

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350

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*Barbara Huston
President*

*Mike Bohacek
Vice President*

*Ken Layton
Member*

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REORGANIZATION MEETING TUESDAY, January 6, 2009

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Barbara Huston, Mike Bohacek, and Ken Layton. Also present were LaPorte County Auditor Craig Hinchman, LaPorte County Attorney Craig Braje, and Executive Secretary Reathel Noveroske.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Layton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commission President

Mr. Bohacek nominated Mrs. Huston for President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Mr. Layton. There were no other nominations; motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Commission Vice President

Mr. Layton nominated Mr. Bohacek for Vice President of the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Mrs. Huston. There were no other nominations, motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Layton, I would like to add under New Business, #C, LaPorte County Treasurer Lockbox Agreement.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2008, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

County Attorney

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Craig Braje from the law firm of Braje, Nelson & Janes,

seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Insurance Agent of Record

Mr. Layton made a motion to appoint Swanson & Swanson Insurance as interim Insurance Agents of Record for the County Liability Insurance, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept Apex for our health insurance as our agent of record, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Switchboard Operators

See below

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Layton made a motion, in an attempt for expediency, to nominate and approve all Department Heads from 2008 for 2009 with the exception of boards and liaison positions, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, we did have one interim director, Jeff Hamilton, Right to Know Director.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Jeff Hamilton as director to the Rights to Know, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2009

LaCrosse Public Library

Mr. Layton made a motion to appoint Barbara Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Michigan City Public Library

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Hazel Thomas, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Wanatah Public Library

Mrs. Huston, we have one up, it was Linda Werner. Mr. Layton, you were going to check on this.

Mr. Layton, I never got an answer. I think we should table this until we get an answer.

Mrs. Huston, this is tabled.

Westville Public Library

Mrs. Huston, they have requested that Barbara Hannon replace Betty Deaton.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept their recommendation, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mrs. Huston, Sherman Lute is currently serving a one year term.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint Sherman Lute, seconded by Ken Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Animal Control Advisory Commission

Mrs. Huston, we have three that are up for reappointment.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint Gerald Wagner, Patty Shively, and Barbara Hooper, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Construction Review

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint the four currently serving, John "Jack" Blake, Phil Ennis Byers, Joseph T. Wellinski, and Ken Wojecick, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Health

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Trost and approve the appointment of J. Willard Simcox and Dr. A. B. Agrawal, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint Bill Eaton and Paul Zona, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Mrs. Huston, the only appointment that is up is the County Council position.

Mr. Layton made a motion to table this appointment until the County Council gives us their liaison, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Community Right-To-Know Planning Committee

Mrs. Huston, on this board, everyone is on by their title. Mike Mollenhauer, Paul Young, Patty Pease, Mike Bohacek, Robert Young, Rob Sabie, Theresa Wojkovich, Jeff Hamilton, Duane Miller, Kenneth Coe, Paul E. Trost, Terry Rhoda, Bobby Petru, Brent Soller, and Roger Wolff.

LaPorte County Convention/Tourism Bureau Board of Managers

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to retain the appointment of Dave Decker and Gene Shurte, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, we have Marlies Palazzolo, she cannot finish her term and Jim Irwin has been nominated to complete her term.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to have Jim Irwin finish the term vacated by Marlies Palazzolo, seconded by Ken Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Irwin has declined the appointment.

Data Board

Mrs. Huston, the only addition to the Data Board will be John Stimley by order of your office.

LaPorte County Drainage Board

Mrs. Huston, Mr. Bohacek will be taking the County Commissioners appointment, Lee Reinfurth, and Ted Daube.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept those appointments, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, Tony Hendricks, by order of your office, will also go on this board.

E-911 Advisory Board

Mrs. Huston, our appointee is Michigan City Fire Department representative, Dave Lamb, representative of LaPorte Fire Department, Rob Sabie, & Emergency Planning Coordinator, Jeff Hamilton

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept all the nominations, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, also by their office, Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer, Patty Pease, Paul Young, Mayor Kathy Chroback, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chief Marshall Bob Sulkowski, Chief of Police Ben Neitzel and Chief of Police Terry Scherer, James Imes, LaPorte County Fire Chief Assn., Brent Soller, E-911 Director & Beth West, Asst. Director.

LaPorte County Economic Development Commission

Mrs. Huston, Diane Borawski is up for reappointment.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to retain Diane Borawski, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Park & Recreation Board

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to retain Shelly Kiger, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Mrs. Huston, George Earle has asked to be removed from the board and they have recommended Richard Lute to finish out the 5 year term.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Richard Lute to finish out Mr. Earle's term, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Layton made a motion to retain Wilma Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Plan Commission

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint Gene Jonas and John Mott, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, and by office, Tony Hendricks, Surveyor, is also on this board.

LaPorte County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals

Mr. Layton, I ask that we table these appointments. With the number of appeals that is going to be heard this year, I think we need to be in unison with the County Council and their appointments.

Mr. Bohacek, can we appoint Joie Winski?

Mr. Layton, I will withdraw the table and second the motion to appoint Mrs. Winski, motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Then I would like to table the rest of them until we concur with the Council, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Bohacek, I would like to nominate Jim Roy, Mike Gonder, Tony Wintek, and reappoint Sam Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

COMMISSION LIAISON POSITIONS FOR 2009

County Highway

Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Bohacek, and Commissioner Layton

Regional Bus Authority

Commissioner Bohacek

County Home

Commissioner Bohacek

Plan Commission

Commissioner Bohacek

Right To Know

Commissioner Bohacek

NIRPC

Commissioner Layton

Animal Control

Commissioner Huston

Kankakee Valley Workforce Development

Commissioner Layton

Northern Indiana Commuter Trans District

Commissioner Huston

Drainage Board

Commissioner Bohacek

E-911 Board

Commissioner Huston

EMS Board

Commissioner Huston

Data Board

Commissioner Huston

Juvenile Services Board

Commissioner Huston

Solid Waste Management District Board

Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Bohacek and Commissioner Layton

Local Planning Council

Commissioner Layton

Fair Board

Commissioner Layton

Community Corrections Board

Commissioner Layton

DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION—LEGAL NOTICE-COMMISSION MEETINGS—
AGENDA NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Designation of Publication

Legal Notice of Commission Meetings

Agenda Notice

Public Notice of LaPorte County Board of Commissioners Executive Session

Mrs. Huston reads by title only, all of the above.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the designation of publication, legal notice, commission meetings, and agenda notice to the public, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending January 9, 2009, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims--- \$ 6,150,945.56, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Young, LaPorte Co. Hwy. Superintendent/Opening of Material Bids

Mr. Layton made a motion to close the bids, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, we will make these bids available next door for anyone who would like to view them.

Mr. Braje opens the bids:

Volcan Construction Materials, \$30,100
Hall Signs, Inc., unit price bid
Co Alliance, LLP, unit price bid
Rackham Service Corp., unit price bid
Petroleum Traders, Corp., unit price bid
Hanson & Heidelberg Cement Group, unit price bid
Pen Products, unit price bid
LA Traffic Signs, unit price bid
Triple J-Mar Petroleum, unit price bid
The Levy Company, unit price bid
Rieth Riley, unit price bid
St. Regis Culvert, Inc., unable to bid
James H. Drew Corp., unit price bid
EBCO Metal Culverts, unit price bid

Mrs. Huston made a motion to turn over to Bob Young, Highway Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, our Highway Superintendent, Mr. Bob Young, has been awarded two awards this year for Superintendent of the Year from the state of Indiana.

Al Ott, Stationary Engineer/Bid Recommendations

Al Ott, you have a copy of the bid recommendations. Do you have any questions or comments?

Mr. Bohacek, Hatfield Pest Control, did you bid that or did you just want to retain them?

Mr. Ott, we bid it out, but that was the only bid.

Mr. Bohacek, Orical Elevator is the least expensive bidder and you are asking to keep Cohen.

Mr. Ott, there is like \$39.00 a month difference. Cohen's service techs are located within a shorter distance. Orical's techs come from Indianapolis and I think we would have problems.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept Mr. Ott's recommendations, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Nancy Hawkins, Treasurer/ Lock Box Agreement

Mr. Bohacek, made a motion to accept the lock box agreement with Horizon Bank and allow Treasurer, Nancy Hawkins, to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Blythe, President of United Steel Workers Local #12775. I am here on behalf of the 2,000 current NIPSCO employees, 2,000 retirees, and their families. As you know, LaPorte County played a significant roll in preventing NIPSCO from closing the headquarters here in LaPorte. The citizens of LaPorte County certainly appreciate the efforts made by the commissioners. With that being said, I do ask that you actively consider using and retaining Friedman and Associates related to matters with NIPSCO. They have the knowledge and expertise in the field of regulatory affairs.

Dennis Metheny, I would like to congratulate Mr. Braje being appointed the attorney for the county. I appreciate you reading the sealed bids. At the December meeting, the bids were opened but not read. About the Redevelopment Commission, I thought when the Redevelopment Commission was established in the county it was suppose to be in LaPorte and Michigan City, those were suppose to be closed down, The Greater Economic Development Corp. I see they are not closed down yet. Is there anything the board can do to see about getting them closed? I would like to see more people in the county put on these boards. The more people in the county to be on these boards the better government we will have. Is there any way you could possibly have the secretary in your office work the same hours as the courthouse? How do you get a hold of the commissioners if all you get is a recording? Thank you and I hope you have a great year.

Mark Danielson, Larson-Danielson, I would like you to consider what the commissioners thought process will be in the future for the LaPorte County Office Building at the Fair grounds. Will the new legal representation keep that in mind in the future and keep us apprised of things.

Mike Kovas, I have a suggestion. The public's comments are held at end of the meeting. Where as the council, the public's comments are held at the beginning. At the last meeting, everything is passed or denied and then we can talk. I don't think you people really get a true picture of the tax payers choice if they can only talk at the end.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

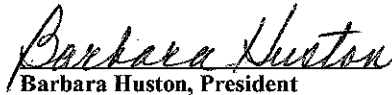
Mr. Layton, I would like to thank the public for their vote of confidence in allowing me to serve them for the next four years. I look forward to challenges and working hand in hand with all the Department Heads and with the County Council. There are financial challenges ahead for this county that are unknown. I agree with one comment Mr. Kovas made, I think that public comments should be at the first of the meeting to talk about anything that is on the agenda and I also believe that if we have a high dollar item, the public should talk before we vote on that financial matter. The Commissioners in the past have lost some credibility and I would like to see that credibility brought back.

Mrs. Huston, would all the Department Heads please stand. Congratulations to all of you. One of the reasons our Department Heads are reappointed is that they do a fine job for our county. We will take all the comments today under advisement.

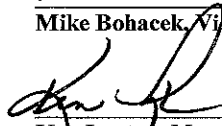
ADJOURN


Mrs. Huston adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barbara Huston, President


Mike Bohacek, Vice President


Ken Layton, Member

ATTEST: 
Craig Hinckman, Auditor