

**TOWN OF PORTER**  
**Redevelopment Commission**  
**303 Franklin Street**  
March 24, 2026

The Town of Porter Redevelopment Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Present:** President Russ Erwin, Vice President Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Laura Madigan, Allison Hultman, and Beth Mehling.

**Absent:** Jamie Hogan, Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Director of Development Michael Barry, Attorney Christopher Willoughby, and Tammie Sufana for Spanier

**Approval of Minutes**

Allison Hultman made the motion to approve February 24, 2026 meeting minutes, with Peter Sawochka-Dalton making the second.  
Motion passed 4-0.

Laura Madigan made the motion to approve the March 18, 2026 Executive Session minutes, Peter Sawochka-Dalton making the second.  
Motion passed 4-0.

**Consideration of Claims**

Allison Hultman made a motion to approve February claims, Peter Sawochka-Dalton seconded.  
Motion passed 4-0.

**Audience Participation**

None

**Reports**

Building Commissioner/Director of Development

Michael Barry mentioned the preconstruction meeting for the Mnoke Trail was held on March 3rd.

Tree clearing is basically completed, and they should start construction either the second or third week in April. We will start building our part of trail before Burns Harbor starts theirs.

Michael Barry noted he sent an email on Brownfields Vegetation that you can peruse at your convenience.

**Old Business/New Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **Seasonal Part time Firefighters Funding**

Russ Erwin mentions we included the funding for Fire Services in our 2026 Spending Plan, and we need to authorize spending so Fire Chief can hire his seasonal workers. The amount that was allowed is \$45,000.

Laura Madigan made a motion to approve the spending for the seasonal fire fighters, Allison Hultman made the second.

Motion passed 4-0.

### **Resolution to Approve Acquisition of Property**

Russ Erwin states Resolution 2026-01 is to purchase the property at 15 E US HWY 20. Peter Sawochka-Dalton asked how much, Erwin replied \$176,500.00 which is the average of our two appraisals.

Allison Hultman made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01, Peter Sawochka-Dalton made second. Motion passed 4-0.

Allison Hultman is asking for confirmation that we are using Grant Money to purchase the property. Laura Madigan noted this is not being purchased with RDC funds or any town funds.

Michael Barry explains it is the Old Gateway to the Dune Grant from RDA, and it is just under \$570,000.00 they want us to spend.

Laura Madigan also mentions that the money to purchase this property, construction costs, and consulting fees is to continue our trail going north from Hawthorne Park, north of Rt 20, and so on.

Clerk-Treasurer Corinne Peffers asked if the resolution states it is being paid with TIF funds.

Attorney Willoughby stated or other funds available.

Attorney Christopher Willoughby mentions this property was identified some time ago as interest to the RDC. This is part of the process and thanks to Mrs. Spanier efforts having found some resolutions previously adopted that identified this property, saved a lot of time and processing.

### **TIF Management Report**

Russ Erwin said everyone should have received an email with the TIF Management Report that has to go to the Town Council at tonight's meeting he is looking for a motion to accept.

Peter Sawochka-Daton made a motion to accept the TIF Management Report, Laura Madigan made second.

Motion passed 4-0.

### **Commission Comments**

Allison Hultman asks how much we think we would have left in grant funds after we purchase the property, and have we thought about what to do with remaining funds.

Michael Barry states it all depends on what we purchase the property for, and he must use that money for Engineering and Construction of the Dunes Kankakee Trail.

He is looking into another grant called Thrive to connect Trail to Chesterton

He mentions that funding for trails is difficult right now.

**Adjournment**

Laura Madigan made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-2.9, this meeting was livestreamed to [youtube.com/porterindiana](https://youtube.com/porterindiana). A recording of the livestream will remain publicly available for a minimum of ninety (90) days following the date of the meeting. Meeting agendas, minutes, and any memoranda, may be viewed at [townofporter.in.gov](https://townofporter.in.gov).

Approved the 28th day of April, 2026

**REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PORTER**

/s/ Russ Erwin, President

/s/ Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Vice President

/s/ Jamie Hogan, Member

/s/ Laura Madigan, Member

Attest: /s/ Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary