

**Hammond Port Authority
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JULY 21, 2026
hammondportauthority.com**

Members Present and In Person

Kristin Cantrell
Diane Kaminsky
Rosemary Wojdyla

Vice Chairman
Secretary/Treasurer
Member

Members Present Via Zoom

None.

Members Absent

Thomas E. Kuhn
Eva Huerta

Chairman
Member

Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present

Jeffery Smith
Julia Pustek
Jamie Huck
Ashley Gordish
Steve Sersic

Port Authority Director
Finance Director
Marina Director
Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary
Attorney- Smith Sersic

Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present Via Zoom

Kevin Smith

Attorney- Smith Sersic

Others Present

None.

Others Present Via Zoom

Sylvia Kalas

C38

Call to Order and Roll Call

The July 21, 2026 meeting of the Hammond Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Member Wojdyla at 4:30p.m. Three members are present and in person, and two members are absent. Vice Chairman Cantrell, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, and Member Wojdyla are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn and Member Huerta are absent.

Member Wojdyla called for any conflict of interest statements.

None.

Member Wojdyla called for the approval of minutes.

K. Cantrell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2026 as presented. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

Member Wojdyla called for the Director's Report.

Port Authority Director J. Smith reported on the following:

The marina has 528 boaters, with 95 brand new boaters and 8 new returning boaters. Last year around this time, we had 446 boaters with 74 new boaters. The 2025 boating season ended with 455 boaters and 82 new boaters. The Clipper Room continues to stay busy with parties and inquiries. The beach has been busy with the hot weather. We did have to close the beach for a day because of the wildfires and the lifeguards were not able to see more than a couple hundred feet into the lake. Over the weekend, the marina hosted the Polka Party as part of the Festival of the Lakes. The weather was beautiful, and the event was well attended. Several attendees noted that some people stayed home due to concerns over the wildfire smoke. Cavalier Inn provided excellent food, and the marina bar did very well. Mayor Tom biked over to check out the event and talk with the crowd. On Saturday, July 11th, the marina hosted the annual Venetian Night. It turned out to be a nice night with a large crowd. Hello Weekend performed, 8 food vendors attended, and the fireworks were enjoyed by everyone. The Splash Pad continues to be busy with the warm weather. Concession sales are moving rapidly, requiring multiple trips to the store. We are getting the Pavilion back following the conclusion of the festival. The fest was very crowded, regardless of the heat and wildfire smoke. Once all of the equipment is cleared, staff will be able to assess the property and make any necessary repairs. Felix from the City Street Department is working together with other departments for the best solution to clean up the confetti from the grounds. The next summer concert series is scheduled for July 25th. It will be Seconded Hand News, a Fleetwood Mac cover band. Lost Marsh Golf Course remains extremely busy. The extreme heat nor the wildfires have kept golfers away. Last week, the golf course hosted the Festival of the Lakes golf outing. The day ran smoothly with no heat related incidents. Niko continues to receive a high volume of inquiries for bookings, capping off a very busy season for the course. Mike and the Wolf Lake maintenance staff have been keeping up with the mowing schedule, despite the grass growing incredibly fast. They had a massive amount of cleanup following the 4th of July, spending days afterwards picking up discarded fireworks across the grounds. Forsythe Park is finally starting to drain. However, the couple of storms that hit this past Friday and Saturday dumped a significant amount of water on the area once again.

Member Wojdyla presented the Chairman's Report.

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of July 21, 2026 began at 4:00p.m., Vice Chairman Cantrell, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, and Member Wojdyla are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn and Member Huerta are absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
2. Initiation or Pending litigation
3. Personnel matters

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2) (B), (D), (9). The Board certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Member Wojdyla called for the Construction Projects Updates.

Port Authority Director Smith reported on the following:

Amoco Park Walking Trail- Staff has decided to hold off on making any further decisions regarding the project until the BP strike is over.

US 41 Screen Wall- There is no new update to report.

Marina ChargePoint Station Upgrade- Staff is going to consider to continue to move forward with the project next year.

Fuel Dock UST- The project is going to be advertised for bid on July 18th and July 22nd, and the bid opening will be on July 31st. The project is going to be reimbursed 50% by IDEM. One company estimated the tanks would take about 4 months to produce. Hopefully, we can find a company to produce tanks on a quicker timeline.

B & T Dock Installation- The installation of B and T dock are complete. The jet ski lifts are the final pieces to be installed. Staff is beginning to plan for replacing 3 docks next year.

Member Wojdyla called for Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss.

Member Wojdyla called for New Business.

K. Cantrell made a motion to approve Resolution 26-02 Authorizing and Directing Payments to the Civil City of Hammond in Lieu of Taxes. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve Resolution 26-03 Respecting Payments of Certain Debts Incurred by the Hammond Port Authority in a Timely Manner. K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: D. Kaminsky added that this resolution is for staff to be able to pay certain vendors before being approved at a board meeting. This is so we can take advantage of early pay discounts, as well as avoid late fees. Eight vendors were added, and two vendors were removed from the list.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

K. Cantrell made a motion to approve the authorization to proceed and procure quotes for a new pickup truck. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the community use agreement with New Life Christian Church to use the Pavilion on July 26th, 2026 from 10am until 12pm. They are asking for all fees to be waived. K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: D. Kaminsky mentioned that New Life Church used the Pavilion in 2020 during the height of Covid for church services to avoid close contact with each other. J. Smith added that this time, they are requesting to use it during Pierogi Fest. Their church is in the center of Whiting, and there would be extremely limited parking.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

K. Cantrell made a motion to approve the Hammond Fire Fighters Union Local 556 Splash Pad rental agreement for their annual picnic on August 2, 2026 from 12pm until 5pm. They are asking for all fees to be waived. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: K. Cantrell added that they have used the area for their picnic before, and they are good about cleaning up after themselves.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the slip refunds for Joel Sanford and Jose Garcia. K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: D. Kaminsky mentioned that both slipholders submitted a letter of request, and they attended a board meeting to explain their situations. The board has considered their requests.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

Member Wojdyla called for the approval of Purchase Orders.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the Purchase Orders as follows:

626 – Marina Operations
628 – Embarkation
629 – Lakefront
630 – Lost Marsh Golf Course
631 – Parks
634 – Marina Construction
708 – Payroll
Electronic Transfers

K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

Member Wojdyla called for Public Comment.

Sylvia Kalas from C38 is requesting her payment be rolled over to the 2027 boating season. This year they have dealt with health issues in their family, as well as the boat still needing repairs. They will not be putting their boat in the water this season. The board responded that they are sorry to hear about the struggles, and the rollover is going to be considered for next meeting.

D. Kaminsky thanks the staff who volunteered for Festival of the Lakes. Their hard work made for a great festival!

R. Wojdyla attended Polka Party, and the event was great! Thank you to the staff for the commitment and hard work, it is always appreciated.

Member Wojdyla announced the Next Meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Hammond Port Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026. These meetings will be held at 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN 46320. The Board may attend in person or by Zoom with the stipulations adopted in Resolution 21-03 approved by the Board on July 27, 2021. The Executive Session will begin at 4:00p.m, the Construction Meeting will begin at 4:15p.m. and the Regular meeting will begin at 4:30p.m.

Member Wojdyla called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

K. Cantrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: K. Cantrell, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

The July 21, 2026 Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of July 21, 2026 began at 4:00p.m., Vice Chairman Cantrell, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, and Member Wojdyla are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn and Member Huerta are absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
2. Initiation or Pending litigation
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Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2) (B), (D), (9). The Board certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Board Minutes Prepared By: Ashley Gordish



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Kristin Cantrell, Vice Chairman

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Rosemary Wojdyla, Member

Eva Huerta, Member

ATTEST:

Julia Pustek, Finance Director

Ashley Gordish, Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary

