

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 2, 2026, 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. Peter A. Cook, and Mr. Kevin R. Myers; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Terry Martin was absent. Mr. Peter Cook, Vice 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.

NUISANCE MATTER – 604 WILLIAMS STREET, HOWE, INDIANA

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, explained that a nuisance exists at 604 Williams Street, Howe, Indiana, owned by Amy Singleton. There has been some clean up at the property and Mr. Bachman is recommending that a Notice of Continuance Order be served and that the hearing be continued reconvened on March 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to have the president sign the Notice of Continuance Order, outside of a public meeting. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY WITHIN LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA

Mr. Bill Morr, Emergency Management Agency Director, explained that if LaGrange County was declared a disaster on January 23, 2026, we may be eligible for reimbursement through a federal grant. The following Declaration was presented to consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA
DECLARATION NO. 2026-01-23

A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY WITHIN LAGRANGE COUNTY,
INDIANA.

WHEREAS, beginning on January 23, 2026, significant portions of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”) have been, or are expected to be, impacted or threatened by a severe winter storm with significant snowfall, extreme cold temperatures, and unsafe travel conditions (as stipulated, “Emergency”);

WHEREAS, the Emergency threatens injury to persons or damage to property within the County and impedes the County government’s ability to deliver basic emergency response services (e.g., police, fire, ambulance) to affected areas;

WHEREAS, the Emergency was further recognized by the Declaration of a Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to a Severe Winter Storm issued by Governor Mike Braun in Executive Order 26-03, and the announcement by FEMA on January 24, 2026, confirming that President Donald J. Trump Approves Emergency Declaration for Indiana;

WHEREAS, LaGrange County Emergency Management, along with other local and interjurisdictional agencies, began response and recovery aspects in alignment with the County’s disaster emergency plans on or around January 23, 2026;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 10-14-3-29 and the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration Ordinance of LaGrange County, Indiana (Ordinance 2012-03-05B), the Principal Executive Officer of the County may declare or terminate a local disaster emergency and activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable disaster emergency plans;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Principal Executive Officer Ordinance (Ordinance 2020-10-05-A), the undersigned is the Principal Executive Officer of the County;

WHEREAS, with respect to the Emergency, the Principal Executive Officer has consulted with the Emergency Management Advisory Council, the Sheriff, the Emergency Management Director (“Director”), and the Highway Supervisor, or respective representatives, as available;

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WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29.5, the Principal Executive Officer or the Director may issue certain travel advisory restrictions; *and*

WHEREAS, the Principal Executive Officer has determined that issuing a declaration in response to the Emergency (“Declaration”) is an appropriate public safety response.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA THAT:

SECTION I – RECITALS

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into this Declaration and found to be true, accurate, and correct.

SECTION II – EMERGENCY

- A. Declaration. As Principal Executive Officer of the County, the undersigned hereby declares a state of disaster emergency for LaGrange County, Indiana.
- B. Invocation of Law. The Indiana laws and regulations that are applicable to the conditions that warranted this Declaration are hereby invoked and in effect for exercising all necessary emergency authority for the protection of lives and property.
- C. Public Servants. All public offices and employees of the County must exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of those duties required of them during the Emergency and in execution of all emergency laws, regulations, and directives, whether state or local.
- D. Residents. All residents, workers, and other persons are called upon and directed to comply with necessary Emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster service forces in executing Emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of properly identified officers. Residents are warned that emergency relief may be delayed if they get stranded.

SECTION III – TRAVEL ADVISORY – NONE

With respect to the Emergency, no travel restrictions are hereby issued.

SECTION IV – DIRECTOR DUTIES

With respect to the Emergency, the Director is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed, within the scope of applicable law, to take all appropriate action to:

- 1. promptly publicize this Declaration by filing it with the Auditor and the Clerk of Courts and by issuing a press release to all local incorporated towns, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, hospitals, school corporations, and news media;
- 2. implement, post, and remove travel advisories, travel restrictions and signage, so as to lessen the likelihood of injury to persons or damage to property;
- 3. implement the County’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and inform and train the several County department heads on their duties related thereto;
- 4. facilitate and coordinate disaster relief from other jurisdictions with County government other County agencies and disaster relief, as may become available; *and*
- 5. prepare a summative report of actions taken, liabilities incurred, and expenses owed, and a report on the scope of the Emergency and damage resulting therefrom.

SECTION V – EXPIRATION

This Declaration automatically expires seven (7) after its effective date unless affirmatively terminated or renewed by the full County Board of Commissioners in advance.

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SECTION VI – CLAIMS BARRED

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

SECTION VII – EFFECTIVE DATE

This Declaration, effective retroactive to January 23, 2026, is approved and executed as of this February 2, 2026.

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the Declaration, Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COMBINED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented an amendment to the agreement with Combined Public Communications (CPC). There have been some changes with the Federal Communications Commission, and the amendment allows us to receive .02 per minute for regulated inmate telephone services. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the agreement and have the president sign. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VETERAN BURIAL ALLOWANCE

Mrs. Kathy Hopper, County Auditor, explained that a long time LaGrange County resident, who was a veteran, passed away. The individual moved to Michigan before his death to be closer to family members. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the burial allowance. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, reported that he is working on drafting an amendment to the current ordinance to accommodate for this situation.

SECURITY AUTOMATION SYSTEMS – INTERCOM STATION REPLACEMENTS

Mr. Tracy Harker, County Sheriff, presented a proposal from Security Automation Systems to replace the intercom call stations and also replace 26 ceiling speakers for \$36,400. This would be paid for out of the Commissary Fund. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the contract. The Sheriff will present the proposal to the County Council. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PAGERS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Kevin Myers reported that three quotes for pagers for the fire departments were received as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Emergency Radio Service	126,536.77
First Due Communications	136,025.40
J & K Communications Inc	125,429.43

The quotes will be taken under advisement. Funding will need to be in place as well.

MICROVOTE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Kimberley Johnson, County Attorney, presented an annual maintenance agreement with MicroVote General Corporation for the voting machines. The agreement is for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029, and is \$15,000. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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CSI – COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC – SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Jennifer Minier, Information Technology Director, presented an agreement between CSI-Computer Systems, Inc. and the Clerk of LaGrange County for software licensing. The cost is \$4,000 per year. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE – COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING HEAT EXCHANGER

Mr. Gary Mast, Maintenance Director, presented a proposal from J. O. Mory Inc. to replace the heat exchanger in the roof top unit on the County Office Building. The quote is in the amount of \$2,815. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the quote. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY – REQUEST TO PURCHASE PICKUP TRUCK

Mr. Aaron Fugate, Highway Supervisor, requested permission to purchase a new pickup truck with dump body. He presented two quotes, with the lowest quote being from Kelley Chevrolet in the amount of \$73,965. He has funding in his budget for this purchase. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the purchase. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL FOR WEED EATING, MOWING, AND MAINTENANCE AT BRIDGES AND GUARDRAILS

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, County Engineer, presented a proposal from ANCO Concrete Raising, LLC for weed trimming and mowing at various bridges and guardrails, and maintenance on various bridges. The proposal is in the amount of \$78,279. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL FOR SMALL STRUCTURE REHABILITATION

Mrs. Tharon Morgan, County Engineer, presented a proposal from ANCO Concrete Raising, LLC the rehabilitation of a small concrete structure on County Road 250 north of County Road 200 north and south of County Road 350 N. The proposal is in the amount of \$14,600. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PARK DEPARTMENT – 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Mrs. Mary Franke, Park Director, presented the 2025 Annual report for consideration and approval. 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. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 regular session. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the memorandum for the January 28, 2026 staff meeting. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

LaGrange County Clerk of the Circuit Court – December 2025 report
Veteran’s Headstone Project – Letter thanking Commissioners for support
Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, Spectrum Finishing LTD,
1340 Industrial Dr and 1185 US 20 W, LaGrange, IN 46761

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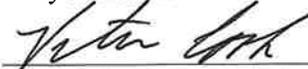
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ADJOURNMENT

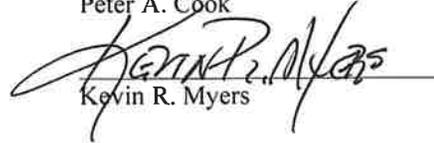
There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



Terry A. Marjin

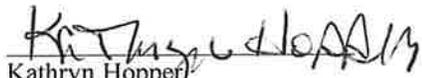


Peter A. Cook



Kevin R. Myers

ATTEST:


Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor

