

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

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Barbara Huston, President

William Hager, Vice
President

Mike Bohacek, Member

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2007

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 in the LaPorte County Complex meeting room #3.

Present at the meeting were Commission President Barbara Huston, Commission Vice President William Hager and Commission Member Mike Bohacek. Also present were LaPorte County Auditor Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Attorney Robert Szilagyi and Executive Assistant Monique Gillard.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commission President Barbara Huston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Hager led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hager made motion to approve agenda, second by Mr. Bohacek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

WEEKLY REPORTS

The Commissioners review and sign weekly reports during meeting.

CLAIMS

Payroll

Mr. Bohacek made motion to approve payroll ending February 23, 2007, second by Mr. Hager. Also, Mr. Hager made motion to approve payroll ending March 6, 200, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with voice vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims

Mr. Bohacek, made motion to approve miscellaneous claims in the amount of \$957,169.13, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Regular Claims

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve regular claims in the amount of \$1,673,604.26, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carol McDaniel, LaPorte County Assessor/ Reference Taxes

Mrs. McDaniel, The reason I'm here today is to explain the question as to why our 2007 tax bills are going to be late. There are three obvious reasons for this delay, 2006 can't be started until the Auditors Office was done willing to pay 2006 value while most counties had completed this process by August 2005. LaPorte County was not done until January 06. Additionally the county's vendor, Nexus Group, assisted the Auditors Office for at least three (3) months to get this process completed before they proceed with the trending, all together the

dealing and rolling over the 2005 pay 2006 assessed values that coming forth every 4 months delay in the trending. The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance issued new directors to the county in October of 06, with the regards of trending and to the insuring ratio study, these directives created additional work which was not obviously required, this includes the inclusion of the history assessment data. The details of all the sales are not included in the study and new methods to include vacant landfills that were previously omitted from such space studies. The imputing of value for developer discounts and also the sales disclosure compliant which has never been done before and it took us eight (8) months to get that finished, the directed accounts coming one month delay in the trending. Several underlying problems in the county software system, especially in the evaluation of the lands were discovered in short nearly 20,000 assessment records had to be opened in order to get the new land values appraised. Also, the two previous assessment vendors who failed to properly determine depreciation on many approved throughout the county these records also require some additional attention and Manatron gave us no support. Together these three issues resulted in a delay of at least five (5) months and the majority can be tracked back to getting the 05 assessed values rolled and to this letter is an attachment and I'll briefly go through that. With the appeals, 2003, 2004, and 2005 in outstanding appeals we have 61 left. The law firm of Meighan & Associates has saved the county \$1,851,214.00 in assessed value per year with developing actual tax dollars taken from approximately \$125,200.00 in our sales disclosure. After sending all the original copies of the exempt files, they decide that the database that gets transmitted to the state has to include the exempt transaction. It took the DLGF 3 months to find ours and return it to the Assessor's Office. Today the 04 the 05 sale disclosures have been approved and compliant. After reviewing and visiting all the industrial and commercial property in Center Township the result in changing into approximately 80% of all the parcels, Michigan Township land value along Lakeshore Drive on average value has increased 75% since 2002. We have been working with the landlords for rental properties; we now have 600 rental properties in our database. Were working with the previously signed neighborhoods, we have reduced the number by thirty (30). We have worked with the Greater Northern Indiana Association of Realtors for exchange of data and developed a LaPorte County Assessment website. In the last section it is the database maintenance and support. After doing an inspection of records we found in 2002 twenty- five hundred (2,500) properties have been overridden, depreciated the percentage and each had to be fixed manually. Thousands of parcels that didn't receive any neighborhood factors fixed manually and 20,000 parcels over ridden the land base had to be fixed manually. We had to correct hundreds of neighborhoods and land prices for records in the database. Proval couldn't explain why? So we solicit help from Allen County so we could write the scripts to correct these parcels. In 2005 pays 2006 rolls of assessment value to the Auditors Office prove to be a big problem, Proval was unable to lend assistance in the procedure, values roll identically to the residential and the non-residential values once streaming into the Auditor's package correctly and The Nexus Group provided approximately 2 months of technical assistance. Trouble with the switch and transfer from Equifax to Proval, the Data Department ruled a split and transverse the correct information was not being transferred to the system. Each time they tried it created another legal description in transfer of ownership. Manatron had LaPorte County do an upgrade to the software in the midst of the roll over hoping that the new version would correct the problem, but it didn't. The Nexus Group had to write several program scripts to find the occurrence of the duplicate legal description in transform history to be with them without destroying historical records. We are still among 50 most duplicate transfers, another thing to remember under the value of Michigan Township, it has generated a savings of one million dollars in our tax break. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Bohacek, can I ask you a question? I just saw your report theirs a law firm Meighan & Associates saved the county \$125,000.00. What was the fee we paid them?

Mrs. McDaniel, I'll have to get my calculator.

REQUESTS

Michael Mollenhauer, LaPorte County Sheriff/ Request Return of Fugitive

Mr. Sosinski, Recently we brought up a problem with State Board of Accounts through our extraditions that are usually paid out of our unappropriated fund and now were being told were have to come for an appropriated fund. In your budget you have a line item for return of fugitive; currently there is no money in that line item. Quite frankly it makes sense for that line item to be in the Sheriff's budget and not the Commissioners budget. Currently right now we have about \$3,000 in outstanding bills for extraditions that we need to paid and don't have a fund to pay it. I'm requesting that we move this line item into our budget so that I can go in front of the county council and express funding for that line item.

Mr. Hager, didn't you go before the Council the last meeting?

Mr. Sosinski, yes. We paid from extradition fund to pay the bills that were outstanding in 06.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Scott Barlag, Deputy Director, LaPorte County Juvenile Center/ Additional Appropriation for vehicles \$25,960.00

Mr. Barlag, in the packet there is a letter from Bob Parks, the Sheriff Vehicle Supervisor stating that we should trade in two (2) vehicles that his staff works on. They believe that the work on the vehicles is more than what the vehicles are worth. There's also a spreadsheet that shows quotes from four (4) different dealers within the county. LaPorte Chrysler being the low bid. I'd like to you're your approval for trading in the two (2) vehicles and purchasing two (2) from LaPorte Chrysler Plymouth for \$25,960.00.

Mr. Hager, made motion to approve the vehicles, second by Mr. Bohacek.
Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Walt Sell, Director/ LaPorte County Extension Office/ Additional Appropriation from Win Tax 4-H Program \$45,000.00

Mr. Sell, I'd like to introduce you to our co-worker, Patty Keating. Patty is one of our 4-H Extension Educators. I asked Patty to come in case you had any specific questions about 4-H she'd be better qualified to answering than I would. I'm here this morning to request the approval for funding for 4-H programs activities for 2007. As noted in the letter these funds will be used for premiums, pay for judges, ribbons workshops, handbooks for 4-H and possibly 4-H equipment. The amount were requesting this year is \$45,000 which is an increase of \$5,000 from last year as were projecting some possible increases from certain areas such as judges. Last year we had 1412 4-H members, we don't know the enrollment for this year, but we think it amount to about \$32.00 per 4-H member.

Mr. Hager, made motion to lower and appropriate \$40,000.00, if it goes over that doesn't mean you can't come back, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Kay Felton, LaPorte County Home Administrator/ Additional Appropriation for vehicle and tractor \$24,665.00 and \$11,759.54 for tractor

Ms. Felton, I'm asking for actually 3 pieces of equipment, I'm asking for a truck or plow, a new van, and tractor.

Mrs. Huston, are you amending your request?

Ms. Felton, no, it's your pleasure.

Mr. Bohacek, does the maintenance bring the snow blowers out?

Ms. Felton, yes. I am asking for a truck. Also this truck wouldn't be used just in the winter; we do a lot of hauling out there.

Mrs. Huston, what year is the Astro Van you're trading in?

Ms. Felton, we have 2, we have a 1993 that is outdated and we don't run that one.

Mr. Hager, I thought you needed to replace that van.

Ms. Felton, we do have a van that is a 2004 and it doesn't has a lot of miles on it, but it's a big van and when we did buy it we did by the lower running boards but they're still too high and my residents are having a tough time getting in and out. We thought we can get a more streamline van, something lower to the ground.

Mr. Hager, I think you need two vans out there, when I've been out there the two vans have been gone quite a bit. I think you'd be better off with two vans out there than a pick-up truck out there. We keep increasing the population out there and your going to need that extra van. The Maintenance department is going to be changing now and we have two or three pickup trucks here. I know the County Highway is more than happy to help you anytime they want. I would rather see us go to a commercial tractor out there with a blade. That's what my preference would be.

Mr. Bohacek, the primary purpose of the pick up truck is going to be for getting supplies, and snow removal. Right now the County Highway provides snow removal, right?

Ms. Felton, they come in and they make a path. They plow out the big lots. Our parking area we have one in front and one in the back and we have all that area out by the barn that we plow out.

Mr. Bohacek, Mr. Young can we make a commitment to the County Home that we're going to get these areas plowed out as a priority?

Mr. Young, we do plow them out. We don't get in there as much as we need to but we can keep a closer eye on it more often.

Mr. Hager, smaller areas you can get a tractor in with a blade on it, and pile the snow somewhere, better off than pushing a plow.

Mr. Bohacek, do we have a blade on any of our portable drive trucks that the County Highway currently has.

Mr. Young, we have 1 tons, we don't have any on pickups.

Mr. Hager, the maintenance department does.

Mr. Bohacek, we just have to find what department is going to be held accountable. I'll make a second on Mr. Hager's motion.

Mr. Hager, made motion to deny the truck and the tractor and go to a caboda, 34 horses 4x4 with a front end loader on it which is a commercial vehicle for \$15,548.00, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager, you have requested a van? How much is the van?

Mrs. Huston, it is on here from Pine Chevrolet.

Ms. Felton, that's with the trade-in?

Mrs. Huston, the lowest is the Chevy Uplander from Harbor for \$15,400.

Mr. Hager amended the motion to put in the van for \$15,423.95

Mrs. Huston, the amendment to the motion is to deny the truck, approve the caboda tractor with the front loader and to approve the van from Harbor Chevrolet in the amount of \$15,423.95. Motion carried with roll call vote 3-0.

Jane Bernard, Director LaPorte County Animal Shelter/ Additional Appropriation \$25,000.00

Jane Bernard, We were the 4th owner of the vehicle and it has become a safety issue as I was speaking with Mr. Parks. I called Mr. Parks and asked him if their was any vehicles that we can take from another department and he stated all the vehicles are close to 100, 000 miles. He suggested we get a new truck. Mr. Mrozinski did a lot of the leg work, the quotes you got was for a 3 quarter ton pickup truck. We don't need that large of a vehicle; secondary quotes are for a half ton pick up truck. I'll need some additional money, that's why I'm asking for the \$25,000.

Mr. Bohacek made motion to approve out of CCD Fund, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Pat Pease, EMS Administrator/ Additional Appropriation from Win Tax for \$11,000 for furniture and equipment

Donna McClay, were asking for \$11,000 for equipment at all 3 bases and furniture.

Mrs. Huston, can you elaborate on the request as far as the equipment that you now have.

Ms. McClay, we have old furniture, we don't get furniture often and were in need of these items at this time. Were trying to replace with sturdier maybe office furniture or more industrialized furniture.

Mrs. Huston, your request for the Michigan City base, you have a storage shed. Is that for outside?

Ms. McClay, we have lawnmowers and snow blowers and they're all in the base garage taking up a lot of valuable room and the Wanatah base is small too.

Mrs. Huston, you have kitchen appliances for LaPorte base, can you elaborate?

Ms. McClay, refrigerator, Michigan City has one that has been leaking. It has been repaired in the last 6 months.

Mrs. Huston, do you have cost on each one of these request?

Ms. McClay, no, we have estimates. Were going to try to get the best equipment for our dollars any money that we do receive less than that will be returned for sure.

Mr. Bohacek, will you be able to provide authorization before you go to the Council?

Ms. McClay, I'm approved tonight, I will go before the council tonight. We have approximately \$8,000 in furniture, about \$3,000 in sheds and toilets, and a flag pole.

Mrs. Huston, your second request is strictly EMS that's out of an account that you have. For the base down in Kingsbury. You're asking for the \$7,000 out of that amount for outerwear, coats.

Ms. McClay, those are items that we buy infrequently, but are in need of getting out.

Mr. Hager, I think you'd be better if you had a quote, I don't like the idea of not having them itemized.

Mr. Bohacek, I'd would feel better if it was itemized.

Mr. Hager, made motion not to exceed \$11,000, and recommend and itemized list for the Council.

Mr. Bohacek, the \$11,000 coming out of the Win Tax fund. What about the additional overage. You have \$11,500.00

Ms. McClay, I don't know why it says that.

Mr. Hager, made motion that we don't exceed \$18,100.00, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with roll call vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Soil & Water/ Request for Rent in the amount of \$4,857.00 annually out of Win Tax

Roger Eggert, Chairman of the Soil & Water Board. As you can see we have a request for \$4,875.00 for rent. Since Federal funds have been cut from their budget, their requiring districts to pick up a portion of it.

Mrs. Huston, theirs no hidden fees in this? That's annually and it's \$4,857.00 and that's all. That's for the whole year.

Mr. Eggert, on the second page it'll show currently what their asking for this year. Currently what they're asking for is a charge per square foot. We have hired an Education Coordinator in January of this year. After the first round of rent their requesting a requirement.

Mrs. Huston, next year it'll be \$9,000 for an entire year for rent your whole stay.

Mr. Bohacek, that's including everything. Conference rooms, phones.

Mr. Eggert, per square foot is based on workspace.

Mr. Bohacek made motion to approve the request in the amount of \$4,857.00, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with roll call vote 3-0.

Attorney David McCain/ Approval of New Durham Township Appointments

David McCain, In New Durham Township last fall the township board had three (3) members and only one person ran for office and one person elected on a three (3) person board. There's a statute on township boards that provide that a town board member once selected holds office until the successor is elected to qualify. There's also a provision in the Indiana Constitution that states that any office holder except the member of the General Assembly is elected to office. So if someone's elected to office at the end of that person's term, nobody's run for the office, that person is still in office until he or she resigns. There were two (2) members who did not run for re-election and they both agreed to continue to serve. Based on the statute and on the constitution, they have to go for another 4 years our General Assembly passed a statute that says in case of township board, the only office it applies to. The County Commissioners shall determine who held over and it doesn't apply to any other office. We're asking to adopt a resolution determine that the two (2) members who agreed to continue to serve Jay Pease and Dennis Gropp are in fact still in office.

Mrs. Huston, why didn't they run?

Mr. McCain, I have not talked to them the Township Trustee has talked with them, I don't know why they didn't run. When we thought we had this resolved and nobody ran the Trustee talked with them to see if they'd be willing to finish. Their term would be for another four (4) years. If they don't want to serve 4 years then they'd need to resign now, so we can select a replacement for the ordinary process in filling the vacancy.

Mrs. Huston, if they didn't run obviously they didn't want to, but now they're saying they do.

Mr. McCain, they can do either two things, they can say we can continue to serve or resign. If they were resigned we'll fill the office by an ordinary caucus procedure but they said they would serve.

Mr. Hager, made motion to adopt the resolution, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with voice vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney/ Ordinance to Establish Copy Fees

Attorney Szilagyi, I gave you a revised ordinance. The other part that was added was an old ordinance from the early 1990's, for data. They wanted a copy of tax records at \$75.00 per use or .10 per partial whichever is the greater. A recent issue came up where somebody wanted to take a disc and donate the disk to data to copy all of the parcels in LaPorte County which came up to \$6,000 for only 2 hours of running the disk. It was reported to the Public Access Counselor who indicated that's over charging because it doesn't cost that much to reproduce. So, basically you have \$75.00 for the disk, because somebody only took 2 or 3 hours for the county and \$60.00 if they're going to purchase the disk.

Mr. Bohacek, there's plenty ways to copy information or in the case one property owner interested in more information where CD's become the owner's, try to copy 50 to 60 CD's, so you want to provide us with a mass storage device. How are we going to warn them for something like that? Are we going by cost per hour for the employees or would it just be a sign for the cost for one disk. Can we modify that ordinance? I would like to make an amendment that a mass storage device provided by the requestor be assessed at single \$60.00 charge.

Mrs. Huston read the ordinance in its entirety.

Mr. Bohacek, made motion to adopt, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with voice vote 3-0.

Ordinance 2007-02.

Mr. Hager, we tabled it at the last meeting. We need a motion to remove from the table.

Mr. Bohacek, I think we took it off the agenda.

Mr. Huston made motion to suspend the rules and for second reading and additions.

Mr. Bohacek, made a motion to accept on second and final reading by title only, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, this will be known as 2007-02. We will see to that is distributed to all departments.

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney/ Community Corrections Personnel Policy

Attorney Szilagyi, Community Corrections provided me with their amendment to the personal policy. That policy basically pertains to vacation days the Community Corrections started out underneath the Sheriff's policy. Everything else is the same as our policy. Now the other problem it has to go the Community Corrections board, their board that's in charge of Community Corrections.

Mrs. Huston, I have a question on the personnel policy. And I understand it is through the Sheriff's Department that all county employees after 1 year of service don't get 12 days vacation.

Mr. Szilagyi that might be.

Mrs. Huston, for Community Corrections I think after 1 year, I think we should go by ours. They work obviously different shifts than Community Corrections they work more less our 8-4 shift that the county works and I have an objection to their 1-5 years of service for 12 days after the first year. I think that's excessive, I think understand its Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Hager, made motion that they go with the County Policy on vacation time, second by Mr. Bohacek.

Mr. Szilagyi, if we do that, what about those that already have the time.

Mr. Hager, they would start out at the beginning of this year. Starting this year they would go by the county policy.

Mr. Bohacek, so it'll new hires only from this date.

Mrs. Huston, the motion will be for new hires starting from today to amend this as far as vacation time is accrued for a length of service, 1 or 5 years of service 12 days vacation. That should go through with the personnel policy that 5 days vacation for new hires only, not removing anything from the people who have already been able to record that and that motion has a second. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Szilagyi, it has to go before the Community Corrections Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney David McCain/ Road Vacation Lilac Lane, Lincoln Township

Mr. McCain, this drawing was attached to the petition, the petitioners and their property are colored in with the highlighter. There is no road there now, it was only on paper and it was never established. The road Lilac Lane comes in and goes north, the county has done some maintenance. What were asking to vacate down has never been developed, there is no record of the road being vacated.

Mr. Szilagyi, is that the parcel north?

Mr. McCain, it is south of Fish Lake, I sent a copy to Rick McVay, but haven't heard back from him about any problems.

Mr. McVay, we looked at it this morning and we don't have a problem.

Mr. McCain, I did have an ordinance and it has 3 different descriptions. I have a legal description for that. The petition list four (4) couples.

Mr. Hager, made motion to approve vacation of Lilac Lane, second by Mr. Bohacek.

Mr. Bohacek, you have two (2) different property owners here, are they going to split it in half or how is it going to work.

Mr. McCain, they'll split it in half.

Mr. Bohacek, the road vacation will get split down the middle and whatever they decide to sell? Is that in the ordinance too?

Mr. McCain, no, when you vacate a street, half goes to each side.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the Ordinance on first reading, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Bohacek, made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second and final reading, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0. This will be known as Ordinance #2007-03

Commissioners Amendment #2 to LaPorte County Benefit Plan

Mrs. Huston, this an amendment to our Employee Benefit Plan, Plan #501.

Mrs. Huston reads the amendment.

Mr. Hager, what was it before it was amended?

Mrs. Huston, it was for employees who don't go to the doctor often.

Mr. Hager, what was the deductible before this was amended.

Mrs. Huston, I want to say \$600 but I'm not sure.

Mr. Hager, I have a problem throwing it in at the last minute and employees not knowing about.

Mr. Bohacek, Mrs. Shuter employees currently on this program and we made an amendment to it, will they have the ability to change their program or would they be held to it for the rest of the calendar year?

Mrs. Shuter, we do all changes for insurance in December for January, but if you're going to change pricing in the middle of the year, I think you would have to give them the opportunity to change.

Mr. Bohacek, this is one of our least utilized programs. Do you have any idea of how many people are on it?

Mrs. Shuter, I believe it's well under 50.

Mr. Bohacek, made motion to accept the change, Mr. Hager, you want to add into that, all families that are on it be notified, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll call vote 3-0.

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney/ Ordinance Sale of Excess Property

Attorney Robert Szilagyi, the resolution on the lot of properties that people have been asking to purchase from the county because they were joining land owners. The public has a right to object to the procedure be it that it come up at the next meeting. So that way if there are any objections or not then we set up a bid process and advertise for bids. I would have to send copies to the adjoining land owners that want to bid on it, the required minimum of \$500 for the bid and that covers the cost to the county.

Mrs. Huston, I don't see an ordinance. We don't have to do an ordinance?

Mr. Szilagyi, no this is not an ordinance, it's just a resolution. It declares excess property and basic public hearing, anyone objecting the property can sell it out to them.

Mrs. Huston, motion is to have hearing and declare it excess property.

Mr. Szilagyi, it's set for the 20th of March.

Mr. Bohacek, made motion to declare excess property and set hearing for March 20th, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with roll call vote 3-0.

Ken Herceg & Tim Wall, Ken Herceg & Associates/ Exterior Restoration Presentation

Mr. Herceg, two years ago you put your trust in us as your representative to work on your jail and on your courthouse. We were delighted to be selected, we are now before you to show you other than the lawn, which we can't work on right. We'd like to show you the end product, we would also be coming before you once again with a change order for the money and that is the final change order which we will have to give some money back to LaPorte County, so that we get a balance that we promised them, it was our intent to work with the contractor and keep in control of this. I would ask Tim Wall, who has been the project architect will make this presentation.

Mr. Wall and Mr. Herceg make power point slide show presentation to the board of the final product of the courthouse.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Donnelly, I'd handed out some information to you. I'd like you to look at the information and see their was a fire in the Pines and the initial investigation points to a homemade outdoor wood burning furnace. There was no one hurt, the owners of the outdoor wood fire boilers they tell them too periodically if not monthly check for pre-soak buildup. The photograph is of a unit in LaPorte currently operating, most of these units are in the neighborhood close to tree lines, close to buildings in the sector they're left unattended. We have some disasters waiting happen just from a fire stand point of view. The pre-soak buildup is enhanced greatly by fact that a lot of the owners of these are burning wet wood, soft woods of the sector. I know that my particular neighbor next to me in the summertime his stack becomes clean. That stack is a yarn outdoor wood fired boiler. That stack has been in operation for 3 years. There is a clean operating unit available to be purchased. To be against burning is not what my intention is. To burn cleanly and efficiently is my intention. I'm begging the Commissioners to put together a committee building help fire, some residents to work on this. Last meeting we talked about possibly a moratorium on new units coming into the county. A handle needs to be put on this. If we don't pay now were going to pay later. This is growing. The evidence is there, it's bad. It's bad for our children. It's ridiculous for us not to look into this. We need to as a community stand up and address the issue; Marion County stood up and addressed it. There's no reason LaPorte County can. We can not wait for NIRPC, we can not wait for the EPA, and we can not wait for IDEM. We have to start taking care of ourselves. Take care of our own responsibilities. This is an initiative that's growing. This is not going to go away. So I appreciate your time. I don't want to take up anymore time. Thank you.

Dale Mofield, own property services here in LaPorte. Were involved with the outdoor wood fire burners market. I think there there avenues out there to allow people to have these alternative meetings so the products would help violating our neighbors with support. Looking into good products and suitable installation and applications there's a product available in the photograph. In there that product actually is in operation during that photograph. There is some other literature in there to support there are manufacturer out there who are trying to get environmentally friendly products that are good for our community.

COMMISSONERS COMMENT


Mr. Bohacek, I have a brief comment on county hiring. Want to ask our elected officials when they have openings within their departments. Although they are not required to follow county ordinances for hiring, proposed to applications. Would ask that they take a broader stance begin notifying all county employees of all full-time and part-time openings within the department. I know the Personnel Policy states as it stands right now that they're only required to notice within the departments only. Going to ask, at their discretion that they please notice the entire county or all county employees so these options can be made available. Additionally when employing a relative be it a part-time employee moving to a full-time position I would like them to also take a stance on our policy. And treat moving a part-time employee to full-time position as being in exasperation.

Mrs. Huston, I'd like to thank our County Highway Department for the job that they did on the recent snow removal I know it wasn't easy for them. They put in plenty of hours of overtime on the trucks in trying to get our roads clear and I think they did an outstanding job. I'd like to apologize to the employees the day we did close the Complex due to snow, some employees did show up for work and I'd like to apologize to them for not getting the word out also request that they do listen to WLOI, WCOE and WEFM in Michigan City where it was broadcast that the county offices would be closed and working with Glen Wallace were going to try to get a call out list to better notify the employees that the Complex would be closed but of course were going to try not to do that again because we know that it puts a lot of people that are coming here and trying to get work done. They aren't able to do that. We'll have to do better in the future as far as notifying them and keeping the courthouse open and not closing it unless we absolutely have to.

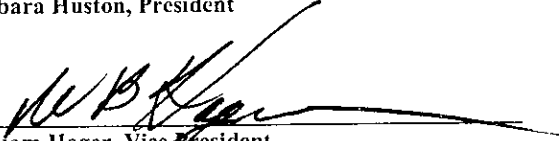
ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m...


LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER
LAPORTE, INDIANA



Barbara Huston, President



William Hager, Vice President



Mike Bohacek, Member

ATTEST: 
Teresa Shuler, Auditor