



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

Circuit Courthouse
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Marlow Harmon, President

Barbara Huston

William Hager

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY MARCH 7, 2006

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 in the lobby level meeting room #3 of the LaPorte County Annex and Security Complex at 6:00 p.m...

LaPorte County Commission Vice President Barbara Huston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m...

Present at the meeting were Commission Vice President Barbara Huston and Commission Member William Hager. Commission President Marlow Harmon was absent. Also present were County Attorney Robert Szilagyi, Executive Secretary Linda and Commission Assistant Monique Gillard.

Commissioner Hager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hager made a motion to amend the agenda to omit the addendums for LaPorte County Offices but approve the LaPorte County Home. Motion carried with a voice vote 2-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2006 as submitted, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

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

CLAIMS

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Payroll Ending—March 10, 2006, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$158,184.56, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attorney Shaw R. Friedman, Update on Transfer Station Litigation

Mr. Friedman, I wanted to update you on the counties intervention on the Great Lakes Transfer Station case which is now pending before the Department of Environmental Management Office of Environmental Adjudication. I have enclosed for the record a copy of the administrative law judge's order along with the background material for you. Attorney Friedman explains the issue and testimony for Commissioner Huston and Plan

Commissioner Ray Hamilton and by IDEM and the issues of public comment. The issue before the judge we will be preparing conclusions by April 3rd.

Michael Hollcraft & Robert Wagoner/ East Emery Road

Mr. Hollcraft reads correspondence letter sent to the Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. Huston, would you like to add anything else.

Mr. Hollcraft, we are asking for support.

Mrs. Huston, so you do not live on that road, you access your property to that road.

Mr. Hollcraft, Mr. Wagoner has asked me to speak on his behalf, he has suffered economic loss related to this road and the non access. He has had renters leave because they have not been able to get access to the road.

Mrs. Huston, Mr. McVay did we not go out there and trim trees and put down gravel to try to improve the road?

Mr. McVay, we did but I don't think paving is going to improve the access of that road.

Mrs. Huston, there are no houses on the back of this road.

Mr. Hollcraft, there was a farm house but it burnt down and there are trailers back there where he had renters but they left due to non access to the road.

Ms. Wagoner, the school bus comes the mail carrier comes and there is electric.

Mrs. Huston, do you plan to develop that property.

Mrs. Wagoner, if our grandchildren don't take it over.

Mr. Hollcraft, there are about 2,000 trees that need to come down.

Mr. McVay, we only have so much money to take down trees and last year we ran out of money and just because they are marked doesn't mean we would get it done.

Mr. Hollcraft, there was \$9,000 left in that budget for tree trimming.

Mrs. Huston, are there any homes back there.

Mr. Wagoner, no one will build back there because of the road and the county has done nothing to that road in 45 years.

Mr. McVay, the way we look at the roads is that the county does not look for roads to help for developers.

Mr. Hollcraft, we just want our road paved.

Mr. Hager, we can take no action tonight because we have only two commissioners here tonight, Mr. McVay will you and Bob look at it and get to us by the next meeting.

Mr. McVay, Yes.

REQUESTS

LaCrosse Harvest Moon Rendezvous August 5& 6, 2006/ Request \$500.00 for Advertising

Mr. Hager, we have granted this before so I move to approve the request for \$500.00, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

LaPorte County Attorney Robert Szilagyi/Resolution of Excess Property Resolution #2006-05

Mr. Szilagyi, this is a request for property on Willard Avenue and we have to advertise and send notices to the papers and the adjoining land owners. The bids would have to be in by March 20, 2006.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the Resolution 2006-05 as Excess Property by title only, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0... This will be known as Resolution 2006-05

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation/ Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 5-11, 2006

Mrs. Huston reads the Proclamation in its entirety.

Mr. Hager, made the motion to approve, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

Mr. Hager, we have a new weather station which will be going into effect by the end of the month so everyone will be made aware of severe weather.

Commissioners Approval of Addendums to the Personnel Policy-Resolution #2006-06

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the addendum to the LaPorte County Home and table the rest until they get with the County Attorney Szilagyi for our next meeting, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Andrews, we are addressing the vandalism in our area and the cost and expenses to all in the area. The increase in the loss of mailboxes increased to 6 or 7 at 50-60 dollars. I have pictures that are recent to the mailboxes and posts one of the things you will not see is mail the mail is blown away your bills are gone. One of the things lost was my taxes it made no difference I had to pay the late fee. Mr. Joe Eckovich they had a sign and it was destroyed which the cost to replace is \$1,500--\$2,000.

Mr. Richard Gibson, I have lived there for 8 years and in the last 2 ½ months I have lost 6 mailboxes. I have retainer walls around my trees and they are missing most of the time, I am at the point I am at now is having a portable mailbox.

Mrs. Huston, Mr. Gibson & Mr. Andrews I know you have made several calls to the sheriffs department, how long has this been going on this severe?

Mr. Gibson, since the middle of December I have lost at least 6 mailboxes.

Mr. Hager, does it matter what day of the week it is?

Mr. Gibson, no not really but the sheriff did bring me my mailbox back from the lady that it went through her front window.

Mr. Andrews, we should be able to deduct our losses from our property taxes.

Mr. Szilagyi, that is not possible, it is not the county that caused the problem. You need to contact the sheriff and you need a neighborhood watch and get with the Post Office that is a federal offense.

Mr. Andrews, I have contacted the U.S. Mail now is a private corporation, I contacted the Postal Service and the only thing they can offer us now is a post office box. I am not here to judge anyone but since we cannot collect from the insurance company unless you can collect the insurance company they will require you to get a police report and only then and after a while you get tired of hearing the same thing over again so we just quit calling because nothing was happening and now it is getting worse. I am saying is someone is going to get hurt and the only thing that saved Mr. & Mrs. Gibson is that the truck did not slide on that snow and go thru that window. We do figure that one way we could recoup was to be able to deduct it from our taxes, I did hear in South Bend, St. Joe County they did have something like this, I will try to find out.

Mr. Szilagyi, I think the commissioners will get with the sheriff's department and ask them to get someone out there to talk to you about a neighborhood watch group and see what they can do.

Mrs. Huston, if you do find out anything from St. Joe County please let us know.

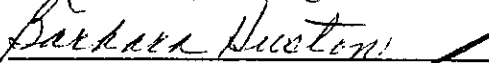
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

Commissioner Huston adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m...

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA


Marlow Harmon, Commission President


Barbara Huston, Commission Vice President


William Hager, Commission Member

ATTEST: 
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor

(Approximately 23 people in attendance)