



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

Circuit Courthouse

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Marlow Harmon, President

William Hager

Barbara Huston

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

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, LaPorte County Attorney Robert Szilagyi and Recording Secretary Linda Arnett.

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

WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Huston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, amendments to the agenda will be under "Request" add section "B: Presentation by Trustee Deb Arnold and under "Old Business" remove section A. LaPorte County Highway Engineer, Crestview Subdivision Unit 6. Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve agenda as amended, 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 Tuesday, September 6, 2005 Board Meeting as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

The Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve Regular Claims in the amount of \$1,398,801.52, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$194,323.06, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

PAYROLL

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve Payroll Ending September 23, 2005, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

REQUESTS

Westville Tri Kappa/ Request for Road Closing October 1, 2005

Mr. Harmon, we received the request from Westville Tri Kappa for road closings for the 7th Annual Event which starts at 8:00 a.m. and the Westville Police and Fire Department will assist in the event.

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

Township Trustee Deb Arnold –Nipsco

Mr. Harmon, Trustee Deb Arnold is going to give a short presentation on “cheap gas heat.com” and let the people of LaPorte County possibly save on their gas and electric bills this year and a way that they can decrease some of those costs.

Mrs. Arnold, Township Trustee, by statute we are required to help those who qualify for township aid with their utility bills. And each year we see more and more coming in through the door of the Trustee and see more and more tax dollars going out. A year ago, I started to research the different resources for natural gas, I decided to sit down and explore the opportunity to create an information site to be able to allow all of us to have a better choice on natural gas. So, the creation of cheapgasheat.com was created it is up and running

Ed Arnold, about a year ago we were looking into our own gas needs. We have done the research over the last year and have found and what you will find scrolling prices from about eight (8) other suppliers and this changes daily. You would have on this site a savings anywhere from 4% to 20% over Nipsco natural gas, there is a hidden advantage we discovered if you use Nipsco as your gas supplier and your delivering entity they charge you sales tax as a bundled service, if you unbundled it so that you use a separate gas supplier you are not charged sales tax. Nipsco is project a 70% increase in there own rates. There are other things we have found that it showed on this web site is that people pay deposits to Nipsco and people are not getting those deposits back.

Mr. Harmon, I got on your website and it is clear to me that this could be beneficial to people and this could be tremendous benefit to us. Thank you both for being here today and presenting this to LaPorte County.

OLD BUSINESS

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, Bridge 258/ Change Order #3 in the amount of \$1,479.40

Mr. McVay this is a change order for over runs in funding and this should close the contract out.

Mr. Harmon, this bridge is completed now?

Mr. McVay, yes.

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

Mr. Harmon this will include the change order #3.

Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, Pokagon Bridge, Michiana Shores – Bridge Replacement

Mr. Harmon, this was tabled at the last meeting, I need a motion to remove from the table.

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

Mr. Harmon, I was against the project as it started and I did vote for it at one time and I appreciate the attitude that Mr. McVay took on why this bridge should be done. I have talked to several people out there and I have changed my mind on the issue.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to pass and build a bridge, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Royal Metal Property, Michigan City/ Appraisal

Mr. Harmon, the board has received inquires about buying the property and I am asking the board to hire an appraiser so we can possible might be able to recover. . We have about \$325,000.000 into the cleanup and I am sure we can't recoup all of that money but maybe there is some way we can recoup some of it and put that property back on the tax rolls. At this time I am going to ask that the board approve hiring two appraisers to go out and appraise that property.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to contact two appraisers and have that property appraised, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Request for Speed reduction/ Madura Road, Union Mills

Mr. Harmon, I received a letter from Mrs. Michael requesting a speed reduction. Mr. Hager, made a motion to turn the request t over to the Highway Engineer to do a study on it, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jerry Cooley: why I am here today was at the Wall Memorial in Michigan City and I was talking to Mayor Oberlie and he told me that the City of Michigan City was honoring their veterans by giving them a badge of returning home. And I asked him how he came up with the idea and he told me that LaPorte County used to give an award out years ago. There are awards out their, so I asked Bill Hager and me and him went over to the museum and we happen to find that badge that they presented to the veterans from LaPorte County and it was during World War I, so LaPorte County has not honored the veterans since then, we happened to find it. We talked to the veteran's service to see if they would be interested in going back to having some kind of award that we presented from the county and it sounds like it is favorable. We went from their and talked to John who is actually our Veterans Service Officer to move it along with finding out the cost and we had asked him to do a little research and he has done that, we thought this is something we could do and we can show where they served and show that they were in war. We would like to design one that shows that they are from LaPorte County; you would have to set up a committee if you support and go for it with veterans and figure out the design work with the American Legions and the Veterans.

John Wantuch, LaPorte County Veterans Service Officer, I contacted two places how do we get the medals or the pins it is \$1,000.00 to set up, cost per person would be \$2.00 for the label pin and \$8.00 for the medal. I contacted another supplier they would do the same work, no charge for the stamping and the medal would be \$5.00 and the label would be \$1.00 so the cost would be \$6.00 this is the high end bid, he told me it would take 8-10 weeks for delivery. I am going to go the Legions, the VFW and we will go to the newspapers, radio anything and everything I will personally send letters out and go to the meetings. I think it is a good idea because when these guys came home from Vietnam they got nothing and had nothing; this is for everybody that served in combat. We will need the DD214 or the WAGO the discharge papers we have to have one that proves that where he was and what went on. Thank you very much.

Mr. Cooley, maybe we could have a joint resolution with the council and the commissioners and that is my request.

Mr. Harmon, we do have a committee for veterans and if John will contact the board members and start moving on this thing.

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

Bob Przybylinski, I am a resident of Michiana Shores and I would like to have you reconsider your vote on the Pokagon Trail Bridge. The project is not need and I don't know the cost but there is a project to look further west you should look at and spend the money on that bridge and not this one.

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Przybylinski the reason I changed my mind on this is the fact that, I know that there are several culverts that need to be replaced and we have a certain standard that we want our culverts to be at and this one does not meet those

standards. We will be moving forward with it and we are looking into those other culverts.

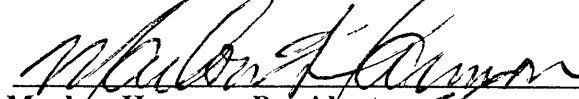
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Harmon, for information purpose I will be going to Indianapolis and be meeting in front of the IURC to testify on behalf of the people of LaPorte County about, against Nipsco about the outrageous rates that they are charging and about the electric they are buying off the grid and that they are actually buying from their own company and reselling to the people of LaPorte County. I appreciate Mrs. & Mr. Arnold for coming in today because this falls into what we are doing in tomorrows hearing. Just want to keep the people of LaPorte County informed that we are trying to do something as far as the gas cost and electric cost.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m...

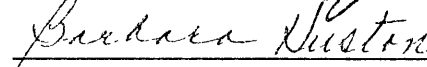
LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlow Harmon, President



William Hager, Vice President



Barbara Huston, Member

Attest: 
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor 
by Kim Barnes
Deputy Auditor

(Approximately 25 people in attendance)