

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

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

In the Matter of Minutes – February 11, 2025

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

ORDINANCE #1505

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

	Appropriation Requested	Appropriated
Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651		
<u>Data Processing Agency 9301</u> 64490 Other Equipment	\$735,575.00	\$735,575.00
Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651		
<u>Hammond & Gary Courthouses 9302</u> 63630 Maintenance & Service Contracts	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00
Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651		
<u>Government Center 9303</u> 63610 Building & Structures 63630 Maintenance & Service Contracts	\$107,000.00 \$371,800.00	\$107,000.00 \$371,800.00
Homeland Security Grant Fund 8249		
<u>Emergency Management 9304</u> 63995 Other Services & Charges	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Superior Court Criminal Division Safe Grant Fund 9448		
<u>Criminal Court 3002</u> 63190 Other Professional Service	\$24,185.01	\$24,185.01

Adopted this 11th day of March, 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>Combined Election & Registration 5001</u>		
County General Fund 1001		
From: 1001-61100 Overtime	\$9,200.00	\$9,200.00
To: 1001-61120 Professionals	\$9,200.00	\$9,200.00

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 11th day of March, 2025.

Additional

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651</u>			
Data Processing Agency 9301 (\$735,575)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651</u>			
Hammond & Gary Courthouses 9302 (\$120,000)	Niemeyer	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Co. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund 1651</u>			
Government Center 9303 (\$478,800)	Niemeyer	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>Homeland Security Grant Fund 8249</u>			
Emergency Management 9304 (\$2,000)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.
<u>**Superior Court Criminal Division Safe Grant Fund 9448</u>			
Criminal Court 3002 (\$24,185.01)	Hamm	Bilski	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

**Fund number was advertised as 9948. Error was found after council action. This appropriation will be re-advertised for the April agenda.

Transfers

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Combined Election & Registration 5001</u>			
County General Fund 1001 (\$9,200)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Criminal Courts 3002 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001 – **Effective (03-10-2025)**

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following with an effective date of 3-10-2025:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
12428-014 Probation Officer	\$58,473.00	\$41,459.00	(\$17,014.00)

Majority voted yes. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 3-10-2025 carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Criminal Courts 3002 – Create New Line Item – Superior Court Criminal Division SAFE Grant Fund 9448

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

63190 Other Professional Services

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

In the Matter of Combined Election & Registration 5001 – Revised 144 – General Fund 1001 – **Effective (01-01-2025)**

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

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
12014-001 Director	\$73,164.00	\$75,164.00	\$2,000.00

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

In the Matter of Emergency Management 9304 – Create New Line Item – Homeland Security Grant Fund 8249

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

63995 Other Services & Charges

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) – Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) = FY26 JDAI Annual Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Juvenile Court 4005 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – Lake County Juvenile Center Flower Farm Project – Lake County Master Gardeners Association “Helping Others Grow” 2025 Grant Application

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

In the Matter of Economic Development 9307 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program = FY 2025 CDBG Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter of Economic Development 9307 – Grant Application & Grant Approval – Grant Oversight Committee – US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Housing Investment Partnership Program (HOME) = FY 2025 HOME Grant Renewal Application

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

In the Matter County Council – Approval of Data Board Nominees

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

County Commissioners	Michael Repay
County Recorder	Regina Pimentel
County Judges	John M. Sedia Senior Judge
County Coroner	David J. Pastrick

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

In the Matter of Lake County Commissioners 6002 – County Reports – 2025 State of the County Report by The Board of Commissioners to the Citizens of Lake County

Report was accepted by the council.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY
REPORT BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TO THE CITIZENS OF
LAKE COUNTY**

February 27, 2025

**Commissioner Kyle W. Allen, Sr. – 1st District
Commissioner Jerry Tippy – 2nd District
Commissioner Michael Repay – 3rd District**

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with IC 36-2-3.5-4(b)(1)(2) the Board of Commissioners as the Lake County Executive hereby submits its annual report addressing the state of Lake County's economy, the action program necessary to improve residents' welfare, the forecast of trends for county services, and program financing for all county level government entities.

STATE OF THE COUNTY

1. The primary factor affecting the State of the County is the 6.0% unemployment rate in Lake County as of December, 2024. This rate ranks Lake County number three among Indiana's 92 counties in joblessness behind Fayette County (6.1%) and Howard County (7.7%). This was up by 1.0% as compared to December, 2024.
2. This Lake County rate is 2.0% higher than the 4.0% not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the State of Indiana for December, 2024.
3. Lake County's unemployment rate is 1.9% higher than the national average of 4.1% in December, 2024.
4. Statistics by municipality were available for local unemployment rates: East Chicago (7.5%), Gary (9%), Hammond (6%), Hobart (4.8%) and Merrillville (6.4%) as of November, 2024.
5. Information Technology Improvement

Lake County Government has continued to improve its technological infrastructure, including, but not limited to the ability for certain employees to work remote, sometimes for long periods. To that end, the Lake County Data Department has continued to maximize the funds allocated by the Lake County Council and the Lake County Commissioners to provide better functionality, security and performance to all Lake County Government users.

6. GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) Conversion

With the aid of Crowe LLP, Lake County began the required process of converting from cash accounting method to GAAP Accounting. In 2015, the Indiana General Assembly amended I.C. 5-11-1-4 to require counties with a population over 100,000 to convert from cash basis accounting to GAAP Accounting. Without converting to GAAP, a qualifying county would not be permitted to issue bonds. Lake County continues the final stages of completing the GAAP Conversion.

LAKE COUNTY CONVENTION AND EVENT CENTER

1. The Lake County Board of Commissioners took the first steps necessary to build and Lake County Convention and Event Center. In 2023, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation that would offer Lake County a \$100,000,000.00 match over the course of twenty (20) years once the project is awarded by the Board. This could result in a \$200,000,000.00 invest in Lake County. The Board of Commissioners approved specifications to seek proposals for the construction of a Lake County Convention and Event Center in the summer

of 2024. Two proposals were received. One from the City of Gary and its partner, Hard Rock Casino and the other from the City of Hobart with its partner Garfield Public-Private. The Commissioners took the two proposals under advisement with a potential award in spring of 2025.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA FUNDING

1. The Lake County Health Department has approved \$1.3 million in partnerships in 2024 to support a variety of core public health services, including chronic disease prevention, nutrition education, infant safe sleep, maternal and child health initiatives, tobacco prevention, and youth substance use prevention. The department has partnered with the Food Bank of NWI to enhance pantry packs focused on maternal and infant nutrition and other vital health issues. Additionally, an overhead food locker system will be installed to improve access to food and essential items, such as diapers and coats, after hours. In partnership with St. John Fire, Lake County has launched a mobile integrated health program that focuses on community risk reduction such as fall prevention and increasing access to care. Other partnerships include Purdue Extension, Mental Health America of NWI, VicTory4Kidz, Franciscan Health, Gary Harm Reduction, the Indiana School of Medicine, and Geminus. Furthermore, the Health Department is excited to introduce its new mobile health clinic, purchased for \$229,000, which will begin providing services throughout the community in early spring 2025 and this will transform our public health delivery for all of Lake County.

OPIOID STEERING COMMITTEE

1. As a part of various class action settlements with a number of pharmaceutical companies, Lake County is expected to receive a total of \$1,857,506.57 in unrestricted funds and \$5,963,312.91 in restricted funds over the course of eighteen (18) years. In 2024, the Board of Commissioners established the Lake County Opioid Steering Committee which includes professionals from the judiciary, law enforcement, medical doctors, substance abuse counselors and attorneys. The Steering Committee awarded a total of \$225,000.00 to 9 different qualifying non-profit organizations after requesting, reviewing and finding each entity's proposals would help abate the opioid crisis in Lake County.

ACTION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS' WELFARE

1. Calumet Township Septic Tank Elimination Project – Construction Project 1 (Calumet STEP CP1)

The Lake County Board of Commissioners has commissioned VS Engineering, Inc. for the design of a sanitary sewer system within the unincorporated area of Calumet Township in Lake County, Indiana. Wastewater is currently managed by individually owned septic systems, most of which were installed in the 1950's and are reaching the end of their useful life. The Project area covers approximately 900 acres of land.

Construction Project 1 (Calumet STEP CP1) includes the construction of approximately 55,000 linear feet of low-pressure sewer, approximately 30,000 linear feet of gravity sewer, approximately 11,000 linear feet of force main and a lift station. CP1 will decommission septic

systems and connect approximately 1,046 residents and businesses to the proposed sewer system. The Project will consist of a total of approximately 96,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer main with an approximate construction cost of \$85 - \$90 million.

2. Center Township Septic Tank Elimination Project

An interlocal agreement between Lake County, Indiana and the City of Crown Point was entered into back in 2023 whereby Lake County would commit to spending approximately \$25 million in ARP Funds in Center Township to improve the lives of the residents living in certain unincorporated area of Center Township by improving and rehabilitating the wastewater infrastructure servicing such residents to allow for a transition from septic to sewer connection into Crown Point's wastewater system. To this point, Lake County has completed or is in the process of completing 3 subdivisions, with another 2 to be completed by the end of 2025. It is anticipated that the last 2 subdivisions will be completed in 2026.

3. Tax Credits

In 2025 the County provided more than \$130 million in property tax credits. Every property taxpayer in Lake County received a 15% reduction off their tax bill.

**ACTION PROGRAM TO
IMPROVE LAKE COUNTY
RESIDENTS' WELFARE**

1. Continue to diversify into a commercial and/or industrial base that does not concentrate so heavily on industry.
2. In 2024, Lake County spent a total of \$11,212,474.00 on roads and bridges. Of this amount, \$2,363,738.00 was spent in and for bridge upkeep and \$8,848,736.00 was spent on paving, rights-of-way, road expansions, and road improvements. The \$8,848,736.00 for roads does not include labor or equipment.
3. Lake County continues to partner with the Gary Public Transportation Corp. and North Township dial-a-ride program by providing \$300,000.00 in total funding to these two organizations which greatly helps to provide public transportation throughout the County to citizens in North County. The Board also provided an additional \$84,150.00 to South Lake County Community Services for a total boost of \$384,150.00 to the three of the highest ridership community-based transit companies. Lake County also provides \$3.4 million to Edgewater Systems and Regional Mental Health Center. It is in the best interest of the County to supplement the care provided by Community Health Centers each year. The County has set aside over \$1.6 million.
4. This year Lake County will distribute over \$29,000,000.00 for Public Safety and \$25,000,000.00 of local income tax revenue for Economic Development to Civil Cities and Towns.
5. The Lake County Board of Commissioners continue to upgrade the residential housing stock by eliminating decrepit, unsafe and abandoned homes through unsafe building ordinance enforcement. Lake County government has played a major role in selling tax sale certificates

to private investors to develop and rehab primarily residential facilities that have been abandoned and fallen in disrepair. In addition, Lake County has worked in conjunction with the cities of Gary, Hammond and East Chicago to facilitate the transfer of tax sale certificates so that these units could take advantage of federal monies set aside for structure demolition.

FORECAST

TRENDS FOR COUNTY SERVICES

1. Over 80% of county level budget resources will continue to be expended for the jail, the Sheriff's Department, the Courts, the Clerk and the Prosecutor.
2. The Lake County Jail's daily average inmate population is 916.

REVIEW LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FINANCING

1. Lake County will continue to implement cost reduction measures. To facilitate obtaining more vendors to respond to quotes or bid requests, the County implemented a program of identifying through its Lawson system the statutory basis for each purchase made. The goal is to utilize the information accumulated in all of 2018 and the first three quarters of 2019 to select the purchase technique that will allow the County to obtain a goal of reaching out or obtaining responses from at least 3 vendors for a majority of its public works construction and the acquisition of supplies, goods, machinery and equipment.
2. The continued use and allocation of a local income tax at 1% adopted by the Lake County Council to support the budget at the County level has made the Lake County budget less dependent upon property tax payments and delinquencies which has stabilized income and expense planning.
3. The Board of Commissioners developed and continues to update a manual on tax certificate bidding policies in order to ensure the bidding process is as transparent as it has ever been. The Commissioners are dedicated to making sure that those tax delinquent individuals and/or corporations who are ineligible to bid will continue to be precluded from purchasing tax certificates at the annual Commissioners' Tax Sale. The Commissioners' Office has worked and continues to work closely with the Lake County Auditor and Lake County Treasurer to fine tune the Tax Sale Manual.
4. The County is responsible for the care and maintenance of their physical structures. To make certain that building maintenance and repairs can be addressed timely, the County has implemented a facility review program and has scheduled facility upgrades in order of priority.

SUMMARY

County level services are affected by budget restrictions in relationship to the Lake County Jail. Operations have been modified and budgets reduced. One way to attack the problem in the jail is to develop an inmate handling and processing system in conjunction with the Courts which will reduce the jail population. The two factors contributing to the jail population are the number of inmates booked and their length of stay.

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities can refer to impairment in learning and behavior, such as autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and impairments in physical and/or intellectual functioning such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and Down Syndrome; this campaign each March seeks to raise awareness about including people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life; and

WHEREAS, family members, friends and members of the community can play a central role in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities especially when the family and community are provided with necessary support services; and public and private employers are aware of the capabilities of people with disabilities to be engaged in competitive work in inclusive settings; and

WHEREAS, the goals of Lake County include providing individuals with disabilities the opportunities and support to make informed choices and decisions, live in homes and communities where such individuals can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens; pursue meaningful and productive lives; contribute to their family, community, State and Nation; have interdependent friendships and relationships with others; and achieve full inclusion in society; and

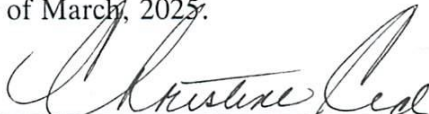
WHEREAS, public awareness and education enhance a community's understanding of the issues affecting people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council desires to proclaim March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month in an effort to increase public awareness and education; and to celebrate and recognize people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Lake County Council declares March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month and calls upon the citizens of Lake County to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities; furthermore the Lake County Council encourages the citizens of Lake County to seek counsel and input from any person or group with knowledge and expertise in matters concerning disabilities.

SO RESOLVED THIS 11th day of March, 2025.

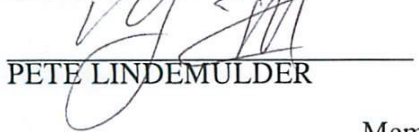

CHRISTINE CID, President


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 Recognizing March as National Women’s History Month

Cid passed the gavel to Vice-President Brewer.


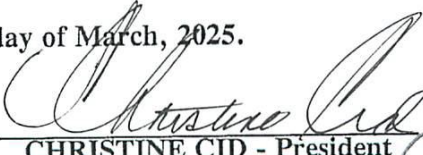
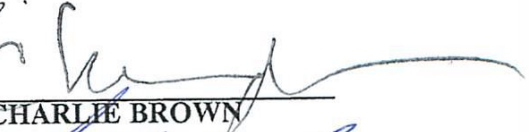
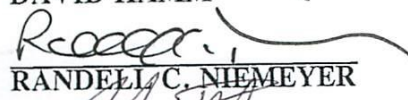
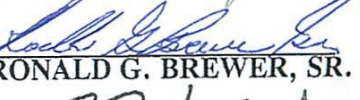

Cid made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-12

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
MARCH AS NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

- WHEREAS, Women’s History Month celebrates the often-overlooked contribution of women in history, society and culture; and
 - WHEREAS, March is selected as the month for observing Women’s History Month to correspond with International Women’s Day on March 8th; and
 - WHEREAS, in the United States, Women’s History Month traces its beginnings back to the first International Women’s Day in 1911; and
 - WHEREAS, in 1978, the school district of Sonoma, California participated in “Women’s History Day” and in 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women’s History Week; and
 - WHEREAS, in 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress passed Pub.L. 100-9, designating the month of March as Women’s History Month; and
 - WHEREAS, the Lake County Council each year has supported Women’s History Month recognizing the accomplishments of women in Lake County, Indiana, and the United States; and
 - WHEREAS, women to this day continue to break barriers and make their presence known in areas previously reserved solely for men; and
 - WHEREAS, the Indiana High School Athletic Association for the first time approved full recognition of girls wrestling beginning with the 2024-25 school year; and
 - WHEREAS, Alexsandra Bastaic, a Highland High School Junior; Ava Strayer, a Crown Point High School Freshman, and Joy Cantu, a Merrillville High School Senior, each won their weight division in the first ever IHSAA-sanctioned Girls Wrestling State Championship on January 17, 2025.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lake County Council does hereby recognize March as National Women’s History Month, and in honor of that designation, so recognizes these three young women for their accomplishments in IHSAA Girls Wrestling as examples of the amazing accomplishments of strong, determined women continue to make.

SO RESOLVED THIS 11th day of March, 2025.

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

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Highland High School's Aleksandra Bastaic Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Champion – 145 Pound Weight Division

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

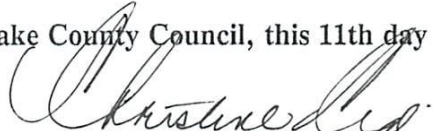
RESOLUTION NO. 25-13

RESOLUTION HONORING HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S
ALEKSANDRA BASTAIC
INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPION - 145 POUND WEIGHT DIVISION

- WHEREAS, students and professional athletes nurtured and trained in Lake County, Indiana, have consistently shown excellence in all sporting endeavors; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited and athletic youth to compete with other youths of this state and of every country and nation of this world; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and
- WHEREAS, Aleksandra Bastaic, a Highland High School Junior, is ranked 2nd in the nation, finished the season with a 43-0 record, has been named a two-time Fargo All-American and became a three-time State Champion; and
- WHEREAS, Aleksandra Bastaic won the first-ever IHSAA-sanctioned Girls Wrestling State Championship - 145 Pound Weight Division, on January 17, 2025 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds; celebrating this achievement is especially meaningful during Women's History Month, which is dedicated to honor women who break barriers and make history.

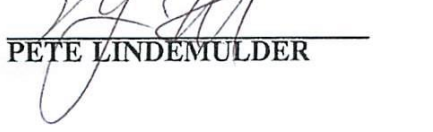
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County extend congratulations and praise to Aleksandra Bastaic for capturing first place in the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Tournament - 145 Pound Weight Division; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Aleksandra Bastaic.

DULY ADOPTED by the Lake County Council, this 11th day of March, 2025.


CHRISTINE CID, President

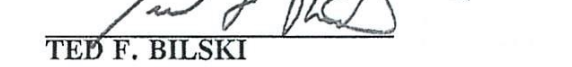

DAVID HAMM


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Crown Point High School's Ava Strayer Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Champion – 125 Pound Weight Division

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-14

RESOLUTION HONORING CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL'S
AVA STRAYER
INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPION - 125 POUND WEIGHT DIVISION

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

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


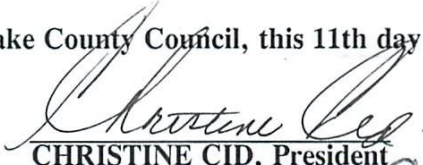



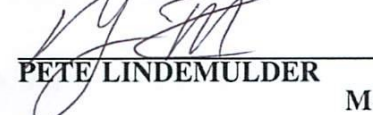

WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and

WHEREAS, Ava Strayer, a Crown Point High School Freshman, is ranked 20th in the nation and finished the season with a 39-0 record;

WHEREAS, Ava Strayer won the first-ever IHSAA-sanctioned Girls Wrestling State Championship - 125 Pound Weight Division, on January 17, 2025 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds; celebrating this achievement is especially meaningful during Women's History Month, which is dedicated to honor women who break barriers and make history.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County extend congratulations and praise to Ava Strayer for capturing first place in the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Tournament - 125 Pound Weight Division; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Ava Strayer.

DULY ADOPTED by the Lake County Council, this 11th day of March, 2025.

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

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Merrillville High School's Joy Cantu Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Champion – 110 Pound Weight Division

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

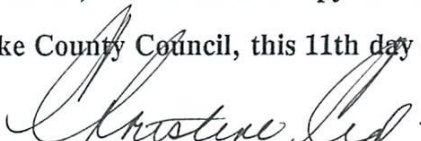
RESOLUTION NO. 25-15

RESOLUTION HONORING MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S
JOY CANTU
INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPION - 110 POUND WEIGHT DIVISION


- WHEREAS, students and professional athletes nurtured and trained in Lake County, Indiana, have consistently shown excellence in all sporting endeavors; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited and athletic youth to compete with other youths of this state and of every country and nation of this world; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and
- WHEREAS, Joy Cantu, a Merrillville High School Senior, is a three-time boys wrestling semi-state qualifier, ranked 13th nationally, has 101 career victories and finished the season with a 37-0 record; and
- WHEREAS, Joy Cantu won the first-ever IHSAA-sanctioned Girls Wrestling State Championship - 110 Pound Weight Division, on January 17, 2025 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds; celebrating this achievement is especially meaningful during Women's History Month, which is dedicated to honor women who break barriers and make history.

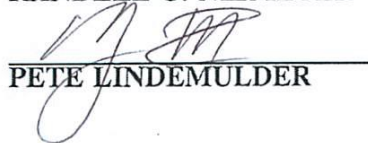
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County extend congratulations and praise to Joy Cantu for capturing first place in the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Tournament - 110 Pound Weight Division; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to Joy Cantu.

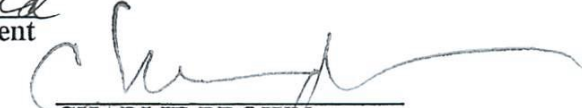
DULY ADOPTED by the Lake County Council, this 11th day of March, 2025.



CHRISTINE CID, President


DAVID HAMM


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring Merrillville High School Girls Wrestling Team, 2025 IHSGW Girls Wrestling State Dual Champions

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

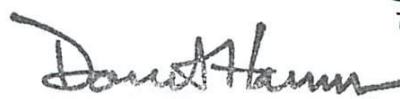
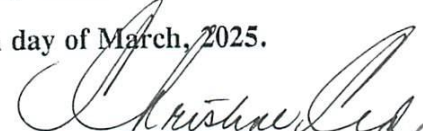


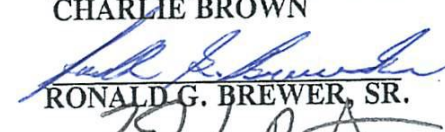


RESOLUTION NO. 25-16

RESOLUTION HONORING
MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM,
2025 IHSGW GIRLS WRESTLING STATE DUAL CHAMPIONS

- WHEREAS, students and professional athletes nurtured and trained in Lake County, Indiana, have consistently shown excellence in all sporting endeavors; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited and athletic youth to compete with other youths of this state and of every country and nation of this world; and
- WHEREAS, Lake County is justly proud of its sons and daughters who have so willingly taken upon themselves the hardships and disciplines, both physical and mental, which successful participation in sporting events demands; and
- WHEREAS, the Merrillville High School Girls Wrestling Team (Lady Pirates) captured the 2025 IHSGW Girls Wrestling State Dual Championship at the Girls Team State Duals held on January 25, 2025 at Fishers High School; the Lady Pirates finished out the year 18-0 in Dual Meets and was the 2025 IHSAA State Runner Up.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County who are represented by this august body, extend congratulations and praise to the students, teachers, coaches and trainers but most particularly to the young women of the Merrillville High School Girls Wrestling Team, the 2025 IHSGW Girls Wrestling State Dual Champions and champions always for Lake County; that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to the Merrillville High School Girls Wrestling Team.

SO RESOLVED THIS 11th day of March, 2025.

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

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Honoring the Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-17

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE CROWN POINT
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY DANCE TEAM**

WHEREAS, students and scholars from Lake County, Indiana, have consistently excelled in all matters throughout the State and Country; and

WHEREAS, Lake County has generously sent forth its spirited youth to compete in contests in this State, the Nation and the World; and

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

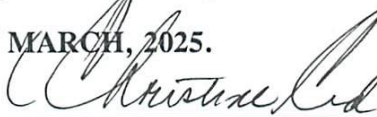
WHEREAS, Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team has captured the following 2024-2025 team accolades: 1st Place-Varsity Kick and 1st Place-Large Varsity Pom at the DTU Louisville Regional; 1st Place-Varsity Kick and 1st Place-Large Varsity Pom at the UDA Regional-Southern Michigan Dance Challenge; undefeated in AAA Kick Division through the regular season (IHSDTA); and 1st place-AAA Kick at the IHSDTA Northern Regionals; and

WHEREAS, Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team captured the Large Varsity Division 1-High Kick Championship at the 2025 United Dance Association National Dance Team Championships at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Orlando, Florida on January 31, 2025 to February 2, 2025; and


WHEREAS, Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team captured the AAA Kick Championship at the IHSDTA State Finals in Indianapolis on March 2, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Lake County Council, and all citizens of Lake County who are represented by this august body, extend congratulations and praise to the students and teachers, of the Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team, for capturing the Large Varsity Division 1-High Kick Championship at the 2025 United Dance Association National Dance Team Competition and the AAA Kick Championship at the IHSDTA State Finals; and that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the official records of the Lake County Council, and an official copy be delivered to the Crown Point High School Varsity Dance Team.

DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025.


CHRISTINE CID, President


DAVID HAMM


CHARLIE BROWN


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


PETE LINDEMULDER


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Permitting the Lake County Community Corrections to Pay Outstanding 2024 Invoices/Debts from the 2025 budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-18

**RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE LAKE COUNTY
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS TO PAY
OUTSTANDING 2024 INVOICES/DEBTS FROM THE 2025 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Community Corrections is currently operating in the 2025 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the following invoices/debts incurred in the Budget year of 2024, have not been paid:

<u>1122-9101-62240</u> Able Paper & Janitorial	<u>Household & Inst. Supplies</u> \$ 709.03
<u>1122-9101-63190</u> Center of Workforce Innovation Merrillville Community School	<u>Other Professional Service</u> \$ 776.25 \$ 56.00
<u>1122-9101-63232</u> Rebecca Brascher (Travel Expense Voucher/ 2024 IACCAC Training)	<u>Travel/Meals</u> \$ 50.00
<u>1122-9101-63920</u> Aramark Corporation Indiana Grocery Group LLC	<u>Food & Lodging</u> \$29,178.12 \$ 90.38; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Community Corrections desires to pay the above invoices/debts due.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the following 2024 expenses shall be paid from the Lake County Community Corrections 2025 Budget:

<u>1122-9101-62240</u> Able Paper & Janitorial	<u>Household & Inst. Supplies</u> \$ 709.03
<u>1122-9101-63190</u> Center of Workforce Innovation Merrillville Community School	<u>Other Professional Service</u> \$ 776.25 \$ 56.00
<u>1122-9101-63232</u> Rebecca Brascher (Travel Expense Voucher/ 2024 IACCAC Training)	<u>Travel/Meals</u> \$ 50.00

In the Matter of Resolution Permitting Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency to Pay Outstanding 2023 Invoices/Debts from the 2025 budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-19

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

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

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

<u>1001-9304-63910</u>	<u>Dues and Subscriptions</u>
Microsoft	\$ 84.74
Microsoft	87.50
	172.24; and


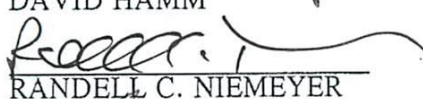

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council desires to pay the above invoices/debts due.

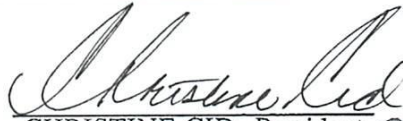
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:


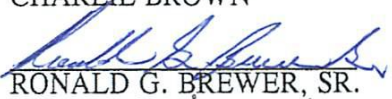
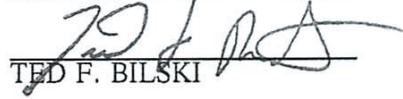
That the following 2023 expenses shall be paid from Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency's 2025 Budget:

<u>1001-9304-63910</u>	<u>Dues and Subscriptions</u>
Microsoft	\$ 84.74
Microsoft	87.50
	172.24.

SO RESOLVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025.


 DAVID HAMM

 RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

 PETE LINDEMULDER


 CHRISTINE CID, President


 CHARLIE BROWN

 RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

 TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Authorizing the Lake County Board of Commissioners to file an Annual Action Plan and to Execute a Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for an estimated \$2,200,000.00 Representing Fiscal Year 2025 funding to Lake County, Indiana

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

Niemeyer – I want to thank Mr. Brown for doing this work for many years and volunteering on these projects that he leads which I think is a great example for the community and he deserves recognition for that kind of spirit and making sure that you're not just running a department but you're also following through on the work. So, thanks for all your hard work.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-21

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO FILE AN ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ESTIMATED \$2,200,000.00 REPRESENTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 FUNDING TO LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, Lake County, Indiana, is qualified as an Urban County for entitlement funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provided under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program enacted under Title II of the Cranston Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Lake County is preparing to submit its FY2025 Annual Action Plan as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for continued CDBG, HOME and other housing related funding; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Lake County that it should prepare an Annual Action Plan to obtain these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, by the Lake County Council that the Lake County Board of Commissioners is authorized to file an Annual Action Plan and execute a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for an estimated \$2,200,000.00 representing Fiscal Year 2025 funding to Lake County, Indiana.


DATED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.


CHRISTINE CID, President

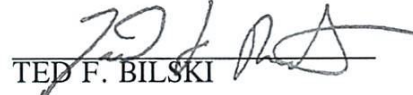

DAVID HAMM


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Resolution Permitting the Lake County Commissioners to pay Outstanding 2024 Invoices/Debts from the 2025 Budget

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-22

RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PAY OUTSTANDING 2024 INVOICES/DEBTS FROM THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Lake County Commissioners are currently operating in the 2025 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the following invoices/debts incurred in the Budget year of 2024, have not been paid:

<u>1651-6002-63610</u>	<u>Building & Structures</u>
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 3,321.13
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 750.44
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 629.13
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 1,323.79
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 409.43
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 457.54
Keough Mechanical Corp.	<u>\$23,137.20</u>
	\$30,028.66
 Valley Fire Protection	 \$ 4,505.00; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Commissioners desire to pay the above invoices/debts due.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the following 2024 expenses shall be paid from the Lake County Commissioners' 2025 Budget:

<u>1651-6002-63610</u>	<u>Building & Structures</u>
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 3,321.13
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 750.44
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 629.13
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 1,323.79
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 409.43
Keough Mechanical Corp.	\$ 457.54
Keough Mechanical Corp.	<u>\$23,137.20</u>
	\$30,028.66
 Valley Fire Protection	 \$ 4,505.00

In the Matter of Resolution Amending Resolution No. 21-33, The Resolution to Declare Funds Dormant and Transfer Remaining Cash Balances to Appropriate Funds

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-33L

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 21-33,
THE RESOLUTION TO DECLARE FUNDS DORMANT AND
TRANSFER REMAINING CASH BALANCES TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS**

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2021, Lake County Council adopted the Resolution to Declare Funds Dormant and Transfer Remaining Cash Balances to Appropriate Funds, Resolution No. 21-33; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council now desires to amend Resolution No. 21-33 in order to add the following fund as dormant and transfer remaining cash balance to the appropriate fund (Local Service Fee was repealed by Indiana Legislature with approval of P.L. 273-2019 Sec. 3) :

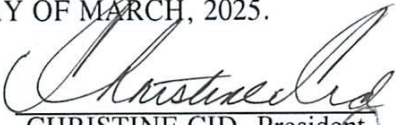
<u>Dormant Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Transfer Fund</u>
Fund #6731 Local Service Fee Fund	\$14,905.04	County General Fund #1001.


NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

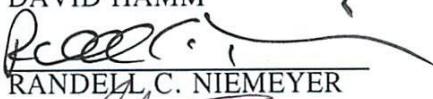
That Resolution No. 21-33 shall be amended by adding the following fund as dormant and transfer the balance as follows:


<u>Dormant Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Transfer Fund</u>
Fund #6731 Local Service Fee Fund	\$14,905.04	County General Fund #1001.


SO RESOLVED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

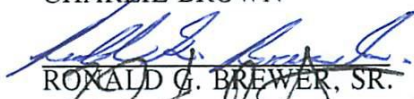

CHRISTINE CID, President

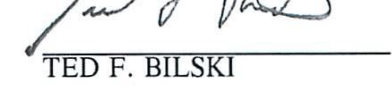

DAVID HAMM


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

In the Matter of Ordinance Establishing the Auditor's SRFWW BAN22 Fund

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

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1505A

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE
AUDITOR'S SRFWW BAN22 FUND**

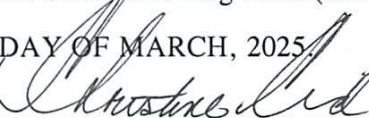
(For the Purpose of Tracking BNY Mellon Bank Transactions)

- 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,** on October 11, 2022, the Lake County Council adopted Ordinance No. 1476A, An Ordinance Authorizing the Preparation of Engineering, Design and Specifications Required for the Construction of Additions and Improvements to the Sewage Work System of Lake County, Indiana; Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Provide Funds for the Payment of the Engineering and Design Costs Thereof; Authorizing the Collection, Segregation and Distribution of the Revenues of Such System, the Safeguarding of the Interests of the owners of such Revenue Bonds and Other Matters Connected therewith, Including the issuance of Notes in Anticipation of Such Bonds; and Repealing Ordinances Inconsistent Therewith; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Ordinance No. 1476A, there will be certain required funds and accounts set-up for the Sewage Works Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2022 with the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan program ; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to a State Board of Account requirement, the Auditor desires to create the Auditor's SRFWW BAN22 Fund; the fund will be used to track in detail and book the transactions performed via BNY Mellon Bank in the County's financial system.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Lake County Council establishes the Auditor's SRFWW BAN22 Fund, used to track in detail and book the transactions performed via BNY Mellon Bank in the County's financial system for the Sewage Works Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2022 with the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program.

SO ORDAINED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 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 Amending the Lake County Part-Time Employees Pay Rate Ordinance for 2025, Ordinance No. 1502C

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

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1502C-2

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.

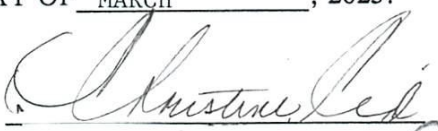
- 34. Lake County Fairgrounds
 - a. Maintenance Employees 8.50/hr.
 - b. Grounds Keeper 8.00-12.00/hr.
(Major Equipment Operator)
 - c. Event Coordinator 12.00-14.00/hr.

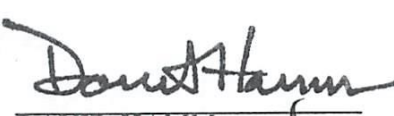
INSERT:


Section IV.


- 34. Lake County Fairgrounds
 - a. Maintenance Employees 13.00-15.00/hr.
 - b. Grounds Keeper 13.00-15.00/hr.
(Major Equipment Operator)
 - c. Event Coordinator 13.00-15.00/hr.

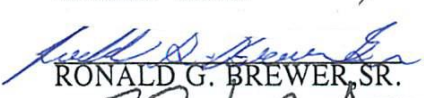
SO ORDAINED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025.



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 Amending Ordinance No. 1459B, The Ordinance Declaring Funds Not Created by Ordinance as Dormant and Inactive

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

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

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. 1459B-8

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1459B,
THE ORDINANCE DECLARING FUNDS NOT
CREATED BY ORDINANCE AS DORMANT AND INACTIVE

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2021, the Lake County Council adopted the Ordinance Declaring Funds not Created by Ordinance as Dormant and Inactive, Ordinance No. 1459B; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Council now desires to amend Ordinance No. 1459B in order to add the following fund not created by Ordinance as dormant and inactive:

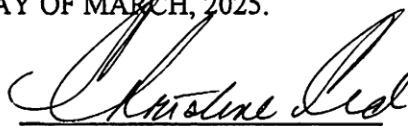
Fund 9172 Lake County Community Development Cities & Towns Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

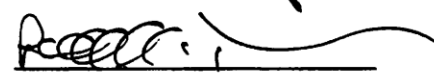
That Ordinance No. 1459B shall be amended by adding the following funds not created by Ordinances as declared dormant and inactive:

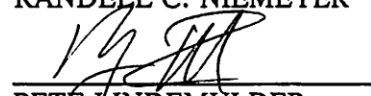
Fund 9172 Lake County Community Development Cities & Towns Fund.


SO ORDAINED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.


CHRISTINE CID, President

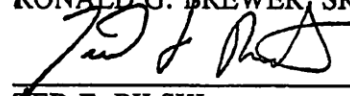

DAVID HAMM


RANDELL C. NIEMEYER


PETE LINDEMULDER


CHARLIE BROWN


RONALD G. BREWER, SR.


TED F. BILSKI

Members of the Lake County Council

Additional Council Discussion/Action

Cid – It has come to my understanding that the council does not have contract authority except for our personnel and that the commissioners negotiate the contracts for 911 and Highway department. So, I would like us to abide by statutes and have the commissioners negotiate the contracts for both corrections and merit; subject to approval by our council body since we are the financial body.

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

Szarmach – It may be wise to add in statute 36-2-5-3 which is a statute that makes the county council responsible for all positions and salaries for county employees. In other words, their contracting power in regards to salaries and positions are subject to your approval.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to return the union contracts of the merit and the corrections over to the commissioners, subject to approval by the county council in accordance with 36-2-5-3. Majority voted yes. Motion to return the union contracts of the merit and the corrections over to the commissioners, subject to approval by the county council in accordance with 36-2-5-3 carried 7-0.

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

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to direct the council attorneys to draft a letter to Calvin B Hawkins asking him to resign his position from the Domestic Violence Review Board. Majority voted yes. Motion to direct the council attorneys to draft a letter to Calvin B Hawkins asking him to resign his position from the Domestic Violence Review Board carried 7-0.

In the Matter of Discussion – Good for Youth Farm (Vertical Garden) Update



Ted Bilski, Councilman 6th District,
Lake County, IN
Project Champion
Youth Farm & CEA Innovation Center

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Youth Farm Buildout



Youth Farm & CEA Innovation Center

Original Phase I

- Install a building
 - Install two modular indoor vertical farms with propagation equipment, harvesting, packing and cooler.
- Install two greenhouses

Phase II

- Improve existing greenhouse to grow herbs and flowers



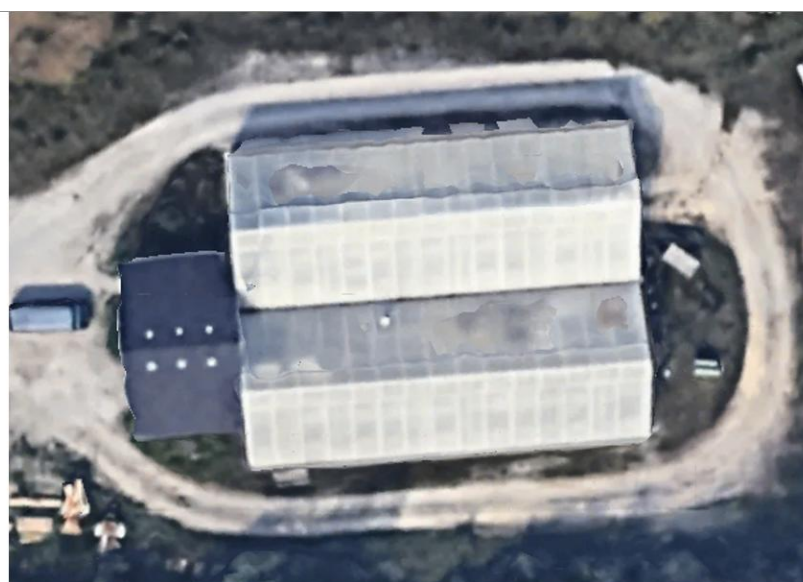
Option

Phase I

- Modify the USDA Grant to fund the improvement of the existing greenhouse
 - Install a vertical farm in one bay
 - Install gutter system in the other bay
 - Install support equipment
 - Install a solar field to provide a portion of the electric power
- Keep the mission the same
 - Training, education and outreach
 - Provide all produce to the food bank of NWI

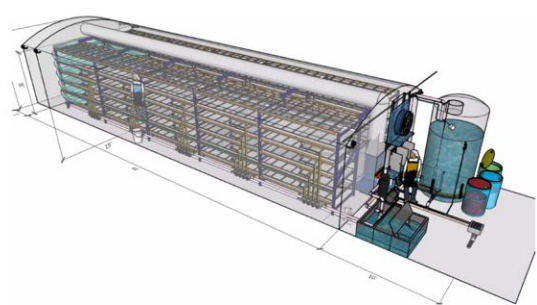
Phase II

- Increase capacity



Greenhouse Dimensions

- Length 93 ft
- Width 72 ft (one bay 37 ft)



Youth Farm & CEA Innovation Center



Specifications

Indoor Vertical Farm Year-round Production

- Structure
 - Clear span insulated metal building
 - Concrete floor with grate drains and HVAC
- Components
 - Approximately 5,000 sq ft (70 x 70 x 15 ft internal ceiling clearance)
 - Two 60 x 15 ft indoor grow units with 5 ft spacing between units
 - 15 x 20 ft designated area for seeding
 - 10 x 15 ft designated area for germination
 - 15x20 ft cooler for produce storage
 - 20x20 are for shipping and receiving
 - Head house for two greenhouses
 - Washrooms and locker room
 - Remaining space can be used for temporary storage

Two seasonal greenhouses

- Components
 - Approximately 60 ft x 25 ft
 - 10 ft spacing between greenhouses
 - Single poly, single top vent with side screen venting
 - Concrete floor

Niemeyer – After this is built out, once the process is under whely and people are doing the work, what's the long-term plan as far as sustaining it from a funding standpoint?

Robert Colangelo – The idea was after the third year we can sell a portion of the produce to cover operational expenses.

Niemeyer – Do we have a projection on how much of that will cover operations?

Bilski – It's in the initial package; I can make sure you get an updated copy of that. Ideally, we want to give this to our citizens because it's property tax-based with no charge. However, as we develop a brand, maybe our basil, cilantro, and other produce are what higher-end restaurants would want to purchase. Obviously, there would be a cost for those folks, but this is also education and development research. The overall operating cost would be around \$300,000 a year. It may be a little bit less. Once the build-out is done, we will see how much of that we can offset by sales.

Lindemulder – We're not committing any funds yet?

Bilski – No. Once we have a build out, we'll have to bid out.

Lindemulder – I ran the numbers for the cost for what the lettuce and stuff was, and to sell that stuff was like twice what you could buy it for at Stracks. So, I just want to know that if we're going into this, we're going into this with the knowledge that we are spending a lot of money to get something that's going to cost way more than what you can buy at the open market. I just want to know, stepping in, we're going to be spending a lot of money.

Niemeyer – To councilman Bilski's point, and I think you make a good point too, Pete, this isn't a business for the county as much as it is an opportunity to expand service through education and create something as part of our overall recreational initiative where we're educating our youth. We're utilizing property that's there and folks that are already there to gain some skill and insight. I think it's healthy in that respect. I do think we're going to need to be clear on where we identify the sustainable source of revenue for this project

Lindemulder – I'm not opposed to that. I just want know that we're doing it for those reasons. And that we know going into it that we're subsidizing something.

Councilwoman Cid introduced Sheila Paul as the new Lake County Health Department Administrator

Niemeyer – With SB4, which created the expansion of health services around the state, it included attached KPIs and measurables. On a periodic basis, I would like some feedback on where we are on those KPIs and how people are accessing the service. It's good to have on public record how people access these services because I didn't know the health department existed until I needed a birth certificate. So, for many of us who don't seek the services, we don't know what services are there or how to access them. With this temporarily funded initiative, we need to know how we are measuring that and making sure our citizens of Lake County are accessing those services that help us to reduce some of those concerning rates of obesity, smoking cessation, and heart disease and things like that.

Sheila Paul – I think you ask excellent questions, and that's 100% what Health First Indiana is all about because we need to show return on investment. We need to show that what we are doing is making a difference and making that impact in the way that we want. I think one important part about Health First Indiana is that we are not trying to build up the local health department, but we are trying to get those funds out into the community with great programs like we just heard about (Good for Youth Farm). We work with the food bank also to hopefully put in some food lockers to provide access to healthy foods to those in need. We do need to find a way to break down some silos that have been created across our county and counties all across Indiana where there has not been great communication and a duplication of efforts. So that's one of our goals, to break down those silos, stop duplicating efforts where we can, and hopefully collect those metrics so that we can show that return on investment. Any way that you would like me to communicate with you regularly to give you those updates, whether it's just shooting off emails or coming here on a regular basis, I'm more than happy to do either one.

Cid – You report to the state?

Sheila Paul – Yes. I don't know if you've interacted with the state department of health very much, but the program we have to collect data is being worked on. So right now, it's a giant spreadsheet, but they are working on a better platform, and so we can provide to you what we are providing to them. We'll be able to have more comprehensive reports once that platform is built.

Public Comment:

Leslie Dallner of Hobart – I've done research on the public health department in Lake County, and one of the things they base all of the statistics on are KPIs from the CDC and not the actual Indiana state figures that the Indiana Health Department tracks, and I find that very disturbing. To give you an example of one of those is that on the budget they still have a tuberculosis manager, and between 2014 and 2023 there were only twenty-nine cases of TB in Lake County, Indiana, and then in 2024, four of those cases were repeats, so why are we spending all that money for something that is under control, but they list the KPIs out of the CDC statistics when we know that the CDC is under much investigation for a lot of fraud that's going on? That's one concern that I have. I attend the public health board meetings; also, we also need to have the meetings not at seven thirty in the morning. They have their calendar set. They can advise their teams, their doctors, or their appointments around this so that we can get more community involvement in this because there is a lot of duplication. This is not something that is a novice for me. I've been tracking this since SB4 came out. I look at those spreadsheets, and I look at everything that's going on, and there are duplicated services across the board, and sixty percent of the money that you've got, you spend on administrative costs, and that's not according to the SB4 Bill that was actually signed and implemented. I'm willing to give you my name and number. I do come to the health board meetings, but I've been adamant. They are not sharing information with us. We are the public, and we pay for this. These are our tax dollars that are paying for this. Our Lake County Health board is spending money frivolously, and you guys are appointing all these partnerships, but these partnerships are not bringing in spreadsheets on how the money is going to be spent or anything. So, you all need to be aware there are some of us out there that are tracking this, and we're upset because we are not being heard and phone calls are not being returned. Yes, we need healthcare, but not at the expense of wasting money and duplicating services.

Niemeyer – In all fairness to Ms. Paul, she just stepped into this. One of the difficulties we had in the first year is just what she indicated, and it's something that I've tried to describe to others like you that have a passion for this. We got all of this funding dumped in our lap and the commissioners had the final say about opting in, but we're trying to figure out how to spend this money on the right things. Your input is valuable to this, but I don't think confrontation is as necessary as collaboration. I have confidence that Ms. Paul will take these questions and comments and give us some feedback. As far as the schedule of the meetings, that's something that will have to be worked out with the department and the board members. I agree that there needs to be a more accessible meeting time, but that's not my decision to make. So, keep attending meetings and keep gathering information; we're going to be asking for information too. I want to see a program like this work. We want to see health improve here in Lake County, and I agree that we need to have more service and focus than administrative focus, but I'm sure Ms. Paul is going to find plenty of work to do in trying to unravel some of this and get us that information we desire.

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

President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

Peggy Holinga Katona,
Lake County Auditor