

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 9, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Michigan City Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Socrates Gray in the Port Authority Board room.

**ATTENDANCE**

President Socrates Gray presided. Board members in attendance included Chris Cipares, John Haynes, Bruce Manner, Dan Messina, and Kim Sliwa. Sam Ferguson was absent. Harbormaster Tim Frame, Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke and Attorney Joe Zaknoen were also in attendance for the meeting.

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Tim Glidden, MC Park Board

**MINUTES**

- Motion by John Haynes, seconded by Kim Sliwa to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026, meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- No comments from the public at this time.

**REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER**

Harbormaster Tim Frame reported on the following:

- The staff finished the work on the large barge, and both the barges are ready to go into the water at the end of the week. The Carolina Skiff was cleaned up inside. Next steps include painting the inside and the bottom of the boat.
- The crew began removing the deicers from the marina and continuing to repair dock boxes as needed and the weather permits.

**REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER OF ADMINISTRATION**

Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke reported on the following:

- Mrs. Pawlicke reported that Ron Kniola, past Port Authority President, recently passed away.
- Staff have sent the invoices for the second payment of the 2026 boating season.
- Programmers are working to integrate the new credit card processing software with the marina's software.
- The first launch appointment has been scheduled for April 18, 2026.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Budget and Financial Oversight Committee***

- Chris Cipares reviewed the Claims Docket prepared for March 9, 2026.

|                |           |                    |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Port Authority | \$        | \$30,756.57        |
| Capital        | \$        | 0.00               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$37,729.57</b> |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$23,102.93</b> |

- Motion by Chris Cipares, seconded by John Haynes to pay all bills for March 9, 2026, as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

- Chris also shared that a CD is coming to term on March 27<sup>th</sup> for \$414,000.00. Motion by Chris Cipares, seconded by Bruce Manner, to roll the CD into a 5-month term at a rate of 3.75%. Motion approved unanimously.
- Chris also suggested that the Board draft a document in addition to the Pavillion Rental Agreement to govern the usage for the sailing program. Socrates Gray appointed himself, Bruce Manner, and Chris Cipares, to a committee to review and draft policy to be reviewed by the Board at an upcoming meeting.

***Claims and Insurance Committee***

- There was no report from the committee at this time.

***Port Operations & Personnel & Marina Policy***

- Socrates Gray reported that applications for the 2026 season continue to be submitted.

***Boater Communications and Special Events Committee***

- Dan Messina shared that he attended a recent Department of Natural Resources seminar held in Portage. The seminar included a report on the department's fish stocking practices in Lake Michigan and how fish populations have evolved over time.

***Master Planning and Special Projects Committee***

- There was no report from the committee at this time.

***Advertising and Public Relations Committee***

- There was no report from the committee at this time.

**REPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY**

- Attorney Zaknoen distributed information regarding a request from the Coast Guard seeking exclusive use of the parking lot area adjacent to the Coast Guard station through a Memorandum of Understanding or License Agreement to make improvements. Attorney Zaknoen advised that the Port Authority may not have the authority to grant an exclusive license and will respond to the Coast Guard to request additional information. Attorney Zaknoen shared that the Yacht Club has filed answer regarding the Yacht Club's survey. More details to be shared as they become available.
- Attorney Zaknoen reported that the City of Michigan City has taken the position that the Port Authority should pay \$25,000 per year for IT Support and \$25,000.00 per year for HR Services provided by the City. Currently the Port Authority pays \$10,000.00 per year for services from the City Controller. The Board President, Socrates Gray, will appoint a committee to explore other options available for these services and Attorney Zaknoen will respond to the City that the Board is looking into its options.
- Attorney Zaknoen commented that he still has a little more research to complete to determine what grants may be available for electrical upgrades in the marina.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no old business to be discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Socrates Gray reported that he received a request from the Michigan City Special Events department that the Port Authority donate \$5,000.00. The donation will help offset the costs of the Special Events throughout the year and the Port Authority is listed as a participating sponsor.
  - Motion by Kim Sliwa, seconded by Chris Cipares to approve donating \$5,000.00 to the City's Special Events Department for the 2026 event schedule Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- No comments from the public at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Kim Sliwa, seconded by Chris Cipares to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Accepted by: Tim Frame  
Tim Frame, Harbormaster

Respectfully submitted, Dan Messina  
Dan Messina, Board Secretary

Approved On: 3/23/26

By: Socrates Gray  
Socrates Gray, Board President