



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

### Office Annex

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William Hager,  
President

Michael Bohacek,  
Vice President

Barbara Huston,  
Member

### LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thursday December 11, 2008

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

Commission President, William Hager, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Present at the meeting were Commission President, William Hager, Commission Vice President, Michael Bohacek, and Commission Member, Barbara Huston. Also present, LaPorte County Auditor, Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Attorney, Robert Szilagyi, and Executive Secretary, Reathel Noveroske.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bohacek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hager, take off B., Melissa Mischke, GIS Coordinator/Parcel Mapping Ordinance, under New Business.

Mr. Hager, we will add under New Business, G., Barbara Cromey, H., Highway Salt emergency appropriation, I., Sheriff Mollenhauer compensation, and J., Mark Ludlow health insurance. Also on this is the miscellaneous claims.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008, as presented, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried.

### WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

### CLAIMS

Payroll Ending December 12 & December 26, 2008, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims— \$ 1,005,865.69, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Regular Claims —————\$3,530,053.81, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the claims minus the purchase order #675126 to the Nexus Group in the amount of \$127,750.00, making the claims

\$3,402,303.81. I believe this is the last amount paid under contract. They've failed to deliver our 2007 tax bills, 2008 tax bills and this would be for 2009 tax bills. I don't think we need to get deeper in the hole with this vendor that has failed to deliver. We don't typically pay in advance. Motion seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Bohacek, this is for Michiana Shores for the White Ditch, we have been working with them to try to get some bridges resolved. White Ditch is one of the three drains that drain LaPorte into Lake Michigan. It is also the only drain that drains through a residential neighborhood. The town has experienced flooding due to some restrictions on a couple of bridges. Mr. McVay has been out there, the bridges are the responsibility of the county. We have replaced one bridge. The town council has agreed this is a good project and wants to go forward with it. They are giving us a letter of support.

Mr. Hager, we will give the letter of support to Rick McVay to move forward on this for next year.

Mr. Bohacek, I have another letter. Paul Young received some grants for sirens, Michiana Shores does not have one. The town has agreed that they will allow the placement of a siren.

Mr. Hager, we will pass this on to Paul Young.

#### REQUESTS

##### Sheriff Mollenhauer/ Discuss salary for 2009 contract

Mr. Hager, Mr. Mollenhauer has a meeting to attend so we will move him up on the agenda.

Sheriff Mollenhauer, I am here to discuss salary for 2009. You have a copy of the contract. It has been discussed off and on this past year. It mirrors what is going to take affect for all 92 sheriffs in Indiana on January 2011. I presently receive 90% of the prosecutors pay plus tax warrant money. The change would be the same salary as prosecutor which is \$125,647 and I would forfeit the tax warrant money that would go back into the general fund and they can disperse it how they want. It has been suggested through the bill that has been passed for 2011 it could be used for health assistance with pension funds. It would be a cut in salary for me but it is going to be this way in 2011 anyway. Tax warrant money varies between \$15,000 and \$20,000, I think this would benefit the General Fund and simplify things. It is a one year contract and can be discussed again next year. This has been passed by the County Council at their November meeting.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve and allow President Hager to sign on behalf of the board, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

##### Joyce Leon, Human Resources/Employee Wellness Days

Mrs. Leon, this is a program we have done every year for employees conducted by LaPorte Hospital.

Mrs. Huston, this is a free health screen that includes blood tests, health risk appraisal, cardiovascular/fitness test, colorectal cancer screening and blood pressure.

Mr. Hager, the cost will be around \$12,000.00.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

##### Kathleen M. Grillo, LaPorte Superior Court #3/Retain Medical Insurance

Mr. Hager, we approved everything at the last meeting. She wants to retain her medical insurance after retirement.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0. M

#### OLD BUSINESS

Manatron Contract (Tabled)

Mrs. Huston made a motion to remove from the table, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager, this is a contract we've been signing every year.

Mr. Shuter, this is an agreement to allow us to proceed with provisional bills until the reassessment is completed by the Assessor.

Mr. Bohacek, so this is an additional cost we have to bear because of the reassessment?

Mrs. Shuter, the \$40,500.00.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve and allow President Hager to sign on behalf of the commission, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Al Ott, LaPorte County Stationary Engineer/Open Proposals for Telephones, Trash Removal, Vending, Pest Control and Elevators

Mrs. Huston made a motion to close all bids, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Szilagyi opened all bids: Vending - KTC Vending Inc., CL vending  
Telephone – Frontrunner Network Systems, AT&T, Verizon, TDS  
Telephone Data Systems, TRCA  
Pest Control – Hatfield Pest Control  
Trash- Able Disposal  
Waste Management  
Elevator - Kone, Inc., Oracle, Thyssen Krupp Elevator, &  
Schindler Elevator

Mrs. Huston made a motion to turn all bids over to Al Ott for recommendations, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Melissa Mischke, GIS Coordinator/Parcel Mapping Ordinance

Removed

Richard Edwards/Purchase Excess Property

Mr. Edwards, my wife and I would like to submit a bid for \$500.00 for property in Michigan City on the southeast corner of Dahlia and Martin Luther King Dr., 46-01-22-403-008-000-022.

Mr. Szilagyi, he has the resolution in the packet. What we have to do is sign the resolution subject to the publication and submitting bids from the adjoining land owners.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to put this on the agenda for the second meeting in January, 2009.

Mr. Hager made a motion to sign the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Resolution number 2008-15

Tonn & Blank Construction/Application & Certificate for Payment

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve and send to County Council for approval of \$42,335.16, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

John Sullivan, Deputy Coroner/Vehicle & Request Fax Line

Mr. Sullivan, I have been using a used EMS vehicle, which has 175,00 miles on it and will be 13 years old. It needs quite a bit of work. The county garage mechanics and supervisor, Mr. Sosinski, informed me they will no longer repair it because the repairs exceed the value of the vehicle. We were asked by the Commissioners to look for a used vehicle. At Sauers, in LaPorte, we have found a 3 year old basic 2004 GMC Yukon, removable third seat, the price of this vehicle is \$15,000.00.

Mrs. Huston, did you look into a paneled van?

Mr. Sullivan, Yes, I did. I am having trouble finding one that is all wheel drive.

Mrs. Huston, I would prefer you seek a paneled van without the windows.

There was a discussion in regard to this vehicle. Would Sauers certify the warranty on this van? How much transporting has the coroner's office done? Did it have to be 4 wheel drive? What do funeral homes charge for a removal? Did you look for more than one proposal? This vehicle has 60,000 miles on it.

Mr. Bohacek, go look for a new vehicle, paneled cargo van, 2 wheel drive, ½ ton.

Mr. Sullivan, my next request is for a fax line. As you know, Dr. Kora has been using his fax line at his practice in Michigan City. The coroner's office will now be located at my home in Wanatah, IN. The Indiana Coroner's Assn. has purchased for every coroner a combination scanner, fax, printer and copier through a grant through the Criminal Justice Institute.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the fax line, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Commissioners Review & Approval of 2009 Commissioner's Meetings

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the 2009 Commissioner's meeting schedule, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston wanted to make note that the first meeting in January, 2009, will be at 10:00 a.m.

Barbara Crome/Retain Medical Insurance, Payment for Unused Sick Days, and Compensation for Vacation Days

Mr. Hager, Ms. Crome works in the Real Estate Department, they eliminated her job. She will have thirty six years of employment with the county on 1-1-09. She would like to retain her medical insurance at the retiree cost, and be compensated for her accrued 60 days of sick time. Also, with her 36<sup>th</sup> year anniversary date of January 1, 2009, she would be one day shy of receiving five weeks vacation.

Mrs. Huston made a motion that she receive the pay for her sick days and be able to retain her medical insurance but not her vacation days.

Mr. Bohacek, I am not going to second this for one reason. Why would we lay an employee off one day shy of their anniversary date so they couldn't receive their vacation?

There was a discussion about the policies and process.

Mrs. Shuter, there is no funding available to pay that without going back to the council for approval.

Mrs. Huston, I will amend my motion. We will approve the pay for the sixty sick days according to county policy. For the vacations days, send it back to the council since they are the ones that eliminated

her job, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Bob Young, Superintendent of LaPorte County Highway Dept./  
Declare Emergency for Salt Appropriation

This has already been approved by the Council as an emergency status. The LaPorte County Highway has been put on the spot this year with the salt quotes. The big three, Morton, Cargill and North American Salt, all three, chose not to quote us this year. After several requests to them, still no reply. With much searching, I found some salt. The salt originally came from Brazil, it is being loaded onto barges in New Orleans and being shipped to Chicago. We bought a whole barge for \$145.00 a ton which is over \$100 a ton over last year. They have us over a barrel. We are buying salt from people who never sold salt before. We filled our buildings up at the end of last year so we could start off this year, with a three part sand, one part salt mixture. We are going to experiment with different liquids. We are going to try the beet juice & liquid deicers. We will find which works the best and is the cheapest.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the request as an emergency, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, Mr. Young, while you are standing there, I understand that at the Association of County Commissioner's conference, you were awarded Supervisor of the Year for highway departments. We congratulate you and your department.

Mark Ludlow, County Council Member/Retain Health Insurance

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve his request, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hugh Glasgow, from the Union Mills area. I've been a long time proponent of the Travis Ditch bridge going into the Ordinance Plant being replaced. I know the county doesn't own it. Matt Readon has done some work on that. As I understand it, the DNR owns 1/2 of the property has agreed to pay for the bridge to be replaced. This bridge takes all the semi traffic from the Ordinance Plant. That is the only way in and out of that place. That bridge is really, really, bad. I understand that if everything goes as planned, the county will be asked to take over the maintenance of that bridge after it is completed. It is my hope that the county will at least pursue another alternate route into that Ordinance Plant. The logistics in and out of that plant are terrible. It is my hope that this can be improved.

Julie Rosler, Union Mills. This page is from the internet and the document is produced by First Industrial Realty Trust, titled Request for Qualifications from Gateway Development Area of the Former Oakland Army Base. In the document an ILP Communications Board was created to provide clear communication with a unified message to the media, key stakeholders, and the public. I do not know of anyone whose has been informed of anything by this board. There has been no clear communications to the public. The article goes on to say they have also coordinated with all levels of government: local, state, and federal, plus northwest Indiana unions and other northwest Indiana organizations in order to identify and resolve any issues or concerns that may arise as a result of the development of this project. First Industrial also moves on to state that in addition to our public outreach campaign, we are expecting approximately \$150M in offsite infrastructure improvement to be state and federally funded. Last year, when the intermodal task force was founded it was suppose to provide clear and open communication of which there has been little.

Mr. Dennis Metheny, thank you for asking Mr. Sullivan to get a panel vehicle to haul clients. I think it is a good idea that it is marked so that people know that. I am a little disappointed to see that the commissioners only talked to two councilmen to get the approval to go ahead and pay Tonn & Blank. I am not too happy about that as a taxpayer. If it was suppose to go through the Council first, and approved, the contract is null and void if it didn't go through the Council. If this Commission goes ahead and wants to pay this, I think this is ridiculous. Are you going to open and read these bids for these vendors or is that at the next meeting? I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to wish Mr. Hager a happy retirement.

Mr. Michael Kovas, I also am not too enthused about the \$42,355. In my opinion, I do not feel this county needs more structure. I really don't like the idea that you are spending that money on a foundation. That is a lot of money for cement. This was not done democratically. Solid Waste is not our baby. Let them take care of themselves. I understand all the equipment at Soil & Water is owned by the Federal government. If we build this structure for them, are we going to move Federal office furniture & equipment into this building or are we going to have to buy new furniture for them? If Walt Sell needs room for meetings & etc., there is Chesters in Valparaiso that could build a pole building that would blend in with the other buildings. I am 100% against this structure.

Mr. Kovas, we are not getting our tax bills. What is wrong? Let's jack up this movement of taxes and rates that has to come from the Assessor. Please do something about it, it is a disgrace. I am 100% against LOIT.

#### COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Bohacek, I want to thank you, Mr. Hager, for your support during my primary and general elections, and during the last several years, helping me get on my feet a little bit. I hope you are still going to be available for phone calls and for discussions. Enjoy your retirement.

Mrs. Huston, I, too, want to thank Mr. Hager for all of his years at the County and wish him and his wife a happy retirement. I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Bohacek, I spoke with Mayor Chroback yesterday. LaPorte City it appears has a city owned utility sewer sanitation department. They are exploring the potential to be able to set up a sanitary district; the city could then sell their sanitary system to the sanitary district which could provide for them significant cash flow. There is a lot of homework to be done on this, but this is one potential solution.

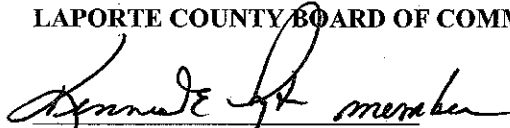
Mr. Hager, congratulations to Mr. Layton, I'm not sure if I should give him my congratulations or condolences. I will cherish all of the people I have met in this county for as long as I live. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will do anything I can to assist the Commission.

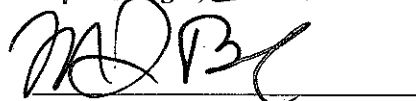
Mrs. Huston, It was in the paper that the Solid Waste District will distribute to anyone who wants one a 96 gallon solid waste container for all of your recyclables or a 48 gallon container. These are all being supplied to you and I would encourage everyone to recycle as much as you can. You will also be given a one time option to buy a second one if need be. The first ones are free.

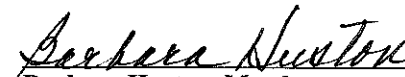
#### ADJOURN

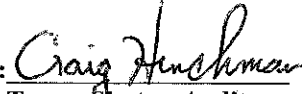
Mr. Hager adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

#### LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
William Hager, President

  
Michael Bohacek, Vice President

  
Barbara Huston, Member

ATTEST:   
Teresa Shuter, Auditor  
CRAIG HINCHMAN