   | S   | S    | S    |                          |
| <b>OTHER</b>  |                  |     |     |     |      |      |                          |
| Drive-in or Drive-through Facility  | –                | S   | S   | S   | P    | S    |                          |
| Off-premise Outdoor Advertising Sign  | –                | –   | –   | –   | –    | –    |                          |
| Wireless Communication Facility   |                  |     |     |     |      |      | See Article 11           |

3. TO IDENTIFY DATA CENTERS AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE IN THE M-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) ZONING DISTRICT AND THE M-2 (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL) ZONING DISTRICT (UDO SECTION 154-4-020.A, TABLE 4-2):

| USE CATEGORY<br>Subcategory (clickable hyperlink to definition)<br>Specific use   | Zoning Districts |     | Supplemental Regulations |
|---|------------------|-----|--------------------------|
|   | M-1              | M-2 |                          |
| P = permitted by-right   S = special exception approval required   – = prohibited |                  |     |                          |
| <b>WHOLESALE, DISTRIBUTION &amp; STORAGE</b>                                      |                  |     |                          |
| Data Center   | S                | S   | 154-8-090                |
| Equipment and Materials Storage, Outdoor  | –                | –   |                          |
| Trucking and Transportation Terminals   | –                | S   |                          |
| Warehouse   | P                | P   | [1]                      |
| Wholesale Sales and Distribution  | P                | P   | [1]                      |

**4. TO ADD NEW SECTION 154-8-080 CONTAINING SUPPLEMENTAL USE REGULATIONS FOR DATA CENTERS:**

**154-8-090. Data Centers**

Data centers are subject to compliance with the regulations of this section and any other conditions of approval that may be imposed at the time of special exception approval.

- A. All applications for special exception approval must include at least the following information in addition to the standard submittal requirements for a special exception use:**
- 1. Site plan identifying:**
    - a. Subject property including the property lines, setback lines, and right-of-way lines; and
    - b. Physical features including but not limited to roads, special flood hazard areas, wetlands, existing and proposed buildings, equipment, proposed locations of underground or overhead electric lines and utility poles, landscaping, and fencing.
  - 2. Proposed construction schedule and identification of proposed construction and ongoing maintenance routes from the nearest arterial road, as detailed on a map.**
  - 3. Proposed access routes for emergency response vehicles and large semi-tractor trailers as well as a letter of intent with the Lake County Highway Department acknowledging the proposed project and a preliminary agreement with the Highway Department requirements or conditions.**
  - 4. Written verification from the Northern Indiana Public Services Company (NIPSCO) indicating that:**
    - a. Adequate capacity is available in the supply lines and substation for the proposed data center and to serve the current and future needs of the area and is consistent with the normal projected load growth envisioned by utility;
    - b. Utility supply equipment and related electrical infrastructure are sufficiently sized and can safely accommodate the proposed data center; and
    - c. The proposed data center will not cause electrical interference or fluctuations in line voltage.
  - 5. An energy efficiency plan demonstrating the proposed facility's commitment to the use of renewable energy resources and the practices to be used to conserve energy. Such plan shall indicate what percentage of the data center's energy consumption will come from solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources for a minimum timeframe of 25 years.**
  - 6. A water management plan detailing how the facility will meet their anticipated cooling needs while minimizing impacts on the local water supply and how the used water will be discharged and disposed.**
  - 7. Verification of water rights or an adequate supply of water to serve the facility from a public water utility.**



8. Letter of approval from the Indiana Department of Health and local health department or the sanitary sewer utility regarding management of waste and wastewater for the project.
9. Letter of approval from the Lake County Surveyor that the proposed data center will comply with the Lake County Stormwater Management and Clean Water Regulations Ordinance. This may include a bond or letter of credit for required improvements.
10. If located on a state highway, a letter of intent with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) that acknowledges the proposed project and a preliminary agreement with INDOT requirements or conditions.
11. Visual screening report that includes at least the following:
  - a. An area map showing all properties and principal buildings within 500 feet of the proposed data center site;
  - b. Locations and types of existing vegetation that may provide screening of views of the data center and associated improvements;
  - c. Any topographic features that provide screening of the facility;
  - d. A separate topographic map providing contours of not more than 2 feet of elevation;
  - e. A separate map showing all soils on site along with their classifications; and
  - f. A landscape and screening plan.
12. Preliminary operation and maintenance plan for the data center, including measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, stormwater controls, landscaping maintenance, as well as general procedures for operation and maintenance.
13. Proof of liability insurance.
14. Preliminary emergency response for responding to fire or discharge of environmental contaminants.
15. A noise study and mitigation plan prepared by an acoustical engineer describing the facility's anticipated noise levels and all proposed mitigation efforts (e.g., sound walls, baffles, ventilation silencers, landscaping) that will be employed to ensure compliance with the maximum sound level standard. This required study must confirm that the data center and all components will comply with Chapter 93 of the County Code of Ordinances, Indiana Department of Environmental Management noise guidelines and the regulations of this section.
16. Redacted copy of the lease for the subject property (if leased).
17. All proposed or requested financial incentives for the project. If county financial incentives are provided after a data center receives special exception approval, the previously approved special exception shall lapse and be of no further effect.
18. A decommissioning plan.
19. For data centers that will include more than 100,000 square feet of gross floor area, an Environmental Impact Analyses (EIA) in accordance with I.C. 13-2-4 and the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (IEPA), including Environmental Assessments (EAs) and

Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). Such analyses must include the projected power and water usage of the facility at full operating capacity and a site assessment to determine the possible impacts of the data center on water usage in the area and the ability of the electrical grid to adequately serve both the data center and residents of the area without service disruptions. Further, the EIA must document the anticipated carbon emissions and impacts on any agricultural, historic, and cultural resources in the area. The EIA should include a Phase I ESA report completed to comply with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) E1527-13. Applicants must demonstrate compatibility with the Lake County Comprehensive Plan, especially regarding land conservation and emission reduction goals.

20. In addition to public notice provided pursuant to the special exception procedures, the data center owner/operator must mail (obtaining a certificate of mailing from the U.S. Post Office or receipts from certified mail) notice letters to Lake County Board of Commissioners and Lake County Council for the data center and where it is to be built, as well as to the respective Township Trustee, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County 911, Lake County Sheriff, any participating fire department or fire district, and to all municipalities located within 1.5 miles of the proposed data center.
- B. All equipment and buildings associated with the facility must be set back at least 200 feet from all property lines abutting agricultural or residential-zoned properties.
- C. Maximum sound levels associated with any component of a data center may not exceed 55 decibels (dB), measured at the property line.
- D. All backup generators are subject to compliance with Indiana Department of Environmental Management permitting under 326 Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 2 and limited to emergency use only.
- E. All mechanical equipment, including power generators or other power supply equipment other than solar panels, must be enclosed or screened from public view.
- F. All on-site utility lines must be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility, with the exception of the main service connection at the utility company right-of-way and any new interconnection equipment, including without limitation any poles, with new easements and right-of-way.
- G. Perimeter security fencing or other county-approved barriers must comply with federal requirements and be designed to prevent unauthorized entry. Fences or other barriers must be at least 6 feet in height.
- H. Data center operators must offer annual training sessions to fire departments responsible for providing fire protection services in the area in which the data center is located. The first such training session must occur within 6 months of the date that the facility begins operation and each calendar year thereafter. Required training must provide participating members of the fire department with information regarding the installation and operation of the data center that is reasonably necessary to allow the fire department to safely and effectively respond to a fire at or discharge or threatened discharge of environmental contaminants by the data center. An annual written report of such training sessions must be provided to the plan commission no later than January 31st of each calendar year.

I. Data center facilities that remain inactive for more than 15 consecutive months must be decommissioned unless otherwise approved by plan commission action at a public hearing. If decommissioned, the site must be restored to pre-development conditions or repurposed for permitted uses.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage according to law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2590 IS HEREBY X  
APPROVED DENIED NO ACTION


COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 12 DAY OF August, 2025.



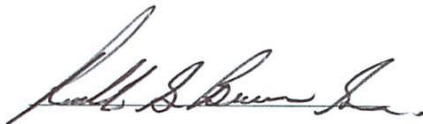
Mrs. Christine Cid, President



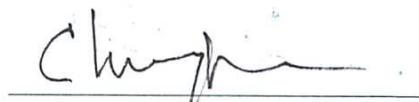
Mr. Dave Hamm, Member



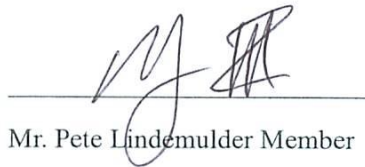
Mr. Ted Bilski, Member



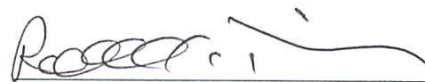
Mr. Ronald G. Brewer, Sr., Vice President



Mr. Charlie Brown, Member



Mr. Pete Lindemulder Member



Mr. Randy Niemeyer, Member

## Public Comment:

Barbara Koteles of Hobart – I am very happy about the ordinance for data centers. I just hope that it has strong oversight because a lot of good bills have no oversight. I hope it has consequences for non-compliance because that is sometimes missing from a bill with good intentions. Speaking to the generalities of AI, AI was invented by billionaires, and it was rolled out with sufficient infrastructure. So now there's this big sudden push that AI can't develop more if we can't get these data centers, and these billionaires own plenty of property. Why don't they build these right next to their homes? Because Indiana land is cheaper. I just think they're greedy. I think that someone else should take the car out for a test drive before any city or town in Lake County does. When I hear the benefits of data centers described as needing them for our police, firemen, or children, or they won't have a good education, I have heard that a lot before. In Hobart, I went to one public hearing in May for data centers, and then I went to one last week. I thought it was a meeting for the same data center, but no, they want to have two data centers in Hobart. I hear people talking about rural considerations; these two data centers are purposed in areas that are very close to residential areas. In fact, one is right across the other side of 61st Avenue down the street from where I live. These data centers could prove to be good. Or they could prove they could be bad. I say, why don't we wait a while and see what happens? In data centers that have been in business for about ten years or so, there are complaints from people. One of the main complaints is that the money that is generated from that doesn't go back to the people. It's used by their politicians for existing programs or new programs.

Cathy Lareau – With talking about government efficiency, the year 2027 is what's being repeated; however, I wanted to let you know that we are already feeling that impact, and I just wanted to share with you that I know Randy mentioned our concern about public safety with our fire and police. All trustees are required to provide the fire and EMS protection in unincorporated areas. The other thing is that's a very important component as well as township assistance. This year so far, in St. John Township, we have been able to stop eighteen evictions. That's huge with a budget that I already wouldn't be able to do that with, the budget that I currently have, but my staff is great with working with other organizations to help stop these evictions. I wanted to point out, we are already feeling that impact. I already spoke with DLGF, and I think SEA1 blindsided all of us. Speaking to public safety, my property tax cap credit went from five thousand this year to about ninety-four thousand for my budget for next year. Ninety-four thousand dollars in cuts. That's almost ninety thousand more than my budget was this year. Townships have their own separate fire levy, unlike towns, and so my fire levy is estimated to increase four percent. Last year my property tax cap credit for fire was \$444. This year, it's \$34,840. That's over seven thousand percent deductions in fire. And then the rest of it goes to my township, and I had to make cuts in township assistance as well. It's already here. It's impacting all of us in 2026, and it will just increase, so next year, from what I've seen as a projection, there will be more than the ninety thousand. We're all trying to do the best we can with what's been given to us, but I do appreciate anything that you're able to do on the county council side of this.

Terry Steagall – I'm a retired steelworker of 41 years and I think we need to recognize that it's an important industry to Lake County. Green steel is a process that cleans this whole mess up because you eliminate the coke plant, you eliminate the blast furnace and the BOF but we need to implement this technology and it takes money. These billionaires want to do data centers but they could do their fair share in helping invest in the steel industry too. What we need for green steel is green hydrogen and there's no pollution in green hydrogen. It's basically water and electricity. The steel mills need hydrogen to heat up the iron ore in the direct reduction iron furnaces to eliminate the pollution. We have to realize that we need to go in this direction of green steel. We need the green hydrogen plant, we need to upgrade our steel mills with direct reduction iron furnaces and eliminate all of those other polluting entities. So, we can cast quality steel for use in the industry. These are important things we need to fight for and we need to voice our opinions about this because this is going to be our savior in Northwest Indiana. There're thousands of jobs on the lake front from the steel industry and we can't afford to let it rubble and all you have is vacant property that's been contaminated from the lakefront. We need the council to get in unison on this green steel concept and we need to have those discussions with the steel industry and our legislatures and make them realize what we need to do in the future to save the steel industry and also save our communities.

Carolyn McCrady of Gary, In – What Terry is talking about is already in play in the United States and internationally. It is the wave of the future. Twenty percent of all the steel is produced in our country today. Comes from direct reduction technology. It is the wave of the future and we need to get on that future train otherwise as Terry said, we're going to have a whole lakefront filled with carcasses of what used to be. It doesn't have to be like that. The light at the end of the tunnel is the modernization. Nobody rides in a model T Ford anymore. Nobody would even think about doing that. That's what the blast furnace is. Its obsolete technology and we need to move forward.

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.

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President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

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Peggy Holinga Katona,  
Lake County Auditor