



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Marlow Harmon, President
Barbara Huston
William Hager

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REORGANIZATION MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 3, 2006

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday January 3, 2006 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 and Barbara Huston. Also present were County Auditor Teresa Shuter, County Attorney Shaw R. Friedman and Recording Secretary Linda Arnett.

LaPorte County Auditor, Teresa Shuter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m...

Attorney Shaw Friedman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commission President

Mrs. Huston nominated Mr. Harmon for President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, there are no other nominations. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0, with Mr. Hager abstaining.

Commission Vice President

Mrs. Huston, nominated Mr. Hager for Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Harmon, the Chair will nominate Mrs. Huston for Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, are there any other nominations, there being none.

Roll-call-- Mr. Harmon and Mr. Hager voting for Mrs. Huston for Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners and Mrs. Huston voting for Mr. Hager for Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners. . Mrs. Huston is the new Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners by a 2-1 vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, additions the Agenda to add under "New Business" Wells Fargo and direct deposit for LaPorte County.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2005 and December 20, 2005, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

County Attorney

Mrs. Huston made a motion to appoint Mr. Szilagyi and Mr. Friedman as LaPorte County Attorney's, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Insurance Agents of Record

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve General Insurance Services for our Health Policy and Swanson & Swanson for our Liability, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Switchboard Operators

Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Shirley Oberholtzer, Eleanor Schnable and Jennifer Kopanski as Switchboard Operators, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Department Head Appointments

LaPorte County Home

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Kay Felton as the County Home Administrator, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Veterans Service Officer

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint John Wantuch as Veterans Service Officer, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Museum Curator

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint James Rodgers as Museum Curator, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Susie Richter as Assistant Museum Curator, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

EMS Director

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Patricia Pease as EMS Director, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

E-911 Director and Assistant Director

Mr. Hager, made a motion to reappoint Brent Soller as E-911 Director, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to reappoint Ms. Beth West as Assistant E-911 Director, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Animal Shelter Director

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Jane Bernard as Director of the LaPorte County Animal Shelter, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Stationary Engineer

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Al Ott, as Stationary Engineer, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to reappoint Assistant Stationary Engineer Mr. Mike Kulakowski, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Paul Young as the Director of Emergency Management, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Inspector of Weights and Measures

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Michael Quinn to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, second by Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

County Highway

County Highway Engineer

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Rick McVay as County Highway Engineer, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

County Highway Superintendent.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to retain Mr. Robert Young as LaPorte County Highway Superintendent, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

General Foreman

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ron Dombkowski until August 1, 2006, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a 2-1 vote with Mr. Harmon voting no.

Garage Foreman

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Steve Cox as Garage Foreman, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Bridge Forman

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Dillard Lawson as Bridge Foreman, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rolling Prairie District Foreman

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Lee Wuthrich as Rolling Prairie District Forman, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Hanna District Foreman

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Clifford Poff as Hanna District Foreman, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Utility Inspector

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Mr. Richard Dombrowski as Utility Inspector, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Right to know Director

Mr. Hager Roger is going to retire April 1st.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to appoint Mr. William M. Poag as the Right to Know Director and Hazmat, second by Mr. Hager.

Mr. Hager, question what are we doing with Mr. Roger Wolff, he is going to retire April 1st.

Mr. Harmon, I would like for Mr. Wolff to serve as an Interim Director or an Assistant Administrator to help with the change over takes place. Mr. Wolff has a lot of knowledge that we would like to be privy of and would be helpful for us the next three months and I hope he is willing to take that position. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Data Board

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Tulacz has retired in the interim we ask that the board appoint the Assistant Director Ms. Darlene Hale as Interim Director until the Data Board submits three names to the Board of Commissioners for a permanent director. Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Ms. Hale, the Chair will second the motion. Motion carried with a roll-call vote of 2-1, with Mr. Hager voting nay.

Board Appointments

LaPorte County Public Library

Mr. Hager, made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ed Frank to the Board of Trustees of the Michigan City Public Library, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to reappoint Mr. Gene Parrett to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Animal Control Board

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Gerald Wagner, Patty Shively and Barbara Hooper to the Animal Control Board, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Construction Review

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint John Blake and Ken Wojecick to the LaPorte County Board of Construction Review, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Health

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Rakesh Gupta, MD and Sherry Waters to the LaPorte County Board of Health, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Convention Tourism Board of Managers

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Dave Decker and Jack Arnett to the LaPorte County Convention Tourism Board of Managers, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Drainage Board

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Lee Reinfurth and Ted Daube to the Drainage Board, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Emergency Medical Service Council Board

Mrs. Huston made a motion to reappoint Natalie Painter to the LaPorte County Emergency Medical Service Council Board, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Mr. Hager made a motion to reappoint Mr. Dale Ellis to the LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Tax Assessment Board of Appeals

Mr. Harmon, there are two positions open the terms expired 12/31/05 these are a one (1) year term of office that of Carol Conley and Joie Winski, if we can take them individually are there any other names to be brought forward.

Mrs. Huston, nominated that of Beverly Parrett.

Mr. Harmon, do we have any other nominations? There being no other nominations, nominations closed. All those in favor of Mrs. Beverly motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

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

Commission Liaison Positions

Mr. Harmon reads Liaison Positions as follows.

County Highway: Commissioner Harmon, Commissioner Huston and Commissioner Hager. Mrs. Huston concur with the liaison positions, second by Hager motion carried 3-0.

County Home Liaison: Commissioner Hager

Plan Commission: Commissioner Harmon

Right to Know: Commissioner Hager

Northwest Regional Plan Commission: Commissioner Harmon

Animal Control Board: Commissioner Huston

Workforce Development: Commissioner Harmon

Northern Indiana Regional Plan Commission: Commissioner Huston

Drainage Board: Commissioner Hager

E-911 Board: Commissioner Harmon

EMS Board: Commissioner Huston

EMS Board: Commissioner Hager

DATA Board: Commissioner Huston

Juvenile Services Board: Commissioner Huston

Solid Waste Management Board: Commissioner Harmon, Commissioner Huston and Commissioner Hager

Local Planning Council: Commissioner Huston

LaPorte County Fair Board: I am asking that this position be held off for a few weeks.

Regional Bus Authority: Commissioner Harmon

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

DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION

Mr. Harmon reads the Designation of Publication in its entirety.

Mr. Hager made a motion to adopt the Designation of Publications, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

LEGAL NOTICE

Mr. Harmon, public notice of Executive Sessions.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to adopt the Notice of Executive Sessions, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Mr. Harmon reads the notice of Commission Meetings in its entirety.

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

This will be known as Resolution #2006-01

AGENDA NOTICE

Mr. Harmon we need motion stipulate the time that anyone wishes to get on the agenda prior to the meeting, the deadline will be the Thursday prior to the meeting at 4:00 p.m. prior to the meeting date.

Mr. Hager made a motion to adopt a policy to be on the agenda notice needs to be received in the commissioner's office no later than the Thursday prior to the meeting by 4:00 p.m., second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioner's review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

PAYROLL

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve Payroll Ending January 13, 2006, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CLAIMS

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$920,822.22, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Al Ott, Stationary Engineer/ Request CCD Funds \$125,900.00

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Ott was not available to attend the meeting so we will need to table this until our next meeting.

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

Norm Kleist, County School Superintendent/ 2006 Holiday Schedule Approval

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the 2006 Holiday School Schedule, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

James Arnold, LaPorte County Sheriff/ Request CCD Funds \$301,600.00

Mr. Del Ott, we are asking 300,000.00 for vehicles and \$1,600.00 for office machines.

Mr. Hager, what machines do you have to replace?

Mrs. Huston, do you have broken machines now you just want to replace the money, is that correct.

Mr. Ott, we take them and get them repaired or replaced if necessary.

Mrs. Huston and it would be hard to come back and ask for the additional \$1,600.00 at that time.

Mr. Ott that would cover all kinds of repairs.

Mrs. Huston, repairs or replacement.

Mr. Ott, it is going to be repairs and replacements.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve \$300,000.00 for the vehicles and have Mr. Ott come back to ask for the office machine funds when needed, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Office Supplies for LaPorte County Government Offices

Mr. Harmon, the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners have approved the following companies Kemps Office City as a primary for all office supplies if for some reason Kemps Office City is unable to get the supplies you need you can then go to Staples. Also for specialty items such as the Clerk's Office uses such as marriage certificates and leather bond books those items may be purchased thru Haywood Printing.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the companies as stipulated, second by the Chair.

Mr. Harmon, questions on the motion.

Mr. Hager, what if we central purchasing with the cities, what would that do.

Mr. Harmon, if we get the central purchasing program up and running then we will revisit this.

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

Wells Fargo Representative/ Direct Deposit

Peter Essig, I was asked to come and discuss the proposal that we presented to the LaPorte County Auditor on ACH which would facilitate direct deposit. ACH stands for automatic clearance housing basically it is an electronic way to transfer funds and allows you to have direct deposit for your employees. Why this is a benefit to the county as far as an employer is because it can be integrated into the existing payroll software that you use, once the money is transferred it is available to the

employee right away. The funds can be sent to any legal bank or any credit union; we offer services for any employee who does not have an account.

Mr. Hager, how long will this take to be set up?

Mr. Cudney, the deposit process will be immediately into the bank account so the funds are available immediately.

Mr. Hager, how long does it take to set this program up?

Mr. Essig, the deposit process can be set up within a one week period from the time that you decide this is what you want to do.

Mr. Harmon, being that this is going to be a mandatory and some don't have accounts how are you going to handle that issue.

Mr. Essig, we have a specific account that can help with that and receipt with that and everyone qualifies for it and they can just come to the bank and get it. Now it is also available you do not have to use Wells Fargo it will go to any bank or credit union.

Mr. Hager, how long Mrs. Shuter will it be get everyone educated in the county?

Mrs. Shuter, I am anticipating it is going to take a little while, probable a month.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to allow Mrs. Shuter to move forward on the mandatory direct deposit with Wells Fargo Bank, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Waste Transfer Station:

Mr. Harmon, I am going to ask that this be put under "New Business" in reference to the Waste Transfer Station, if there are no objections from the board, hearing no objection. I want to give a statement first, then a resolution that I want the board to consider passing. I am asking for the support of my fellow commissioners to support the resolution I will open this for comment.

Mr. Ted Cudney, I live an 11313 West Earl Road in Michigan City. I think that this is a wise choice for the commissioners to take as there has been opposition to this transfer station going into the location that we are talking about at this time. As long as it goes into an industrial park in a proper location we have no problem with that it does not belong in a residential area.

Attorney Friedman reads proposed resolution.

Mr. Harmon, the appeal process is 15 days after it is filed are we passed that to get involved with this.

Mr. Friedman there is a petition been filed by Porter County we will seek to determine to see if we can intervene there is a process under Indiana Law that says permits for potential intervention there is a prehearing conference set for January 9th and a state hearing for January 19th.

Mr. Cudney: the January 9th meeting has been changed to January 10th.

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

Mr. Harmon, this will be known as Resolution #2006--02

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

Commission President Marlow Harmon adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m...

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Marlow Harmon, Commission President

Barbara Huston, Commission Vice President


William Hager, Commission Member

ATTEST: 
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor

(Approximately 30 people in attendance)