

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2005

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex and Security Annex.

Commissioner Harmon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m...

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

Commissioner Huston Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2005 as written, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried voice vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

The commissioners reviewed and signed the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

PAYROLL

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Payroll Ending, April 21, 2005, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims as submitted in the amount \$4,635,025.14, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Melissa Mischke, LaPorte County GIS Coordinator-Additional Appropriation \$6,980.82 (win tax) ArcGIS Maintenance 2005

Mrs. Mischke, I am requesting an additional appropriation to pay for the GIS software maintenance.

Mrs. Huston, is this your yearly maintenance agreement?

Mrs. Mischke, yes.

Mr. Hager made a motion to grant the request of Mrs. Mischke and for the additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,980.82 to be taken out of Win Tax, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Jane Bernard, Director-LaPorte County Animal Shelter-Host Canine Seminar (limit shelter hours August 15, 16, 17 and 18th)

Mrs. Bernard, have been contacted by Barb Hooper for our shelter to host a seminar at the shelter a renowned expert Sue Sternberg. I think this is an opportunity of a life time for our shelter and closing the shelter for our staff to be able to attend. The seminar will be held at the shelter and at the county home there will be no cost to us. I am here for two reasons today number one is to host the seminar and secondly is to close the shelter during some of those days to have our staff to be able to attend the seminar.

Mrs. Huston, have you decided when you want to hold the seminar.

Mrs. Bernard, at the shelter and possibility at the county home. I did not want to contact them until I got permission from the board.

Mrs. Huston, is there a fee to your personnel?

Mrs. Bernard, no there is not, there would be a fee to other visiting shelters there staff and the fees run from \$400 to \$800 hundred dollars to attend all four days.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the request, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mrs. Bernard, I will keep you informed on the dates and times we will be closed.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer- Emergency Appropriation (McKellips, drain tile repair \$49,390.20)

Mr. McVay, this is out on 450 South it started out as a pipe repair project, the Drainage Board was taking care of it and found out that the entire pipe was bad.

Mr. Harmon, you have asked for an emergency appropriation action on this, what was the emergency part.

Mr. McVay, we have one property owner that is affected, as far as I know of there is only one affected. He is unable to get in there and it's a landscaping company, they are trying to harvest there trees and this water is backed up on the property.

Mr. Hager, made a motion for the emergency appropriation in the amount of \$49,390.20 to be taken out of Win Tax, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Donna McClay, LaPorte County EMS, Assistant Administrator- Re-instatement of original hire date.

Ms. Donna McClay, you should have received my letter, I don't know if you have any questions.

Mr. Harmon, how much time did you have prior to the time you quit?

Ms. McClay, almost two years.

Mr. Harmon, those two years do count toward your Perf.

Ms. McClay, except the Auditors office has my second hire date on the books and that I am not sure about and I don't want any confusion should the time come when I retire between hire date one and hire date two.

Mr. Harmon, you want that two years put back on your Perf?

Ms. McClay, Perf and my hire date.

Mr. Harmon, you paid into Perf at that time?

Ms. McClay, yes.

Mr. Harmon, according to the policy manual those two years would not go towards your retirement.

Ms. McClay, it would not.

Mr. Harmon, no it would go towards your Perf but not your seniority on the department.

Ms. McClay that is what I was requesting. That under the circumstances at the time that you would review it and grant it.

Ms. Huston, when you were rehired by the county was this discussed at that time that you would be reinstated at that original hire date?

Ms. McClay, yes and then it never came to pass and it wasn't quite an issue because we didn't have longevity so I did not pursue it.

Ms. Huston, and you were gone for seven (7) weeks prior to.

Ms. McClay, it may have been less then that, I am not exactly sure.

Mr. Harmon, you do understand under the policy manual states that after ten (10) days that if you are reinstated prior to that ten (10) then you would have not lost time but after that ten (10) you would be at a loss.

Ms. McClay, right but the policy has changed over the years and I know that given the situation I was forced into , that you might consider it on my behalf.

Mr. Hager, we have done this in the past.

Mr. Harmon, I think you are wrong and I don't believe in doing this, I don't have a problem giving the two years back for Perf but I do have a problem with the longevity.

Mrs. Huston, Ms. McClay has been a very good employee for 20 plus years and I know how hard it is in the EMS field. I would like to make the motion to allow the reinstatement of Ms. McClay's original hire date, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried 2-1 with Mr. Harmon voting nay.

Door Village Community Association- Request for Tourism Funds \$500.00, Annual Door Village Harvest Festival

Mr. Harmon, we have a request from Door Village for the Annual Door Village Harvest Festival from Tourism Fund, we have \$2,000.00 left in that fund.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to grant the request in the amount of \$500.00, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Ryan Beall, Road Vacation (need to remove from table)

Mr. Harmon, this was tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Beall, is not in attendance, so we will leave it on the table.

John P. Sullivan, Chief Deputy Coroner (Vehicle purchase)

Leave on table

LaPorte County Park & Recreation –Board Appointment

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to table, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer—LaPorte County Home- Final Acceptance and Final Payment Meyer Glass & Mirror

Mr. Hager, made a motion to table, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Patricia Pease, EMS Administrator- Proposed Rate Increase, Ordinance

Mrs. Pease, with the research the first half of the year so far and there was also some research done last year. The last six (6) years there has not been a rate increase and to be more comparable to the surrounding agencies and more equitable to LaPorte County, we proposed a rate increase over the next five (5) years of 30 % July 1st of the existing fees.

Mrs. Huston, Patti did you say there was unanimous support.

Mrs. Pease, yes.

Mr. Harmon, when was the last increase you had on this?

Mrs. Pease, 1999

Mrs. Huston, even with your increases, you are lower then the other services.

Mrs. Pease, Porter County surpasses us in there fees and so we are really in the middle between the two counties.

Mrs. Huston, it will be 30% for the first year and 10% for the next (4) four years after that?

Mrs. Pease, right and the 30% is because this should have been done January 1st and hopefully these projections are, once they are obvious projections and providing different amounts of increases at different times. These are the best projections we could come up with today and could be reassessed in a year or two or three if we feel we are out of the ballpark.

Mr. Harmon, if there are no other questions by the board, we have an ordinance before us on first reading by title only, unless there is an objection, hearing no objections. This first reading by title only Ordinance Setting Emergency Medical Fees.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to grant this Ordinance Setting Emergency Medical Fees on first reading, second by Mrs. Huston Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, this will be held over for second reading at our next meeting.

Administrative Write off Policy

Mrs. Pease, this policy was acutely written by the State Board of Accounts, there was no preexisting "Write-Off" policy in EMS as far as non-collectables. So, last year this policy was recommended that we have a formal policy; this was read by the E.M.S. Council meeting on March 3rd and accepted and I am asking that it be accepted by the Commissioners.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to adopt the "Write-Off" Policy for LaPorte County Emergency Medical Service, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Additional Appropriation Radios

Mrs. Pease, after assessment of the equipment over the year, we have a deficiency in pagers and we have 16 personnel with out pagers. I am going to have Rob come up because he is our communications officer and he has done a lot of research on it and he recommends the HT.

Mrs. Huston, Rob the four Vertex radios that were purchased that came highly recommended by you.

Rob Quinn, they came highly recommended by me bases on the experience of other counties and other sales. We did a very short test on them; they seemed to work very well, there reliability less than expected. This year the warrantee expiries we are sending them for repair every three to six months for broken parts.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the request \$14,673.00 for pagers, radios, antennas and radio cases to be taken out of win tax for the purchase of Radios, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

Ken Herceg & Associates-LaPorte County Courthouse Exterior Restoration- Agreement

Mr. Harmon, you have received the information on the restoration in the amount of \$297,400.00 developing fees and project manager. What we need to do is approve it or not approve it and if we approve it we need to turn it into the council for appropriation in order to pay for it. The scope of the project is about 2.1 million dollars, I would like to present all that in one motion.

Mr. Hager, I would like to make a motion the \$297,400.00 not to exceed and the whole project not to exceed 2.1 million dollars, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0

Mr. Hager, this motion is to be taken out of Riverboat.

LaPorte County Fair Agreement

Mr. Harmon, the Board asked that this be "Tabled".

Mr. Hager, made a motion to table, second by Mrs. Huston.

Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

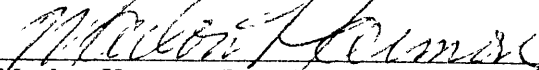
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

No comments

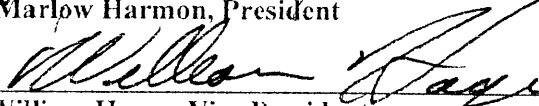
ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m...

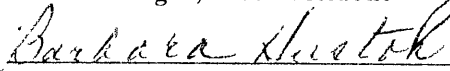
LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlow Harmon, President



William Hager, Vice President



Barbara Huston, Member

Attest: 

Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor

(Approximately 15 people in attendance)