

**LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REORGANIZATION MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 4, 2005**

The Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 4, 2005 in the lobby level meeting room #3, of the LaPorte County Annex and Security Complex at 10:00 a.m...

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Marlow Harmon, William Hager, Barbara Huston. Also present were County Auditor, Teresa Shuter, County Attorney Robert Szilagyi and Recording Secretary, Linda Arnett.

Auditor, Teresa Shuter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Huston led the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS- 2005

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to appoint Mr. Harmon as President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Mr. Hager. Mrs. Shuter hearing no other nominations for President, congratulations.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to nominate Bill Hager as Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, hearing no other nominations for Vice President, congratulations Mr. Hager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, no amendments or additions to the Agenda, Mr. Hager made a motion to approve as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MIMUTES

Mr. Harmon we need a motion to approve minutes of June 8, 2004, July 6, 2004, September 7, 2004, October 19, 2004, November 9, 2004, November 23, 2004, December 7, 2004 and December 21, 2004, Mr. Hager made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

APPOINTMENTS

County Attorney

Mr. Harmon, do we have any nominations for County Attorney, Mrs. Huston nominated Robert Szilagyι of Schoff, Szilagyι & Davis and Shaw Friedman of Friedman & Associates, seconded by Mr. Hager.

Hearing no other nominations, nominations closed. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0

Insurance Agents of Record

Mr. Hager, made a motion to nominate General Insurance Services, Inc. Mr. Art Kemp, Swanson & Swanson, Tom Swanson, and Prime Management Services, Robert Leonard.

Hearing no other nominations, nominations closed. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Switchboard Operators

Mrs. Huston made a motion to appoint, Beverly Foster in place of Judy Hill who has asked not to be reappointed, and also Shirley Oberholtzer and Eleanor Schnable to remain.

Hearing no other nominations, nominations closed. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Department Heads

LaPorte County Home, Administrator

Mr. Harmon, Mrs. Kay Felton is presently the administrator, Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Ms. Felton, seconded by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Veterans Service Officer

Mr. Harmon, presently held by John Wantuch, Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain John Wantuch, seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Museum Curator

Mr. Harmon, presently being held by James Rogers and Assistant Museum Curator, Susan Richtor, Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain James Rogers and Susan Richtor, seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

EMS Director

Mr. Harmon, do we have any nominations or motions, Mr. Hager, made a motion to appoint Patty Pease as Administrator, seconded by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

E-911 Director and Assistant Director

Mr. Harmon, E-911 Director being presently held by Mr. Brent Soller and E-911 Assistant being presently held by Beth West. Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Brent Soller as E-911 Director and Beth West as Assistant Director, seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Animal Shelter Director

Mr. Harmon, this position being presently held by Mrs. Jane Bernard. Mr. Hager made a motion to retain Mrs. Jane Bernard as Animal Shelter Director, seconded by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Stationary Engineer

Mr. Harmon, this position being presently held by Mr. Allen Ott and also Assistant Stationary Engineer Mike Kulakowski. Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Mr. Allen Ott as Station Engineer and Mr. Kulakowski as Assistant Stationary Engineer seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Community Corrections Director

Mr. Harmon, Community Corrected is appointed by the Judges, with the approval of the Commissioners, Eric Yandt is presently the Director and will continue to hold that position. The Assistant Director is also appointed by the Judges and this is Phil Dabiga who will be caring on as Assistant Director.

Emergency Management

Mr. Harmon, Emergency Management Director and Assistant, presently being held by Mr. Paul Young and Ms. Jennifer Payne as the assistant. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Paul Young and Ms. Jennifer Payne, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Inspector Weights and Measures,

Mr. Harmon, this position presently being held by Mr. Gene Samuelson. Mrs. Huston, I move that we appoint Michael Quinn, to Weights and Measures subject to the affirmation of this approval by the State, the chair will second the motion. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

County Highway Engineer

Mr. Harmon, this position is presently being held by Mr. Rick McVay. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Rick McVay, seconded by Mrs. Huston Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

County Highway

Mr. Harmon, County Highway Superintendent, presently being held by Robert Young, Garage Foreman Ron Dombkowski, Bridge Foreman LaPorte Mr. Dillard Lawson, , Rolling Prairie District Foreman Lee Wuthrich, Hanna District Foreman Clifford Poff and Utility Inspector Richard Dombrowski, these are the people presently holding those positions. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint them as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Right to Know Director

Mr. Harmon, Right to Know Director presently being held by Mr. Roger Wolff, Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Roger Wolff, to Right to Know Director, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon that concludes all of the board appointments. We have been very pleased with the people that have served in the positions for the last four years and we have a lot of confidence with what our people are doing and what they are doing in County Government and the service they are providing for the people of LaPorte County. We thank you very much and continue the good work that you are doing out there.

Commission Liaison Positions

County Highway

Commissioner Harmon
Commissioner Hager
Commissioner Huston

County Home

Commissioner Hager

Plan Commission

Commissioner Harmon

Right to Know

Commissioner Hager

Northwest Indiana Regional Plan Commission

Commissioner Harmon

Animal Control Board

Commissioner Huston

Kankakee Valley Workforce Development

Commissioner ~~Huston~~ Hager

Northern Indiana Commuter Trans District

Commissioner Huston

Drainage Board

Commissioner Hager

E-911 Board

Commissioner Harmon

EMS Board

Commissioner ~~Huston~~ Hager

Data Board

Commissioner Huston

Juvenile Services Board

Commissioner Huston

Solid Waste Management District Board

Commissioner Harmon
Commissioner Hager
Commissioner Huston

Local Planning Council

Commissioner Huston

Lacrosse Public Library Board

Mr. Harmon, we have one appointment that has expired that of Mrs. Barbara Thomas. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Michigan City Public Library

Mr. Harmon, we have one appointment that has expired that of Mrs. Hazel Thomas. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Wanatah Public Library

Mr. Harmon, we have one term expiring that of Julia Bolt. Ms. Huston made a motion to retain Julia Bolt, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Westville Public Library

Mr. Harmon, we have one term expiring that of Mrs. Betty Deaton. Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mr. Harmon, we have one term that expired that of Mr. Gene Parrett. Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Gene Parrett, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Animal Control Advisory Commission

Mr. Harmon, with Mr. Turner no longer serving, Mrs. Huston will take Mr. Turner's place on the Animal Control Advisory Board .

Mr. Harmon, we have three other terms that have expired, which are the following. We need a motion, the members now holding those positions, one is Dr. Gerald Wagner, Patti Shively, and Mrs. Barbara Hooper, who all show interest in serving another year. Mrs. Hager made a motion to reappoint them, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Board of Construction Review

Mr. Harmon, we have Mr. Bill Byers, Mr. Bret Benefiel and Mr. Joseph Wellinski who is no longer to serve, so we have those three positions. That is Mr. Byers and Mr. Wellinski, not Mr. Benefiel. Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Mr. Byers, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, I will ask the board to get another name to replace Mr. Wellinski in the very near future.

LaPorte County Board of Health

Mr. Harmon, we have two one being presently held by Mr. Willard Simeox who's term has expired and also Dr. Aggrawal, those people have shown interest in continuing to serve on that board. Mr. Hager, made a motion to retain Mr. Simeox and Dr. Aggrawal, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Harmon, we have two positions, one is Mr. Smoker who is stating he is no longer interested in serving on the board and the second one is Mr. Steve Messer who is not able to make the meetings. Mrs. Huston made a motion to appoint Bill Eaton, seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, we also have the appointment or reappointment of Mr. Paul Zona. Mr. Hager made a motion to retain Mr. Paul Zona, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Mr. Harmon, there are two or three positions that are going to be filled in the advisory board has some names that they will be submitting to us for approval. So we will be filling those at a later date.

Mr. Harmon, we need a motion to retain Mr. Ludlow, motion by Mr. Hager to retain Mr. Ludlow, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Right to Know Planning Committee

Mr. Hager will remain on the Right to Know

LaPorte County Tourism Board of Mangers

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Dean White term expired, Mr. Hager made a motion to appoint Mr. Gene Shurte, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Drainage Board

Mr. Harmon, we have two positions district three which is Mr. Hendricks, and Mr. Ken Purze was appointed to fill the term of Mr. Travis. Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Ken Purze to the board, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

911 Advisory Board

Mr. Harmon, all positions are held by different entities and we will have to contact them to see who they want to serve on that board.

LaPorte County Economic Development Commission

Mr. Harmon, we have two positions Mr. James Wells who has resigned and moved out of the area and Diane Barowski whose term has expired. Mrs. Huston, made a motion we approve the appointment by the County Council of Scott Ford, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, the County Commissioners appointment, Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Diane Barowski, seconded by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Emergency Medical Service Council

Mr. Harmon, we have one expiration Mr. Tom Dobeski, Mrs. Huston made a motion to the EMS Council, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Ms. Huston, we also have Gordon Weisjoh and I would like to appoint Dennis Goers to finish out Mr. Weisjoh term.

Mr. Harmon, we have a motion by Mrs. Huston to appoint Mr. Goers to replace Mr. Weisjoh, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Park & Recreation Board

Mr. Harmon, we have one position to fill Carol Laun term has expired, Mrs. Huston made a motion to appoint Traci Biggs, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Mr. Harmon, we have one expired term Pat Harris, Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Pat Harris, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Planning Commission

Mr. Harmon, we have the position of Mike Daube, who has resigned from the commission and Mr. Steve Messier who has asked to be replaced do to not being able to make the meetings and Mr. Jack Bennett whose term has expired. Mr. Hager, I make a motion for the two to be retain Mr. Jack Bennett, John Mott to replace Mr. Messiner's position until his term expires, also Mr. Rob Horning who will take Mr. Daube's term of office, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Tax Assessment Board of Appeals

Mr. Harmon, we have two positions Carol Conley and Jo Winski, Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Carol Conley and Jo Winski, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Public Defender Board

Mr. Harmon, we need to replace Mr. Wells position since he has left the area his replacement will serve until June of 2005, Mr. Hager made a motion to appoint Mr. Stan Hynek, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Solid Waste District Board

Mr. Harmon, all three commissioners do serve on this board.

E-911 Board

Mr. Hager, we need to appoint Jerry Cooley to that board, I make a motion we appoint Mr. Cooley to the 911 Board from the County Council.

Mr. Harmon, we have a motion by Mr. Hager to appoint Mr. Cooley to the E- 911 Board, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon that concludes all the Board Appointments.

DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION

Mr. Harmon, we have advertised in the LaPorte Herald Argus, the News Dispatch, Regional News and the Westville Indicator, Mrs. Huston made a motion to continue to advertise public notices, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LEGAL NOTICE- COMMISSION MEETINGS

Mr. Harmon, reads the Notice of Meeting of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Hager made to approve the time and place of the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

AGENDA NOTICE

Mr. Harmon, reads the Executive Session Notice which goes out to News Media, Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the notification, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Mr. Harmon, for Mrs. Huston's information, these are the weekly reports that have to be signed, if we don't get them done during the meeting we need to get them done sometime after the meeting.

AGENDA NOTICE

Mr. Harmon, this is one that we need to enforce a little bit more than we do, because of the amount of business that we do have to conduct here at the Board of Commissioners we are asking that all business that be presented to the board of commissioners we are going to ask that all business that be presented on the agenda be in the office no later then the close of business day the Thursday prior to a meeting. This is so we can keep our agenda in some kind of order, there are times that we do take them on at the last minute but we will not make a habit of taking them on any business being conducted by this board very lightly on the night or the morning of the meetings. So any department heads and people that wish to get on the agenda do have there information in by Thursday prior to those meetings. Mr. Harmon, we need a motion to approve this notice, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Harmon, Payroll Ending January 14, 2005, Mr. Hager made a motion to approve payroll ending January 14, 2005, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$2,555,286.44, Mr. Hager made a motion to pay the claims as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

LaPorte County Maintenance Department, Allen Ott, Stationary Engineer---CCD Funds in the amount of \$275,400.00

Mr. Ott, you all have received the request and this was in our budget for 2005 but was taken out by the Council at our budget hearings. There is no additional money in there this is all 2003 & 2004 these are the funds that were taken out of different accounts. Mr. Harmon any questions from the board. Mr. Hager, the elevators this \$18,000.00 that's for the repairs of them, right. Mr. Ott, yes and that's for the maintenance contracts on them and the electric on there that was taken out and next year we are going to have the additional cost of the Museum out there. Mr. Hager made the motion to grant the request in the amount of \$275,400.00 to be taken out of CCD Fund, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Sheriff Department, Del Ott, Chief Deputy--- CCD Funds in the amount of \$333,780.00

Del Ott, this was cut out of our budgets, this was from five (5) accounts, two accounts from the Jail and radio contract and emergency equipment and office machines and vehicle account. Mr. Harmon, questions for Mr. Ott? Mrs. Huston, do you buy all of your vehicles from, is this a state bid for \$300,000.00? Mr. Ott, last year I went to state bid when I bought my vehicles and I saved \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 per vehicles by not going thru them. Mrs. Huston, by not going thru the state bid you saved money. Mr. Ott, if I would have gone with the state bid I would have paid more money. Mrs. Huston, how many vehicles do you think you will get out of this? Mr. Ott, I need nineteen right now, I don't think I will be getting nineteen. Mrs. Huston, you will be trading in nineteen. Mr. Ott, I will be trading nineteen, last year we had those Thoes and they brought me in about sixty five, the vehicles we've got right now are going to be the Chevy's and impala's the mileage is in the hundreds. Ms. Huston, your radio equipment is that to replace. Mr. Ott, no that is to maintain the radios and equipment too. Mrs. Huston, emergency equipment what would that be? Mr. Ott that could be anything from something in

The Jail or in the kitchen or some type of equipment. Mr. Harmon, any other questions. Mr. Hager made a motion to grant Mr. Ott's request out of the CCD fund in the amount of \$333,780.00, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Emergency Planning Committee, Roger Wolff, Coordinator—CCD Funds in the amount of \$10,500.00

Mr. Wolff, this is funding that was taken out of the budget for equipment for the Hazmat Team and it was requested by the Council that I ask for it out of CCD funds instead of the General Fund and I am asking that it be replace that money back into by budget. Mr. Harmon, what is it that you are going to replace for \$10,000.00? Mr. Wolff, I have two breathing apparatuses that are two years old and do not meet the federal specs for homeland security and the cost about \$25,000.00 each and four encapsulated suits that have shelve lives on and they are about \$900.00 apiece and I try to replace a couple radios and pagers each year and that would eat up the \$10,000.00. Mr. Harmon couldn't that come from some of the federal monies? Mr. Wolff, I got some money from homeland security but it was not enough, this is over and above. But I have sixteen people and only fourteen SCBA'S that are up to spec's, if we got into something that was biological, I am going to have two people that I am not going to be able to protect. Mr. Harmon, I have problems giving you monies out of the CCD funds that were monies that were taken out of the original budget, that should have been budgeted for the year and for you to come to us and ask that they come out of the CCD fund I don't think that's right. I think that there are going to be a lot of upset people as far as I am concerned and I would like to know more about it before I approve this. I don't think we should approve this thing, I would like to talk to you more about this thing before we approve this, but it's the boards pleasure to do what they want, I would like to talk to you more about this. I don't know if the other board members have talked to you about this or not. Mr. Wolff, I did send a letter up to you. Mr. Harmon, I did get the letter, I don't have a problem with that but I would like to have a little more detail what's going on and why we are going to spend \$10,000.00 out of CCD fund to subsidies an office its not right. Mr. Wolff, it is money that has been in the budget for the last eight years and has been budgeted every year except has been taken out of the budget this year and was taken out of the budget by the council and was told as request to be taken out of CCD by the council instead of the general fund so they could make there budget cuts this year. Mrs. Huston, Roger this was out of your 400 accounts? Mr. Wolff, yes. Mrs. Huston, this was eliminated? Mr. Wolff, yes. Mrs. Huston, and if you had that in your 400 accounts you would go ahead and purchase this equipment. Mr. Wolff, yes. Mr. Harmon, to me that is not in the budget, if you cut it from the budget then you take it back out of your budget your not cutting nothing. Mr. Wolff, I didn't cut. Mr. Harmon, I am not saying you, I know you didn't cut. They cut it from your budget and then they say go to the commissioners and take it out of there CCD fund. Mr. Wolff, that's pretty much what they did to the last two gentleman that were up here also, is take it out of there

budget, and now they are asking to replace it. Mr. Harmon, I understand it. Mr. Wolff, we are asking people to volunteer their time to the county and we need to protect them and we need to protect them and that's what I am trying to do. Mr. Harmon, there just seems that there is enough Homeland Security money there. Mr. Wolff, most of the Homeland Security money did not come to my office, it went to the volunteer fire department and other emergency. Mr. Harmon, did you ask to get some of that money? Mr. Wolff, yes I did and I did get \$12,000.00 for a testing machine and that is required by law. Mr. Harmon, any other questions to board members. Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the request of Mr. Wolff in the amount of \$10,500.00, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Harmon, we have new business in reference to the 2005 Holiday Schedule Approval, we have the schedule in front of us. Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the schedule, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny, 6757 West 450 North, it's interesting to know how you give additional monies out of the CCD fund. I don't know how you review that or oversee that but I made the same comment before Roger Wolff, you give the last two money out of the CCD and then you question Rogers CCD fund draw.. I would like to see a little more scrutiny go into this if you a look into the budget, submit yours and the county council cuts the budget and I don't think there are any cuts if you turn around the next year and give them all the money they cut. I think Mr. Harmon had a good point, I would just like to see some of the people that come up here see their money that they are asking for a little more scrutinized, since I am a county tax payer here. So I appreciate, it is nice to see a woman on the board for a change. I hope she will have, I hope you have a good year and I hope you oversee this county as well as you have seen in the past.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Harmon, I have one I will like to welcome Mrs. Huston to the board and its going to be a fun year with some of the things that we do as you know we received a notice from Greater LaPorte County Economic Development Corporation Board, I was put out by this letter inviting us to this meeting on January 13. I think it's quite apparent what the City of Michigan City and the City of LaPorte in the direction that they want to go as far as economic development is concerned. This letter, I would like to address this letter with the board's permission thru our attorney to Mayor Morris and Mayor Oberlie, if they don't want to be part of this program

then don't ask us that we have to be or don't tell us that we have to be or they are going to do what ever they want to do. So, I am going to ask the board that we address this thru our attorney to Mayor Morris and Mayor Oberlie. And find out what the problem is, why they don't want to cooperate and work with LaPorte County in equal basis with the City of Michigan City and the City of LaPorte. If the board members have no objections, I would ask that the county attorney address this letter.

Mr. Harmon, Ms. Shuter welcome to the board.

ADJOURN

Mr. Harmon adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m...

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARLOW HARMON, President

WILLIAM HAGER, Vice President

BARBARA HUSTON, Member

ATTEST: _____
TERESA SHUTER, Auditor

(Approximately 40 people in attendance)