

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 16, 2024, in their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana, 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Commissioners, Mr. Terry A. Martin, Mr. Peter A. Cook, and Mr. Kevin Myers and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Terry Martin, President, called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to adopt the proposed agenda with flexibility. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - FUEL BID

At 8:30 a.m. Mr. Aaron Fugate, Highway Superintendent, opened the following fuel bid for 2025:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Keystone Cooperative	Unleaded Gasoline	\$2.593/gallon, firm price
	Diesel	\$2.677/gallon, firm price
	Unleaded Gasoline	\$2.659/gallon, fluctuating price
	Diesel	\$2.959/gallon, fluctuating price

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to award the firm price and to have the president sign the agreement outside of a public meeting. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DIRECTOR

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented an agreement for the Comprehensive Plan Director. The agreement is between the Board of Commissioners and the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation, in the amount of \$5,000 per month. The agreement goes until December 31, 2025. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the agreement and authorize the agreement be signed by the president. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY SMALL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, Highway Engineer, presented the plans for the small structure replacement at County Road 600 North, .9 miles west of County Road 100 W. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the plans and to proceed with the bidding of the project. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER – REQUEST TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, Highway Engineer, requested permission to apply for a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant, through the Indiana Department of Transportation, for paint stripping for approximately 76.25 miles of roadway. The grant will require a 10% match which will come from the Motor Vehicle Highway fund. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve applying for the grant. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER, FARMAN & SEUFERT, INC.

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, Highway Engineer, presented an agreement with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc to assist with the Highway Safety Improvement Program Application. The cost is not to exceed \$3,000. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

THRIVE BY 5

Ms. Jenna Anderson, Early Childhood Education Coalition Coordinator, was present. She explained that Thrive by 5 has partnered with the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation and to renovate a building to provide child are in LaGrange County. She is requesting a letter of support from LaGrange County for applying for a T-Mobile Hometown Grant. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the letter of support. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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LAGRANGE COUNTY PARKS – RESURFACING PROJECT DELT CHURCH PARK

Mrs. Mary Franke, Park Director, explained that on August 19, 2024 bids were opened for resurfacing the driveway at Delt Church Park. The lowest bid was from Hochstetler Concrete LLC in the amount of \$115,100. They would like to add E5 internal cure to the concrete mix for an additional \$5,000. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the additional cost. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PARK -REQUEST TO APPLY FOR GRANTS

Mrs. Mary Franke, Park Director, requested permission to apply for a Drowning Prevention Program grant from the Indiana Department of Health. The grant would be for \$4,500 and would be used for swimming lessons. She would like to apply for a grant from LaGrange County REMC Operation Roundup for a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to help cover the cost of playground parts. She would also like to apply for a grant from the Indiana Native Plant Society in the amount of \$1,500 to purchase native seeds to plant at Rogers Park. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve applying for the grants. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CHILDREN FIRST CENTER

Ms. Cathy Parks, Executive Director, of Children First Center was present. The Children First Center is a nonprofit organization that provides free, voluntary services to families with a child under the age of 18. provides services to families in LaGrange County.

SHERIFF – PERMISSION TO SELL ITEMS

Mr. Tracy Harker, County Sheriff, requested permission to sell a 2008 Dodge Ram, a 2013 Dodge Ram, and a 2018 Dodge Ram. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the sale of the items. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

TAX COMMISSION

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to pursue having the Convention, Recreation, and Visitor Industry Commission of the County of LaGrange withdrawing from the unified tax law and establish their own unique legislation that will allow LaGrange County to increase the rate of Innkeepers tax charged. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the financial statement for the month ending August 31, 2024, in the amount of \$50,982,709.59 and investments of \$23,640,000. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the Accounts Payable Vouchers. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the vouchers. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3 2024 regular session meeting. Mr. Terry Martin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the memorandum for the September 11, 2024 staff meeting. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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PETITION TO VACATE – PORTION OF A PLATTED ROAD ON MARTIN LAKE RESORT

At 9:00 a.m. Mr. Terry Martin opened the public hearing on a petition to vacate a portion of the unimproved platted road located on a portion of a plat on Martin Lake Resort, in Johnson Township. Mr. Fred Hartz, Attorney, representing Sam and Laura Faulstich, Trustees of the Adams Gen 4-7 Irrevocable Trust. They would like to vacate a portion of the unimproved platted road located on a portion of a plat on Martin Lake Resort, in Johnson Township. There is a dry hydrant located about one hundred yards from the road that could be dedicated as an easement by the County, if this portion of land is vacated. Mrs. Tharon Morgan, County Engineer, and Mrs. Robbie Miller, Plan Administrator, pointed out several issues with the vacate. Dr. Terry Gaff property owner at Martin Lake spoke regarding the dry hydrant and the public access. Mr. Joe Billman, representing Johnson Township Fire Department was present, and explained that the property is of no use to the fire department and the area where the dry hydrant is located is a good location for the fire department. There being no further comment from the public, the public hearing was closed. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to deny the petition to vacate. Mr. Terry Martin seconded the motion and upon roll call vote the motion carried with Mr. Peter Cook voting no.

CORRESPONDENCE

LaGrange County Treasurer – August 2024 report

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Terry Martin made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.


Terry A. Martin


Peter A. Cook

ABSENT
Kevin R. Myers

ATTEST:


Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor

