



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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*Barbara Huston
President*

*Mike Bohacek
Vice President*

*Ken Layton
Member*

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Huston, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Hinchman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2009, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

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

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending May 29, 2009, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Miscellaneous Claims—\$3,348,791.51, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Regular Claims— \$1,170,826.95, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ed Muzyka, Welnetz Road, Trail Creek. I am here about the ditches. I have called you, Madame President, and Mr. Young, but no one returned my calls. Mr. Bohacek, you quoted two months ago that you would start moving on the ditches immediately, and nothing has been done. Behind the houses has been dry where they could have dug the ditch to help us out. They have dug 1/3 of the ditch.

Mrs. Huston, I do know that the Army Corps of Engineers stopped us.

Mr. Hendricks, LaPorte County Surveyor, we did have a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers a week ago. They gave us verbal approval as long as we call the DNR and IDEM for their approval. The Army Corp approval is pending the DNR and IDEM approval. We have a plan to finish the ditches in that area and maintain that pipe. We are stalled out, but can't move until the three departments give approval.

Mr. Keith Blozis, I live on the corner of Roeske and Welnetz. I am concerned because I have a sink hole beside my house. I am pumping sand and water. I don't know what to do. We have never had this problem. We need to get something done soon.

Mr. James Donnelly, I am here to tell you that Ordinance #2007-10-B is not working. We have been held hostage in our own home with the windows closed and very little usage of our yards. The Ordinance has a regulatory tool in it which is not working. You cannot read the density of smoke when it is dark. We have 120 plus units that have been grandfathered into the county. These units are the ones that are inefficient. A letter from the EPA states that older, inefficient outdoor wood-fired boilers are a health concern. We have nothing in the Ordinance to deal with these units regarding health. We have over 50,000 residents in LaPorte County that are severely impaired by poor air quality. Would you please take a look at this Ordinance again and see if you can't make it a little stronger?

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Sosinski, LaPorte County Sheriff's Department, Chief Deputy, the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office is currently in line to receive a Justice Assistance Grant for the amount of \$17,365.00. We need the approval of this board before we can receive those monies. Our project for this grant amount is to install technology equipment that will provide greater coverage and reliability for law enforcement data communications. The funds for this grant will be used to purchase three new Windows 2009 servers to replace existing outdated servers. Also, funds would be used to install wireless equipment that will allow our users with MDT's to have access to information on our network as well as internet usage. The total amount that we would spend would be \$17,358.00.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$17,365.00, seconded by the chair, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Tim Morgan, LaPorte County Parks Department Superintendent/Request Services of County Highway Department

Mr. Morgan, we have had two workshops on this, one with the Council and one with the Commissioners. Next Tuesday is when we will address this with the Council. I met with our Council Liaison, Matt Bernacchi, and he was positive about the project. We have been working for several years on trying to remedy this situation. Through grants and donations, no tax dollars, we purchased Red Mill County Park. Since then we have been developing it through grants. A lot of different funding vehicles as well as private donations. We have been trying to remedy and find a solution for the dam that needs to be replaced. We would like to ask your support to request the services of the County Highway Department should the County Council approve the funding of local match for the Great Lakes Fisheries Ecosystem Restoration Grant at Red Mill County Park. We are seeking your permission for the County Highway to assist the Park Department with the work-in-kind as part of Great Lakes Fisheries Ecosystem Restoration Project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. By providing their assistance the County can save thousands of dollars in Work-in-kind toward the local share of this project. The project will be located within the bounds of Red Mill County Park and thus preserving the State Dedicated Nature Preserve, will remove a section of the earthen dam. If you approve this, we would work around the Highways schedule. The project could commence as early as September and run through December 2010. Thanks to Emergency Planning, we did get a reimbursement of \$5,492.78 for emergency work during Hurricane Ike. If you approve the County

Highway to assist in the Work-in-kind for this grant, I would also ask for the \$5,492.78 to go to the County Highway for fuel.

I would also like to thank this board for their past support in letting the Highway Department help with work in kind projects in previous grants. They have saved the County and County Park Department thousands of dollars in the past.

Mr. Bohacek, made a motion to grant this request, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Ralph Howes/Petition to Vacate a Roadway Platted in Indiana Baptist Assembly Grounds (Tabled)

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to take off the table, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Attorney Ralph Howes, I am here on behalf of the Pine Lake Assembly. This was originally platted back in the 1890's as the Indiana Baptist Assembly Grounds. I can find nothing in the county records that ever dedicated the road ways. None the less, the County Auditor's aerials do show a road way. This is an all wooded area; it extends from Holton Road to what was originally designated as Judson Road. We seek to have the roadway vacated.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve by title only, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Craig Braje/LaPorte County Juvenile Services Medical/Dental Services Agreements

Attorney Braje, we are going to ask that you table this agreement. It is prepared but it is being reviewed by Juvenile Services.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to table, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.


COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Huston, I wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Huston, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barbara Huston, President


Michael Bohacek, Vice President



Ken Layton, Member

ATTEST: Craig Hinchman
Craig Hinchman, LaPorte County Auditor