WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Lake 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 Brown was absent.

Supporting Documents: Official signed instruments (including ordinances, resolutions, contracts and agreements) adopted during this session will be available to view via October Regular Meeting Documents.pdf

In the Matter of Minutes – September 8, 2026

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 5-yes,2-absent.

Acknowledgements:

Councilwoman Cid congratulated the Lake County 911 team for being named Team of the Year at the Indiana 911 Professional Conference for their dedication, professionalism and team work during the June tornadoes.

With a recommendation from Councilman Niemeyer, Tony Ferraro from Governor Mike Braun's office presented Homeland Security Deputy Director Paul Petrie with a Distinguished Hoosier Award for his emergency response coordination across District One during the August 11th derecho.

Councilman Brewer asked for a moment of silence for Gary 3rd District Councilwoman Mary Brown, who passed away on October 5th. Councilwoman Cid also added her condolences, remembering Brown as a dedicated public servant.

Councilwoman Cid recognized Michelle Arnold of the Lake County Health Department for being named Woman of the Year in Healthcare, and Parks Department official Kara Mackey for being named Influential Woman of the Year in Government by the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association.

Councilwoman Cid announced the annual Veterans Day program on November 10th at noon following the council meeting, and reminded the public that early voting has started.

ORDINANCE #1525

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
Supplemental Public Defender Fund 1405		
Criminal Division Public Defender 9002		
61231 Court Reporter Per Diem	$60,000.00	$60,000.00
Drainage Improvement Fund 1790		
Drainage Board 1008		
64520 Little Calumet River Construction	$750,000.00	$750,000.00
Coroner Facility Fee Fund 4273		
Coroner's Office 1007		
64410 Furniture & Fixtures	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
Sheriff's Sale Program & Service Fund 4289		

<u>Sheriff 8001</u>		
62210 Petroleum Products	$52,000.00	$52,000.00

Sheriff's FY25 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Non-Reverting Fund 8260

<u>Sheriff 8001</u>		
61100 Overtime	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
62410 Other Supplies	$9,278.94	$9,278.94
63995 Other Services & Charges	$12,000.00	$12,000.00
64490 Other Equipment	$110,898.06	$110,898.06

Problem Solving Superior Veteran Court Fund 9446

<u>Lake Superior Court-County Division Room 3 4004</u>		
61190 Part-Time	$300.00	$300.00
61320 FICA – Deduction	$25.00	$25.00

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2026.

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>Coroner's Office 1007</u>			
County General Fund 1001			
From:	1001-62255 Pathology Supplies	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
To:	1001-64490 Other Equipment	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
<u>Calumet Township Assessor 2002</u>			
County General Fund 1001			
From:	1001-61130 Technicians	$22,000.00	$22,000.00
To:	1001-61250 Assessor Certification	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
	1001-63190 Other Professional Service	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
	1001-64410 Furniture & Fixtures	$9,000.00	$9,000.00
<u>Lake County Superior Court IV 4001</u>			
County General Fund 1001			
From:	1001-61140 Protective Services	$1,150.29	$1,150.29
	1001-61231 Court Reporter Per Diem	$500.00	$500.00
	1001-62110 Office Supplies	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
	1001-63920 Food & Lodging	$1,100.00	$1,100.00
To:	1001-61190 Part-Time	$1,150.29	$1,150.29
	1001-63231 Travel – Registration	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
	1001-63235 Travel – Mileage	$1,100.00	$1,100.00
<u>Lake County Superior Court IV 4001</u>			
Superior Court IV Prob. Sol/Drug Court 9426			
From:	9426-61290 Supplemental Pay	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
	9426-63231 Travel – Registration	$500.00	$500.00
	9426-63235 Travel – Mileage	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
To:	9426-62410 Other Supplies	$4,500.00	$4,500.00
<u>Lake Superior Court – County Division Room 3 4004</u>			
LC Superior Court Division III VTC All Rise Mentor Court Network 8420			
From:	8420-63233 Travel – Lodging	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
To:	8420-62110 Office Supplies	$228.00	$228.00
	8420-63130 Toxicology Lab	$772.00	$772.00
<u>Juvenile Court 4005</u>			
LC Superior Court Juvenile Mental Health Problem Solving Court Grant Fund 9355			
From:	9355-63234 Travel Trans/Other	$1,200.00	$1,200.00
To:	9355-63231 Travel – Registration	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
	9355-63232 Travel – Meals	$200.00	$200.00

<u>Sheriff 8001</u>			
Public Safety CAGIT Non-Reverting Fund 4010			
From:	4010-63190 Other Professional Service	$3,500.00	$3,500.00
	4010-63610 Building & Structures	$75,178.35	$75,178.35
	4010-64410 Furniture & Fixtures	$11,379.52	$11,379.52
	4010-64420 Office Machines	$9,583.88	$9,583.88
	4010-64440 Motor Vehicles	$3,358.25	$3,358.25
To:	4010-62210 Petroleum Products	$103,000.00	$103,000.00
<u>Jail 8002</u>			
Misdemeanant Co. Jail Housing Fund 1152			
From:	1152-63122 Medical Deductible	$370,000.00	$370,000.00
To:	1152-63920 Food & Lodging	$370,000.00	$370,000.00
<u>Commissioners/Lake County 911 9305</u>			
E911 Operating Fund 1014			
From:	1014-61140 Protective Services	$350,000.00	$350,000.00
	1014-63630 Maintenance & Service Cont.	$65,000.00	$65,000.00
To:	1014-61100 Overtime	$350,000.00	$350,000.00
	1014-63240 Telephone	$40,000.00	$40,000.00
	1014-63510 Utilities	$25,000.00	$25,000.00

and that such transfer does not necessitate expenditure of more money than was set out in detail in the budget as finally approved by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This transfer was made at a regular public meeting according to proper ordinance, a copy of which is attached to this certificate.

Dated this 13th day of October, 2026.

<u>Additionals</u>

	Made Motion	Seconded	
<u>Supplemental Public Defender Fund 1405</u>			
Criminal Division Public Defender 9002			
($60,000.00)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
<u>Drainage Improvement Fund 1790</u>			
Drainage Board 1008			
($750,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
<u>Coroner Facility Fee Fund 4273</u>			
Coroner’s Office 1007			
($10,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
<u>Sheriff's Sale Program & Service Fund 4289</u>			
Sheriff 8001			
($52,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
<u>Sheriff’s FY25 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Non-Reverting Fund 8260</u>			
Sheriff 8001			
($142,177)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
<u>Problem Solving Superior Veteran Court Fund 9446</u>			
Lake Superior Court-County Division Room 3 4004			
($325.00)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Transfers

	Made Motion	Seconded	
Coroner's Office 1007 County General Fund 1001 ($10,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Calumet Township Assessor 2002 County General Fund 1001 ($22,000.00)	Bilski	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Lake County Superior Court IV 4001 County General Fund 1001 ($3,750.29)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Lake County Superior Court IV 4001 Superior Court IV Prob. Sol/Drug Court 9426 ($4,500.00)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Lake Superior Court – County Division Room 3 4004 LC Superior Court Division III VTC All Rise Mentor Court Network 8420 ($1,000.00)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Juvenile Court 4005 LC Superior Court Juvenile Mental Health Problem Solving Court Grant Fund 9355 ($1,200.00)	Lindemulder	Hamm	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Sheriff 8001 Public Safety CAGIT Non-Reverting Fund 4010 ($103,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Jail 8002 Misdemeanant Co. Jail Housing Fund 1152 ($370,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.
Commissioners/Lake County 911 9305 E911 Operating Fund 1014 ($415,000.00)	Niemeyer	Lindemulder	Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Criminal Courts – 3002 – Revised 144 – County General Fund 1001 – **Effective (10-19-2026)**

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve the following Revised 144 with an effective date of 10-19-2026:

	Present	Proposed	Difference
12428-016 Probation Officer	$59,642.00	$45,548.00	($14,094.00)

Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve Revised 144 with an effective date of 10-19-2026 carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Lake Sup. Ct. County Div. Rm. 3 4004 – Create New Line Items – LC Superior Court Division III VTC All Rise Mentor Court Network Fund 8420

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

62110 Office Supplies
63130 Toxicology Lab

Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Grant Applications & Grant Approvals – Grant Oversight Committee – Juvenile Court/C.A.S.A. 4006 – Indiana State Supreme Court Administration/2027 CASA Matching Grant/Lake County CASA Program – Grant Renewal

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Grant Applications & Grant Approvals – Grant Oversight Committee – Indiana State Supreme Court Administration/2027 CASA Capacity-Building Grant/Lake County CASA Program – Grant Renewal

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Sheriff 8001 – Create New Line Item – Sheriff's Sale Program & Service Fund 4289

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

62210 Petroleum Products

Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Sheriff 8001 – Create New Line Items – Sheriff's FY25 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Non-Reverting Fund 8260

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

61100 Overtime
62410 Other Supplies
63995 Other Services & Charges
64490 Other Equipment

Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line items carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Jail 8002 – Create New Line Item – Misdemeanant Co. Jail Housing Fund 1152

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

63920 Food & Lodging

Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve creation of new line item carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

In the Matter of Resolution Declaring October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 5-yes,2-absent.

Administrator Sheila Paul of the Lake County Health Department shared that there is an upcoming "Pink Ribbons and Red Hearts" women's health education event scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the county building cafeteria. Sheila explained the event will offer education on breast cancer, heart disease, postpartum mental health, and gynecological care for county staff and the public.

In the Matter of Resolution Proclaiming October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 5-yes,2-absent.

In the Matter of Resolution to Approve the Transfer of $78,205.18 from 2024-2 Lake County Local Roads & Bridges Matching/INDOT Community Crossing Matching Grant Fund, Fund No. 9440, to CEDIT Fund, Fund No. 4012

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

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

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Resolution of the Lake County Council Supporting the United Steelworkers Local Union 12775, District 7’s Petition to Strengthen NIPSCO Staffing, Reliability, and Storm Response in Northern Indiana

Union President Ryan Baker and Vice President Pierce Kelly of United Steelworkers Local 12775, voiced concerns over a 20% drop in NIPSCO union staffing and its impact on storm response and grid reliability. Baker stated that the number of linemen fell from 230 to 180, forcing them to rely heavily on out-of-state contractors. Baker urged NIPSCO to fill long-standing open positions to handle normal attrition. Councilman Niemeyer commended the union for highlighting utility staffing issues and agreed on the importance of maintaining a local, skilled workforce for public safety

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Lake County Stormwater Management Ordinance

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance Establishing the Lake County Sheriff’s 2027 Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP) Grant Fund, A Non-Reverting Fund

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

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. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1459C, the Ordinance Declaring Funds Dormant and Repealing and Rescinding the Ordinance Establishing the Funds

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance Declaring a Fund Dormant and Repealing and Rescinding the Ordinance Establishing the Fund

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Consulting Contracts and Agreements – Law Office of Thomas O'Donnell

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Consulting Contracts and Agreements – Law Office of Ray L. Szarmach, P.C.

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve. Majority voted yes. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Public Comment:

Gary City Councilman Darren Washington urged local officials to pressure state lawmakers to amend Indiana Code 8-1-39, explaining that current state law limits IURC oversight and allows NIPSCO to pass rate hikes to customers without investing in baseline staffing, tree trimming, or storm prep. Washington stated he is taking resolutions to cities and towns across the county to push for state legislative changes and prevent price gouging on storm repairs. Councilman Niemeyer agreed that state code needs to be updated to give local governments more authority over electric utilities, and Councilwoman Cid noted that the council forwards all passed resolutions directly to the governor and state delegation.

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