



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

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Marlow Harmon, President

William Hager

Barbara Huston

### LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005- COMMISSION MINUTES**

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Rooms.

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

Mr. Rick Knoll led the Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Harmon welcomed all who were in attendance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, we would like to add to the agenda under “New Business” section G- Comprehensive Plan Agreement and section H- Additional Appropriation for Museum moving and under “New Business” section E Bridge #215 will not be discussed, it has already been approved. .

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Huston, made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2005 as submitted, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

#### WEEKLY REPORTS

#### CLAIMS

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Payroll ending May 6, 2005 as submitted, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll- call vote carried 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to pay the miscellaneous claims in the amount of \$671,827.32, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE

None

## REQUESTS

### Westville Pumpkin Fest, Request for Funds--\$1,000.00

Mr. Hager, made a motion to allow \$500.00 for the Westville Pumpkin Fest, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

### Wanatah Scarecrow Festival, Request for Funds--\$500.00

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve \$500.00 for the Scarecrow Festival, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

### Tim Morgan, LaPorte County Park & Recreation-Pioneer Days, Request for Funds--\$500.00.

Mr. Morgan, This Pioneer Days September 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> its been the fourth Saturday and Sunday of September, this would be the 14<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Days it has been around as long as the Scarecrow Festival. This appeals to children and families with hands on activities, we see anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 kids go through this and there families. We are just asking for the Visitors Bureau Promotion Funds to help us out.

Mr. Harmon, where are the Pioneer Days held at?

Mr. Morgan, Creek Ridge County Park.

Mr. Harmon, I myself, have a problem giving you the money for that, the reason for that is that these funds were set up for small towns in the county that don't have budgets for that. I don't think we have given you money before.

Mr. Morgan, we have asked for this every year since the Visitors Bureau set this up that we come and ask for the funds and you direct it to the Visitors Bureau. If you would like me to ask for it from the County Council in our budget each year I would be happy to do that.

Mr. Harmon, I don't like you asking for it out of this account, do you have an advertising account?

Mr. Morgan, yes we do its \$1,200.00 in our advertising budget and it doesn't go very far. It has been that amount since 1992.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to table until we find out if we have given to all the little towns and if we have given to all that we normally give to.

Mrs. Huston, since you already have an advertising budget Mr. Morgan, I think that's one of the reasons we would prefer to give it to.

Mr. Morgan, I just want to clarify one thing the \$1,200.00 is what we have had since 92 it's for the entire year for all the park programs.

Mr. Harmon, what we will do we will check this out and will advise you. We have a motion to table, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Walt Sell, Request for Office Copy Machine

Mr. Sell, I sent a letter explaining what we have now, we have a copy machine that is five or six years old. It is currently not working properly, and parts are limited, we are entering our busy time of the year and need a good copier. I am requesting permission to go before the Council for funding for a copy machine. We have prices from three different companies they vary from \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00 and in addition the service agreement would be \$2,000.00 a year. I talked to the Auditor's Office and they suggested that we would ask for the first year's maintenance agreement initially when we ask for the copy machine and in the later years put it in our budget.

Mrs. Huston, you have a maintenance agreement, is that what you are saying.

Mr. Sell, yes I would have to have additional funding for the maintenance agreement on the purchase of the copy machine and then at the budget hearings I would include that into next year's budget.

Mrs. Huston, you have a maintenance agreement now for the machine that you are now using?

Mr. Sell, the maintenance agreement is now being paid out of the commissioners budget, the machine was purchased out of the commissioner's budget.

Mrs. Huston, so you would be asking for an entire additional appropriation for this machine.

Mr. Sell, that is correct.

Mr. Harmon, you have estimates from Kemps, Imagistic and Adams Remco.

Mr. Sell, the last two are out of South Bend.

Mr. Harmon, have you talked to Ron Tulacz?

Mr. Sell, no I have not.

Mr. Harmon, we are going to try to go with the same machines of the same type in all offices so when we do have problems we can fix them ourselves.

Mr. Hager, does Purdue ever help you out or does the county have to pay.

Mr. Sell, it terms of?

Mr. Hager, if you need anything for the office or anything else.

Mr. Sell, Purdue asks each of the offices to secure local funding for office equipment, Purdue will on occasion when we have a need for specialized equipment help us with that.

Mrs. Huston, do you have any other copy machines or is this the only one you have.

Mr. Sell, we also have a Riso Graph that is used when we make super large runs and it is good for that.

Mrs. Huston, with the network card that you have listed here, how many computers will that serve one or all of them.

Mr. Sell, it will serve all.

Mr. Harmon, I know when the lowest price but the lowest is not the best. I suggest that you look at Kemps or Adams Remco.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to grant the request to purchase from Kemps in the amount of \$12,304.14, second by Mrs. Huston.

Mr. Sell, Mr. Harmon I just want to clarify we would need an additional \$2,025.00 for the service agreement for the first year and then we would put that in our budget for the next year, does that need to be included in the motion.

Mr. Harmon, no if you have got to the first of the year before you have to have that, I suggest that you put that in you budget.

Mr. Sell, we would need that on the purchase of the copy machine.

Mrs. Huston, the service agreement right away, is that what you are saying.

Mr. Hager, I will extend that on to my motion the \$2,025.00 to be taken out of win tax, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Patty Pease, EMS Administrator—Ordinance Setting Emergency Medical Fees (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

Mr. Harmon, Ms. McClay was there any new information that we should know about?

Ms. McClay, no, everything was done at the last meeting and has stayed the same.

Mr. Harmon, we have an ordinance before us by title only for second and final reading. The ordinance "Setting Emergency Medical Fees"

Mrs. Huston to adopt on second reading, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

Mr. Harmon this will be known as Ordinance #2005-06

#### DLZ, Pedestrian Connector Bridge—Courthouse to Annex Jail

Mr. Harmon, This is a project that we have looked at for the last year and a half, the estimated price is \$ 500,050.00 thousand dollars and the second quote was in reference to

just removing the concrete walkway and replacing it with new concrete to stop the leakage came in at \$467,000.00 thousand dollars. I ask the board to get moving on this and get with Larson Danielson and see how we can cut back before we approach the council for request of the funds.

Mr. Hager, made the motion to move forward with this and contact Larson-Danielson and the consulting firm to see what one we can come up with that we feel would be the best suited to move forward with, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### LaPorte County Inspector of Weights & Measures—Affirmation of Appointment

Mr. Harmon, as you may know the board felt that there should be a change to the director of Weights and Measures, we appointed Michael T. Quinn to that position. In order to put Mr. Quinn on the board, he has to be affirmed or have an affirmation by the State of Indiana Weights & Measures. Mr. Quinn after quite a bit of research, Mr. Quinn was advised to go to the State Health Department who certifies that person, in order for Mr. Quinn to be certified by the State of Indiana. Mr. Quinn was asked to come down there, he took the test in which he did very well on and he was certified by the State of Indiana we have received a letter back from Mr. Larry Stump the Director of Weights & Measurers. We received a letter back from Mr. Larry Stump the Director of Division of Weights & Measures in Indianapolis advising that Mr. Quinn can now be placed to that position. At this time I'm asking the board to reaffirm the appointment of Mr. Quinn, to that position, allow him to start working on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 and notify Mr. Samuelson that as of May 6<sup>th</sup> he will be terminated.

Mrs. Huston made the motion, Mr. Michael T. Quinn is appointed to the board of Weights & Measures as of May 9<sup>th</sup>, second by the chair. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

##### LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission--Appointment

Mr. Harmon, as you know we have formed a Redevelopment Commission Committee, does to the fact that we have been involved in redevelopment. There are numerous issues that have to be addressed by a Redevelopment Commission for the county. Again, we did not have that board set up and we have now addressed that issue those appointments are as follows, Rob Horning of Michigana Shores, Wallace Pritz of the County, Mr. John Knoll, Jay Miller and Shane Miller from Tonn & Blank these are the five names that the board has submitted, are there any other names to be submitted.

Mr. Hager made a motion we accept these names and notify them as such, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

##### Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer—County Home Replacement Windows, Payment No. 4

Mr. McVay, this is the second to the last of the payment for the County Home Replacement Windows, in the amount of \$18,002.70.

Mr. Harmon, you also have payment #5 also.

Mr. McVay, payment # 5 is the final payment which is the retainage payment.  
Mr. Harmon, we will go with #4 first.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the request for \$18,002.17 payment #4 for the replacement windows at the County Home, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer—County Home Replacement Windows,  
Final Request, Payment No. 5

Mr. Harmon, County Home Final Payment #5 in the amount of \$22,051.30.

Mr. McVay, I think the project turned out very well and this is the final payment.

Mr. Harmon, this amount of \$22,051.30 with the change order that went before the council.

Mr. McVay, yes they approved everything.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the final payment # 5 in the amount of \$22,051.30 and I want to say they did a tremendous job out there and it looks really nice, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer—Bridge No. 215

Removed

Dale Clingerman, City of LaPorte Engineer,--Road Cut Permit

Mr. Clingerman, I am the acting engineer for the City of LaPorte and need a road cut permit two roads, for Severs Road and Johnson Road but before discuss the cuts in the two roads, I would like to give you an overview of the project. We were approached, the city was approached by the developer of the golf course north of 35, who is putting a subdivision within that golf course, concurrently we were approached by the priest at Holy Cross who own the property across the street, as well as the LaPorte Community School Corporation for Crichfield School they are in the process of bidding out the reconstructive of Crichfield School. Crichfield School wanted city water and the other two entities wanted city water and sewer. We looked at everything and our city water system in that area is not good enough to provide adequate pressure to the school without having some kind of boost to it.

So, we talked to the conservancy district and they are going to allow us to take water from their line and we are going to improve the pressure in the whole system, on the whole north end by redoing one of the pumps irrigation and it will be about 40 pounds higher than it is now. The actual project, the water project starts at the old railroad crossing on the east side of State Road 39, runs down to the south side of Severs Road to US 35 then north along the east US 35 to the entrance to the subdivision and the entrance to Holy Cross then cuts into the subdivision and goes thru the subdivision across the golf course comes out to Johnson Road right of the west side of the Center Township Fire Station, then the plan is to take it up to the school under the north bound lane of Johnson Road. I would like to explain, first on Severs Road off the road we talked to the cemetery people, we will be in the right of way

we will not be in the cemetery, they don't have any problem when we cross there driveway we will replace it. Then when we get down to US 35, we will then cut across and then head up 35, when we go thru the whole subdivision and come back out to Johnson Road and then we will be in the travel lane but we won't necessarily have to take the whole traffic lane. The right of way is just not wide enough and it is full of utilities now and it does not give us enough room now. We have proposed on both cross cut at Severs and Johnson Roads an eight inch stone base, with four inch asphalt base, then three inches of asphalt. I will be inspecting that job myself and one of the biggest concerns we had is Severs Road situation doesn't cause much of a problem, the Johnson Road problem causes a lot of problems. We have thought about a direction to go, the trouble with direction to go is that you cannot unhook the machine and you cannot do the work in one day and you can't unhook the machine and move it off the road. Therefore, you have construction machine that is sitting right in the road and you are down to one lane and this is a very big safety hazard. We thought about renting temporary lights but there are so many homes along there that we set up the lights on the two ends and it just will not work. The only solution we could come up with is to put flagmen out do one part of one lane and do the work the other thing we are demanding our workman do is to close his hole his hole every night, he has to move all of his equipment off of the roadway. And for a period of about two weeks the motoring public will be traveling on an aggregate base on that section on a strip of about 100 feet. I would like to point out that the sewer that starts out at Johnson Road and goes up the west side of 35 to the subdivision, cuts thru subdivision goes all the way thru the north side of the subdivision and the developer has granted us easements to be able to extend that sewer on our back to 35 and that sewer will be taken as a trunk line all the way up to the toll road. So, between the increased pressure on the water the people that are on the system now and the extension system and the extension of the sanitary sewer, this is a pretty good economic shot in the arm, especially I think around 35 where you just had that new company come on board and the other companies that are up there with low pressure. We are doing everything we can do to make it safe to make it correct, I have gone over all of this with Rick McVay and he will comment. So I come before you to ask for your approval.

Mr. Hager, the only question I have is we go underneath that road, we are going to redo the whole road and you know the minute you put a new road in somebody goes out and cuts a hole in it because the water line is broke or something. Who is going to be the county going to have the responsibility of that from that day on or is the city going to take care of the road from that day on.

Mr. Clingerman, The agreement we worked with the conservancy district we are taking off of the we provide them water and they providing water up the road way and then we tap on were going to take our water back and let them pay the conservancy district for the water. This will be city maintained water and sewer and any problems will be paid for and taken care of by the city. All of the construction we will be putting in a service line to all of the residence put it does not mean that they have to hook-up to it but if we don't do those while we are doing the construction, then you will have a piece mil situation.

Mrs. Huston, when would this project begin?

Mr. Clingerman, in approximately 30 days, we are taking bids tomorrow. I might point out that there is no city money in this project it is being paid for by the developers, School Corporation and the Priest of Holy Cross.

Mr. Harmon, the water line that you say is going to be available to those people on Johnson Road, who are they going to pay that to?

Mr. Clingerman, they would pay to the city.

Mr. Harmon that is not the conservancy district? Because that is the worst thing you could do. Why wouldn't you get utility easements along side the road for a water line? I can see a tremendous problem with that and I am going to have a hard time approving something like this. You can't guarantee me that there won't be problems with the water line.

Mr. Clingerman, no I can't guarantee it all I can say is the likely hood is that there won't be a problem.

Mr. Harmon, why wouldn't you go for an easement along those 1,500 feet?

Mr. Clingerman, funding situation. .

Mr. Huston, you did say that you would be responsible if there was a problem with the water line, that you would be responsible for repairing the roads.

Mr. Clingerman, the city will be, yes.

Mr. McVay, my problem with this is that we are getting ready to invest a lot of money into Johnson Road to rebuild it and take care of drainage issues. I hate if we would get the utilities and we would get the City of LaPorte to buy utilities easement, to keep that water line out from under that paved road that would be my preference. This will be a constant patch, as years go by they are going to have to maintain this line and I don't care how well you patch that road once you patch that road its going to fail and I am just not in favor of it. I would prefer that they would get a utility easement to the north.

Mr. Hager, is there anyway that it could go through that subdivision across the road?

Mr. Clingerman that is a possibility I was not given any direction like that.

Mr. Hager that would give all those people to get water in there too.

Mr. Clingerman, I just know if we stay on Johnson Road there is not enough money from the School Corporation to build it.

Mr. Harmon, Mr. McVay we are going to be redoing that part of Johnson Road, we are going to have to get some right of ways along that road.

Mr. McVay, yes we will.

Mr. Harmon is there some way that we can work in conjunction with the City of LaPorte if we acquire that right of way, can we give them permission to use that right of way to put that water line in?

Mr. McVay that would be a very good solution and a very good possibility, my big thing is to keep that water line moving and I think that would be a very good thing for me to look into.



Mrs. Huston, how long will that project take Rick, he's talking about getting into this within 30 days possibility starting. I mean how long will.

Mr. McVay, purchasing the utility easement it depends, if you get total corporation it could go fairly quickly, if you get some people that are reluctant to that easement it could take up to a year.

Mr. Harmon, we have not looked into that yet, as far as requiring the right of way?

Mr. McVay, No.

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

#### Comprehensive Plan Agreement

Mr. Harmon, we have looked into this before and working in conjunction with the City of Michigan City and the City of LaPorte and the County, in reference to a comprehensive plan it is something that is sorely needed, not only in the two cities but also in the county. We have looked into this before, the prices that have been given to us is around \$260,000.00 it would cost the county to do a comprehensive plan by working in conjunction with the City of LaPorte and the City of Michigan City and the County our cost would be \$60,000.00 to the County, \$60,000.00 to the City of Michigan City and \$48,000.00 to the City of LaPorte. This is an excellent deal and I talked with most consulting firms that were considering and they recommended that we go with this group out of Ball State and they thought we were getting a heck of a deal.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to sign the memorandum of agreement with the City of Michigan City and the City of LaPorte, second by Mrs. Huston.

Mr. Harmon, one other thing, Mr. Szilagyi you are going to have to be involved in this, we also have our County Planner and Mr. Hamilton, from the Building Inspection Department.

Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

#### Additional Appropriation for Museum

Mr. Harmon, the Museum has gotten us three bids for moving the Museum and the bids were from \$52,000.00 to \$85,000.00, they have recommended that we take the low bid in that. We are very pleased that the moving company has agreed to move them at that cost and we need to appropriate the dollars for them.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the \$52,000.00 to move the Museum from this building to there new home, second by Mr. Hager to be taken out of win tax and forward to county council on May 23 to appropriate the monies. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Harmon, could you state your name for the record?

Richard Rutz, I'm chairman of the LaPorte County Fair and we come before you tonight with a statement that we would like to get a lease. The LaPorte County Fair Board and the County Commissioners have operated in a spirit of cooperation for 45 years, tonight we find ourselves needing to cooperate to bridge a gap in an effort to secure a lease for the LaPorte County Fair. The Fair Board has the moral, ethical and legal responsibility to the shareholders and by extension the stakeholders, all the people who participate in the fair and share in this enjoyment. The Fair Board has offered what is in it's opinion the terms of a lease and impose the least disruption to the stake holders, while insuring a reform minded board carries forth a change is necessary for impartial leadership and the management of the grounds in a manner consistent with the public interest. The Fair Board is of the mind it can improve the ground and facilities without imposing a financial burden on the taxpayers of LaPorte County. It is also our position that private enterprise can offer superior operational expertise, than our ready over burden county government. We understand that while we may find ourselves at odds over terms, that we know that we all share a common goal of providing an environment that is safe and enjoyable and thru our joint efforts we may return the fair to the glory it deserves. We call on the commissioners respectively, to consider our proposed leads and work with the Fair Board to remove the doubt of the future of our fair and to finally put this matter to rest.

Mr. Gene Parrott: I am superintendent of Pioneer Land at the LaPorte County Fair, I have a little statement that I would like to read. In 1995 that was the year that the County Fair celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and with that something special needed to be done and a group of men including John Dailey and Louie Daube, Ron Bends spear headed Pioneer Land, it all started right there. The first year we witnessed the improvements to the fair ground by building the draft horse barn and also the blacksmith shoppe and also the petting zoo and in 1996 we saw the construction of the log cabin chair by Dick Reel and his crew. I could mention all of these other families; the other buildings out there were put up thru the help and generosity of the people of LaPorte County. I think one of the things that we need to know and they total about \$500,000.00 of buildings that have been put on county grounds. So, I were asking you today, when you take into consideration the lease you must take into consideration the fact that this was a effort of LaPorte County and 4-H people and all the parents and all the kids that were out there. We ask when you make your decision you take this into account.

Ron Chapman, I am a share holder, I am not a director I am a superintendent of an area out there. This fair is done on a volunteer bases, by all of these people that are a superintendent of kids out there. The fair does not just happen one week in July, this fair start immediately after the previous fair in preparation this is a big operation. I don't know how many fairs you go to but I go to a lot of them, I go to at least ten (10) in Indiana I go to Ohio, Michigan and Illinois there is no other fairs that come anywhere near the rest of them look like street fairs. You just want to walk in and say I am going to operate on the fair, well where is your expertise; I have been operating these fairs for year. There are a lot of things you need to consider, you also talked about you want to have you want to pay for a fair manager. You have to realize the cost that goes into that, you have one now if you approve or not who is paid at 22 or \$2,300.00 You are not going to hire anyone to do this, I don't think you have looked into the expense of this and I am also a voter and a taxpayer there is a lot of money here that you are going to be paying out.

Joyce Daube: and yes, I am related to Louie and I would like to address this to Mr. Hager, I wonder if the Herald Argus didn't correctly quote you when you say that the County Highway does the stuff at the county fair.

Mr. Hager, yes the County Highway does that at the County Fair.

Joyce Daube, so do you say that that is the taxpayer's money coming out because they do things at the fair.

Mr. Hager, they do things out at the county fair.

Joyce Daube, I will totally agree with you, they do haul the manure, they grate the tracks but has it ever been said that the County Highway stores their equipment out there during the winter months at no cost.

Mr. Hager, that is in the lease, it was put in the lease years ago.

Joyce Daube, but there is no cost, it is not costing the highway anything. They also use the water out there and get the water from the well and the fair association put in the well, not the county, they draw water for that at no cost. They let LaPorte County use the community building free of charge for their Christmas party, no cost at all but no body ever seems to comment on that.

Larry Nickels, I am from Lincoln Township, I am here to talk about I guess my disappointment first of all I am a stockholder in the Fair Association but never been to a meeting. I started out in 4-H we had a tent we slept in that tent the first night it was there, so I have some history with the fair. I went on from there and I joined the Sheriff's Department was happy as could be that we had a part-time job during the week of the fair that paid us \$5.00 an hour. I don't know what is going on here and I think it is political, I don't think government belongs at the fair.

Phyllis Eckovich, I have been involved for 45 years, we have had very few problems and the if there was some problems we were able to come to an agreement. I have been superintendent of the dairy for 25 years, I have had some problems in the barns and I will say that the Fair Board has always been fair on things that needed to be done. The thing that bothers me is that people have gotten involved and we have over 1,000 4-H members. These kids work their hearts out on their projects and I don't think politics needs to be in this and I think we should be thinking of the kids.

Doug Lenick, I am not a stockholder, I am a 4-H kid born and raised I went into 4-H in 1967, I spent ten (10) year with the fair. I am not being political, these guys do a fantastic job but I am looking out for the future of our kids because I have four of them. I want them to be able to enjoy the same things that I have enjoyed. We don't need to have politics involved in this.

Alisa Rosalie, I am 12 years old almost 13, I am a 4-H'er I have gone to the fair for several years. I have gone to several other counties fair's, in different states and different counties, this is the best one I have ever seen and I don't think it should be changed in anyway at all .

June Lenick: I am a superintendent at the fair, my only thing is that we need to think of what goes on. When I started with the 4 H program back in 1970, I had a different opinion

then I have today. The more you get involved the more you work with it the more you respect it and the more respect you get and I think we need to leave it where it is.

Bob Vaughn, I don't have any kids in 4-H, I don't know what 4-H stands for I came here from Chicago in 1970 when my family moved to Fish Lake. I would like to tell you since the years since the 70's we have watched the fair go down hill for a while. Everyone can remember when the cars used to be lined up down past the reserve center and then for a while it slacked off. Now I am growing older and I have kids, I have (seven) 7 of them, and we go out there and we have a garage sale every year, so the kids can fund money to go there. I would like to commend the Fair Board because it has come back, as the gentleman stated pioneer has brought immense pleasure to my kids. I would like to suggest to you that if there is a concern on either party is that a you do some kind of an audit, if there is a concern about the facilities and the maintenance that we do some kind of an audit independent of both parties and develop that audit and get some comments this way the comments are read and make an action list.

Kim Snyder, been in 4-H for eight (8) years and I am in horse and pony and I work very hard, fair has taught me responsibility, leadership and communication skills plus helps me stay out of trouble. I look forward to fair each year especially for the food and I make many friends and lasting memories and I don't want any changes in the fair.

Nancy Williamson, I am president of 4-H Council, I wanted to give you my input as to how I feel and support the fair board. I wrote a letter into the Herald Argus, I don't know if you saw it or not of all the things that have taken place and also I am President of the LaPorte County Rabbit Program we are top in the nation and top in the world in our Rabbit Program, our rabbit food stand and it could not have gone this fare without all of the cooperation of the fair board. We have over one-hundred and fifty (150) members in the rabbit program all the hard work and volunteers they have built the buildings out there. Our foods stand our pavilion and there's nothing like this in the world.

Lenita Scott (Skeeter): I have been involved with 4-H leader for 35 years and we have worked with the Fair Board and they are always willing to listen to any of our problems. They always help us out at Pioneer Land and there's got to be a go between here that I think we need to leave the fair just as it is.

Wilbur Williamson: Not any relation to Nancy Williamson. I thought I wasn't going to get up here, but if these kids can get up here and talk to gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen about the problem, why can't this old man that has been out in the 4-H program for 44 years and I'm struggling to make it 45 due to some health problems. The thing that concerns me is what 4-H does for kids. We have juvenile home out here, let me take my toothpick out of my mouth, in a home for less than they say in the paper that cost \$100,000 a year to support a kid. That's a lot of money. Where do those kids go to when they get out of the juvenile home? Let me compare that with the 4-H Club kids, that we have, we should have at least 2500 minus the masons 3000 kids in it if we don't. If we have 1400 that's great. But look at the kids that have progressed in this world on the good side. What were doing with the kids, were preventing problems. Were not trying to cure a problem which the juvenile home is. How many of those kids come out there doing what the kids that come out of the fairgrounds do? I have a son today who is a professor out at Fresno State University, been there for about 20 years, where did he get his start? You know where he got his start? Right out there at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds when George Mueller, Sr, sold him a cow and rabbit for a \$1.50, and today I'm still in rabbits because of that cow founded, \$1.50, rabbit.

Now where else can you get a promotion of occupations for kids? Here you have 75 projects that kids can experiment with. Out there I think 4-H is the greatest program for kids that they ever developed. And I think that Purdue University, which I am a graduate of in 1940 before the war. They should be selling 4-H to kids so that they don't end up in juvenile home. I know where the problem is. I'm sure you people do too. And most of the problem is because we don't have parental encouragement or parental help with a lot of these kids. Cause that's one of our problems. One of the things we try to do is encourage parents to be with their kids. How many of those kids where the parent's are deeply involved in, how many of them get in trouble? Not very many. So what I'm saying to you people, politics should not enter into the fairgrounds at all. I know where the problem came from, why it started and that's too bad that that happened. But what I'm saying is, with adults that had all this experience, do you know how many volunteers work out there at that fairgrounds that make it a success for the benefits for kids, there's a whole lot of them, and if you had to pay them to see that the fair goes, it's going to cost the taxpayers a lot of money and what I'm saying is there needs to be some changes out there, needs to be some improvements, with proper cooperation I say leave it like it is.

Ed Gondick, 4-H volunteer with the 4-H Sheep Committee also a member of the LaPorte County Sheep Association. About 4 or 5 years ago we needed new pins, through the Sheep Association and the Fair Board, we got the money to build new pins if you been out there you probably seen that we had old wooden pins about this high. But with the cooperation of the LaPorte County Sheep Association and the Fair Board we built new pins and it didn't cost the taxpayers a penny, it all came from volunteers. Last year we had to do a roof on the sheep barn, as you guys know you keep your equipment in that barn over the winter and it was leaking between the Association and the Fair Board we got a new roof on that sheep barn at no cost to the taxpayers. If you guys take over that fairground it will be your job to maintain those buildings and it is going to cost the taxpayers money and I don't think you will get any help from volunteers from the Sheep Association that you have gotten so far.

George Deutcher: I am a Swine Superintendent and also a 4-H leader and I have been for 30 years. I don't get the LaPorte paper any more so I don't read a lot of the controversy that has been going on, we canceled that a few years ago. My concern is that I have been hearing a few things tonight that like you guys are cooperating with LaPorte and Michigan City on some of your plans. My concern here is the kids, that we need to work together, we need to cooperate there has been no cost to the taxpayers and if the commissioners are going to get involved, there is going to be a cost to me and I am a taxpayer too, I don't want to see that. Most of the stuff that we do is all volunteer, we work together with the Fair Board if we need things we spent quite a few thousand dollars on the swine barn out there and we have worked with the Fair Board and they have worked with us. We have had, a lot of you might have had our pork chops that we grill out that we do that to help improve the buildings and stuff and the Fair Board will help by matching the funds and there has been no cost and we have a lot of volunteers. We have 40 or 50 people that we use during the fair and they are all volunteers that doesn't cost anything, except maybe a fair pass from the board and sometimes I have to ask to get a few more. I would like to see things slow and keep working as the community works together that we put our differences aside and work together for the kids.

Dick Glassman: 37 year 4-H member and I was one of the people that started this, I had no intention of the county taking over the Fair Board at that time at all but there were some changes that had to be made I felt that. I can work with these people I am also on the Pioneer Land Planning Commission, Log Cabin Commission you name it I am probably on

it as superintendent what have you. Personally, I feel that this thing has gotten out of hand, I don't feel, I feel that what is being done and what was agreed upon previously is pretty darn good. I felt that the county should have representation, apparently that has been agreed upon is my understanding. I don't feel that the county should appoint four (4) members, if they are going to put people on that Fair Board let's do it within the ones that do it, work out there make that fair better the 4-H people, the Pioneer Land those are the ones that are going to make a change out there. I don't agree with a lot of these people, with a few of them and they don't agree with me and that is understandable were people and I am also a dye hard republican to let you guys know. Please put all your animosities aside and let's think of the kids, let's think of the fair, its one of the biggest attractions around here. I go around all over the place doing antique shows, I have people I have never seen them I don't know them, they come and tell me what a great place we have and what a great fair we have and what a beautiful Pioneer Land we have they find out that I am from LaPorte and I guess that's how they get to me. So, all I have to do is ask you people please, keep the dang politics out of it, just get on the Fair Board that's fine and maybe the Fair Board can see an option to put Pioneer representation and if this happens, it is not a political appointment, its going to be an appointment by that committee, the Pioneer Land, Draft Horses, Horse & Pony the 4-H Organization Extension Service and that is the way it should be, we are the people that are running it. "Let's all work together.

Virginia Sites Kriegbaum: I am not on the Fair Board, I did not grow up in this county but I did 4-H in another county and I am here to represent the men and women mostly women that exhibit every year in open class and I am talking about the women that exhibit in the Community Building and the men in the Harness Racing. I have been very upset, that's what I call it by the bickering I don't know the particulars, yes there should be give and take on both sides and yes there should be changes made on both sides. But I certainly wish that the commission would be more cooperative that's my personal opinion. I have lived in LaPorte for over half of my life, so I think that that qualifies me as a LaPorten in this county, I am in my 50's so that gives you an idea of where I am at. And this fair means more to me than you know and there are a lot of people like me that we go out there to that fair just not to exhibit, not just to get a little ribbon out of it but we go out there for the fellowship and the friendship for what it gives us. We like to see these young people achieve and do well, what a nice thing that should be getting more publicity then the negative of gangs and street riffing. How nice to have all of this positive input coming back and its from our kids in our county, the kids from our schools are represented out there and what would they do with there time if they did not have 4-H and they did not have a fair to exhibit at every year. And the friendships that I have made at that fair have lasted my life here, I know of three people right now and one just passed away in the last two weeks that won't be here and I will miss dearly. We would visit and spend the week together we compare notes and this fair is apart of my life and I look forward to it and I hope that you do not find a way to take it away from me. I am a life long democrat, and I am very upset with some of you and Meryl you better be worried, I may have to jump to the other side. There has to be a way to compromise here, there has to be a way out of this where both of you get some of the things accomplished, that you want to get accomplished. This Fair Board is so nice to me, I am just an exhibitor I am just a person and they take time out of there day to make me feel welcome. I beg you find a way to resolve this and resolve it fast and this is the 160<sup>th</sup> years I don't here other counties advertising that, they don't have an old and successful fair as we do this is not broken it doesn't need to be fixed. We may have a few repairs and it might need to be updated and upgraded but you are moving to hard and to fast in the wrong direction people, change we need this fair, I love it.

Meryl Bannwart, nothing is perfect, I have been around for a good share of the county fairs and there isn't anything like ours people comes from Illinois and everywhere. Now, what bothers me most is government wants to take over everything this is like Russia, let the people be let the people take over by themselves. This really bothers me and I don't want to see government take over everything, that's communism. It bothers me and I am not going to be here too many years but I fought for a free country in World War II and this bothers me when I see the government take over everything, thank you.

Wilbur Bougher, I am very involved in the fair, I am very involved in the community. I have been on the Sheriff's Department for over 50 years as a special officer. My whole life is in LaPorte County I helped put the sewer and water in when we moved from the old fair grounds. My problem is that when Dick Glassman and I and another gentleman brought this to your attention about the sewer, the plumbing and the electrical things of this nature. We don't want politics into this but we do want the community to be safe and protected, we felt that you have to improve the facilities out there. These ladies and gentlemen are interested to take care of our property, that we are taxpayers for and they talk about one week out of the year that fairgrounds is used 52 weeks out of the year. Tim come up here and asked for donations for the Park Department because he has students out there at Luhr Park today on field trip. We have students out there at the fairgrounds today on field trip on fourth grade history on Pioneer Land; we go between 12 and 15,000 students a year out that come to Pioneer Land to learn a little bit about history. All we ask is cooperation, a lot of people say if you get involved you understand how the system works, trust me I am involved and I know how the system works. We want a line of communications and we want to be able to do things for all of us, we are taxpayers it is our property and it's not a matter of politics, it's a matter of good judgment and human relationships.

Scott Nowátski: I have been involved in 4-H for 40 years and not to take away from anything that Fair Board has done but I believe there are other things in the infrastructure and stuff at the fairgrounds that need to be taken care of. I don't know if the Fair Board financial has the funding to do that, I don't think in anything that I have read that I have seen anywhere that the commission wants to do away with the 4-H, is that true?

Mrs. Huston, we do not.

Scott Nowatski, in anything I have seen and all of the comments that have been made about keeping the 4-H, I don't think anywhere I have read anything that it's ever said that. I do believe that the Fair Board does not have the financial funding and background as far as the Agricultural Association, to do the improvements that need to be done at the fairgrounds. I do believe that we need to have some county involvement in this part of it, if it be fore the infrastructure or whatever. I am not involved enough to know what the county can or can't do to help this but I believe there is a lot of things that can be done thru the help of the county.

Jim Rosellie, there have been people up here that have lived in LaPorte for 50, 60 70 years, we have been living here 5, we are not old line Laborer's. I am a New Yorker I grew up on pavement, living in a box stacked on top of other boxes and my wife is from Long Island which is a smaller version of the block we lived on. We have lived all over the country and we settled in LaPorte because there is something that attracts you. I can't think of anyone not wanting to live in LaPorte, we came in here and we decided this is where we want to live. I think it is a very well run county, I think it is a well run city and I think it's a really well run fair. Every year for the last five years we have been going out to the fair and I

don't lift a finger for it, my wife does some volunteer work and my daughter exhibits out there and I have not done a lick of work for the fair. I am not speaking as someone that is involved with the fair or who has a life time stake in it, I am speaking as an audience, somebody who goes there. I am speaking as somebody who buys a ticket and likes to walk around there and eat the food and see the things and I love it and for the past five years it has only gotten better. I don't think there is any reason to change the management of a well run improving enterprise, if you can help the management I mean you know how to run a county, one of the reasons we moved here is because it is a well run place. If you can find a way to help them great, if they can find a way to cooperate with you great, you do a good job, they do a good job you both know how to do a good job, why not do it together. Why not leave the Fair Board in place because they are doing a good job and they can help you.

Jan Glassman: I am in my 37 year as a 4-H leader, I have had four (4) children in 4-H. I am very upset about what is happened, I don't understand how in a democracy our Fair Board doesn't have to answer to anyone. And how they can be self contained so they cannot get people that are willing to work to work, I don't know of any organization that has a lifetime commitment that says you have to die before you can be replaced. We had an opportunity to get a log cabin out there, everything was donated all the work everything we asked the board and they would not let us do it. We had a chance to get a barn; it was an old barn we had to have a brand new one. I talked to some of the members of the Fair Board and they were really angry at my husband and I for doing this but they didn't know what was going on. I heard Mr. Rutz come to the fairgrounds at Christmas time and says look what we have done at Pioneer Land, I have washed bricks out there, I have baked so many pies you couldn't believe. I have never seen any repair work needs to be done; they won't even talk to us. I don't think anything political needs to be done but somewhere something needs to be done.

Lenita Scott (Skitter), I would like to tell everyone that we have a pork shop dinner this Saturday night and a flower sale

#### COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Harmon, I hope that everyone that wanted to speak got a chance to speak. We are going to make some comments up here at this time and then I am going to make a suggestion to this board. At this time we don't want and I want you all to know, we do not want to take over the Fair Board, we don't want any part of that issue for taking over the fair. We know that the Fair Board has been doing a good job, we also know that there are some things that they need help with we feel that we can help them and we feel that we can work with them and that is our ultimate goal. The unfortunate thing that has happened here is that we let this thing get out of hand, we should have been setting down a long time ago with the Fair Board and we haven't done that. I am hoping when this meeting is over we will have an answer to that statement.

Mr. Szilagyi, First off Mr. Harmon you and I sometimes I think we are like a married couple because we argue a lot. I have to speak in defense of the commissioners at this point and what bothers me the most is that I am a 4-H leader, I have a child in beef and we have hogs. I know from being out there, I know what the beef barn is like and any time you plug in a blow dryer out there and you can only plug two, you have an open box its in bad condition. And anyone that has been out there in a rain storm and you see the hog barn within an hour it is under water, there is a problem. I think the biggest thing here that has



caused a lot of problems is everybody is here thinking that the commissioners want to take over the fair, not once has the commissioners ever said that at all. Now, maybe that is the impression that you have been lead to believe and I think in there defense what really bothers me is the letter that appeared in the paper, which has basically accused the commissioners of planning to take over the fair, even thou they sent over a letter which indicates they had other thoughts that should be done with a compatible relationship and I think that the best thing to do is to read the letter which is my letter to there attorney. (On file and attached to minutes)

Mr. Hager, first of all I want to get something out in the open here. I have been accused of going out to the fair and that I having a vendetta against it because they made my grandson quite driving golf cart. Let me tell you, he has never been out there and he has never been in a golf cart that was Pete Hill's son and he runs Riggs and they told him he could not drive the six wheeler he had out there. And I don't blame them for telling him that, no kid should be out there driving around in a motor vehicle because somebody is going to get hurt. Second of all, I have never been in 4-H, I have been around 4-H I have been the Boy Scouts of America I am for kids. Our water is contaminated out there; our electricity out there is in a shamble. I never under my watch or anybody else's want to see a kid get electrocuted out there it could be your kid; it could be my grandkid or somebody like that. I am going to do everything in my power to make that the safest fairgrounds and the best run fairgrounds. I am not going to back up from any of that it has got to be safe, I don't want to run the fairgrounds I don't want any part of the fairgrounds, I will go out there and see everybody and then go home. I have never said I wanted to take over the fairgrounds and I have never had a vendetta against them out at the fairgrounds. The only thing I want is the electricity and the sewer system and stuff were going to have to run sewer and water out there and that is going to be 1.2 million dollars and I have no problem working with the Fair Board.

Mrs. Huston in talking to some of the members of the Fair Board and I have heard a lot of good comments here tonight. My kids used to be in 4-H and my grandchildren are in 4-H and it is an excellent program and I always have. Mr. Glassman said it does build strong children because the parents are involved, I do believe that. There are something's I have said that I would like to see out at the fair. Now, that money could not be given to 4-H by the commissioners or to the fairgrounds by the commissioners because you are a private entity. So, we had to find another way, Mr. Walt Sell came before us early in the year and we gave him thirty-five thousand dollars for 4-H, so that we could some how be involved. What we want to do and we have never wanted to take away the fair or the Fair Board. We do want to help in some way, I do want to help in some way, it is my fair to it's our fair and we are concerned with some of the things that we want to see done. However, since it is not in county government and there is no one on the county board or on your board from the county then money cannot be appropriated to possibly fix the electrical problem. The board itself from what I understand they do a good job, it cost a lot to get entertainers in, and it cost a lot of money to do other things. My whole purpose, in what I was thinking was that we could actually help in somehow. I asked a question yesterday we intend to run sewer and water out 18<sup>th</sup> Street and expand it out to the County Home and on out to Pinola could the Fair Board afford to hook on to that because I think you need it out there, I think the bathrooms need to be improved, I think the water needs to be improved. I was told yesterday that the animals don't like city water; I didn't know that, I thought water was water they don't like the chlorine in it, and you would still have your wells. If there are improvements to be made, we as county commissioners were for the welfare of the county, were for the welfare of the kids. You said you did not want a political board, you thought

one of us being on the board would be political, from what I understand your sixteen member board are eight democrats and eight republicans, if its not political why is it split up that way, why can't you have a libertarian or whatever. And that we never said who we wanted to be on the board we said from Pioneer Land; pick somebody for your approval whoever to be on the board. We just wanted to have some kind of say in how we can better help the fair and how maybe us being there, maybe it is political. Mr. Knoll and I had the conversation a commissioner on the board, I would like to see a flea market out there. We just came back my husband and I from Florida, I love flea markets, its big down there. I like to have just what they take in in parking at a dollar a car every Sunday. That money could be put back into 4-H a dollar a car, start out with one weekend a year. Mr. Knoll and I have talked, if as a commissioner on the board it's going to be there by the purpose of my position in this county. I am not for anything that's bad, I want to see 4-H grow, I want to see the County Fair grow I never once said it was a bad fair, I would like to see more improvements. And it is my thought, by having a commissioner on the board we would be able to bring things to the fair that will possibly help and that is my whole purpose. Such as improvements, sewer and water, bathroom improvements that little place where they put the EMS, I have talked to that about the other day, that is a hole in the wall, I would like to see that improved and that's the only part I can talk to because that is where I spent most of my years and the pig barn. And those are things that I have a future vision for the county and it is to improve the fair and I would like to be able to help in some way and we all would.

Mr. Harmon, my purpose tonight is to stop this feud or the accusations the things in the paper, the things on the radio and the comments by the people. I have had enough of it, it should have been stopped in January when we could have and where did we screw it up; we did it because we didn't get it together with the people we were talking to. I am going to make a suggestion and I am going to ask you point blank, Mr. Rutz and your entire board the 16 member board and our board sit down and resolve this issue.

Mr. Rutz, we would be delighted to.

Mr. Harmon, I am going to ask you then, on Friday of this week we have to advertise this as an Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. in this room, we will be in this room we will lock the door and when we walk out that door we will have an agreement that we will set up a special meeting to adopt that agreement. Would you be willing to do that?

Mr. Rutz, yes sir.

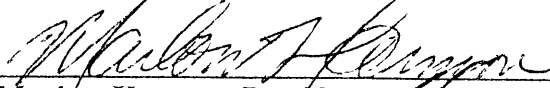
Mr. Harmon, at this time I think this is extremely important and I am asking my board to agree to meet in an Executive Session on Friday, May 6, 2005 at 1:00 p.m...

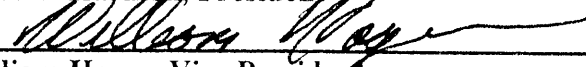
Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the executive session, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

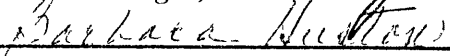
ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Marlow Harmon, President

  
William Hager, Vice President

  
Barbara Huston, Member

Attest:   
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor

(Approximately 190 people in attendance)

