

The LaGrange County Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 1, 2025, 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 R. 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.

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Marc Peterson, Information Technology Director.

**MIDWAY FARMS, INC. – LICENSE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented a License Agreement granting the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange to grant a license to Midway Farms, Inc. to farm approximately 130 acres of land in LaGrange County, commonly known as the Lambright Farm. The term of the agreement is from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**HIGHWAY MATERIAL QUOTES**

Mr. Aaron Fugate, Highway Supervisor, explained that on December 1, 2025, quotes were opened for Requisition #7A sand and Gravel. He is recommending that the quotes from The Levy Group from Butler Mill Service Co. and Columbia City Mill Service Co. be awarded. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the quote from The Levy Group. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**HIGHWAY – PURCHASE REQUEST FOR HEATER**

Mr. Aaron Fugate, Highway Supervisor, requested permission to replace the heater at the highway garage. He presented a quote from Music's Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$6,513.48. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the quote. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION AT COUNTY ROAD 250 AND 200 E**

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, County Engineer, presented a proposal from GME Testing to perform a geotechnical engineering exploration and evaluation for County Road 25 N and 200 East. The amount of the proposal is \$6,300. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**DRAINAGE TILE ON COUNTY ROAD 700 SOUTH**

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, County Engineer, explained that the Drainage Board recently took bids for tile work on the Francis #9 drain on County Road 700 South and State Road 3. The bid from Adam Castle in the amount of \$149,735. A portion of this is within the right-of-way. She is requesting that \$36,500 be paid out of fund 1135, Cumulative Bridge Fund and \$85,125 be paid out of the funds set aside for the match for the Community Crossing Grant. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**PARK – REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRAILER**

Mr. George DeWald, Park Superintendent, presented a quote for a 2026 tilt trailer from Luxx LLC, in the amount of \$12,500. This will replace the heavy equipment trailer. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – SURPLUS ITEMS**

Ms. Jennifer Minier, Information Technology Interim Director, presented a list of items to be declared as surplus property. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**CLERK – COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR TITLE IV-D SERVICES**

Mrs. Kimberley Johnson, Clerk of the Circuit Court, presented a Cooperative Agreement for federal financial participation for Clerks performing title IV-D services. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – PURCHASE REQUEST**

Mr. Bill Morr, Local Emergency Management Director, presented quotes for vests, rifle carriers, and evacuation sleds. The total cost is \$8,864. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the purchases to be paid out of the Public Safety fund. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the Annual Certifications of Elected Officials on Compliance with County Nepotism Policy and County Contract Disclosure Policy for 2025 for consideration. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to accept the certifications. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2025, in the amount of \$71,406,970.20 and investments of \$19,652,340. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Peter Cook 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 December 1, 2025 regular session and the December 10, 2025 special session. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**MEMORANDUM**

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the memorandum for the December 10, 2025 staff meeting and the December 10, 2025 Executive Session. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**HOUSING OPTIMIZERS PRECONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM**

Mrs. Sherri Johnston, LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation President, was present. She explained that the Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant Program is designed to provide grant funds for sustainable financial support to preconstruction activities, including architectural planning, permitting, land acquisition deposits, and related expenses. The following Resolution was presented for conservation:

LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12-15-A

A RESOLUTION TO OPT IN TO THE HOUSING OPTIMIZERS PRE-CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRE-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR COUNTY HOUSING ACTIVATION

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 36-1-2-9, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange (“Commissioners”) is the legislative body of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-1-3 (“Home Rule”), the County has all powers granted it by statute and all other powers necessary or desirable in the conduct of its affairs, even though not granted by statute, and may exercise those powers to the extent that the power: (i) is not expressly denied by the Indiana Constitution or by statute; and (ii) is not expressly granted to another entity;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners recognize the urgent need to expand housing opportunities for residents, particularly through sustainable, community-led development;

WHEREAS, advancing new housing projects requires significant preconstruction work, including planning, permitting, environmental assessments, and land preparation, which can pose high upfront costs and risks;

WHEREAS, the Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant Program (“Program”), administered by the Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission (“NEISDC”) and the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority as fiscal agent, provides sustainable financial support to cover eligible preconstruction activities (as stipulated, “Funds”);

WHEREAS, participation in the Program will enable the County to leverage regional funding, reduce local financial barriers, and catalyze new housing activation in the County; *and*

WHEREAS, to access the Funds, the Commissioners must adopt an official opt-in resolution and submit it to the NEISDC by December 26, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA, THAT:

**SECTION I – NAME**

The name of this resolution is the “Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant Opt-In Authorization Resolution.”

**SECTION II – RECITALS**

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this resolution and found to be true, accurate, and correct.

**SECTION III – PROGRAM**

- A. Opt-In Authorization. The Commissioners, on behalf of the County, hereby formally opt in to the Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant Program. The Commissioners hereby recognize that this opt-in is not an acceptance of Program funding, but rather a commitment to undertaking the steps required to access the funding available.
- B. Preconstruction Activities Commitment. The Commissioners hereby agree that any Funds received through the Program will be used exclusively for Program-approved preconstruction-related expenses, including but not limited to architectural and engineering services, zoning and permitting costs, environmental assessments or remediation, master planning and urban design, surveying, land acquisition deposits, legal and project management services, and other eligible activities as approved by the NEISDC.
- C. Delegated Authority. The President of the Commissioners, *ex officio*, or his designee is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute any agreement, application, certification, and report necessary to secure and administer Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant funds on behalf of the County.

**SECTION IV – MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Claims Barred. Notwithstanding anything in this resolution to the contrary, nothing in this resolution shall be construed to: (i) create any new legal duty, right, benefit, or guarantee, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable

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against the County; nor, (ii) waive or diminish any existing right, protection, immunity, defense, or limitation on liability that may apply to the County or any of its elected or appointed officials, employees, agents, or representatives under any law or regulation.

- B. Conflicts. No part of this resolution shall be construed to conflict with any applicable local, state, or federal law, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.
- C. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this resolution be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this resolution as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable.
- D. Promulgation. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this resolution effective.
- E. No Codification. As this resolution does not concern a matter of general applicability, the codifier of ordinances should not codify this resolution.
- F. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Resolution subject to changes made by the County Attorney, and to authorize the president to sign the Resolution outside of a public meeting. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**REGION 3A – INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS GRANT**

Ms. Sandra Tamez, Region 3A Executive Director, was present. She explained that a grant is being applied for from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA). Today is the first public hearing to be held. At 9:00 a.m. Ms. Tamez opened the public hearing for the grant. She explained that \$150,234.00 is being committed toward a recovery housing project in partnership with Inspiration Ministries. \$500 will be from the LaGrange County's restricted Opioid fund. LaGrange County intends to donate land to Inspiration Ministries for the Project. Numerous individuals spoke in favor of the project. Ms. Tamez closed the public hearing.

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, discussed some of his concerns.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve a letter of intent to donate land to Inspiration Ministries for the OCRA Recovery Housing Grant, and authorize the president to sign the letter. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Resolution and other documents, subject to legal review, and authorize the president to sign the documents outside of a public meeting. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

LaGrange County Clerk of the Circuit Court – November 2025 report

LaGrange County Treasurer – November 2025 report

TC Energy – Letter regarding ANR Lateral Loop 1-504 VLV81 Clearing, LaGrange County

Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, ANR Pipeline Company – LaGrange Compressor Station, 2255 West US 20, LaGrange, IN, Title V Renewal, Permit Number 087-48886-00004

Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Receipt of Air Permit Application, RH Yoder Woodworking LC, 2365 S 1100 W, Shipshewana, Indiana, Permit Number 087-49769-00743

Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, Lake Area Designs LLC, 1260 N Detroit St, LaGrange, IN, Revisions to permit requirements, Permit Number 087-49545-00678

Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Public Comment, Artistic Dreams LLC, LaGrange County, Significant Permit Revision No: 087-49623-00735

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Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, Skyecon MFG LLC, 5545 S CR 125 W, Millersburg, IN 4543, Revisions to permit requirements, Permit Number: 087-49563-00686

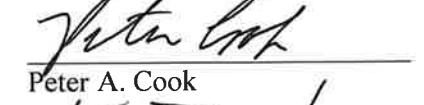
Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Receipt of Air Permit Application, EKO Powder Coating, Inc, 3195 N State Road 5, Shipshewana, Indiana 46565, Permit Number 087-49857-00744

**ADJOURNMENT**

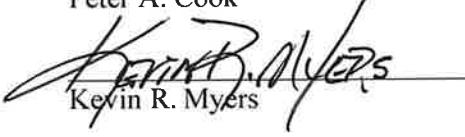
There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



Terry A. Martin

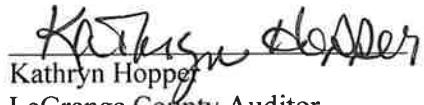


Peter A. Cook



Kevin R. Myers

ATTEST:



Kathryn Hoppe

LaGrange County Auditor

