



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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LaPorte, IN 46350

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*Barbara Huston
President*

*Mike Bohacek
Vice President*

*Ken Layton
Member*

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 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. Braje led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Huston and Mr. Layton

Absent: Mr. Bohacek

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009 as presented, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

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

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending October 30, 2009, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by the chair, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Miscellaneous Claims---\$1,935,176.85, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by the chair, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Regular Claims-----\$ 993,487.06, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by the chair, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Schultz, 308 John Street, LaPorte, IN. I have a point of inquiry. The Long Lane and Wellsboro CSX tracks have been closed now for just over a month. I believe it was the 19th of September there was a derailment there. They had the trains going within 36 hours. There is very little activity as far as getting that crossing reopened. They are still cleaning up. It is starting to cause some hardships. How long do they think they can actually keep it closed? Can they keep it closed

indefinitely without any communication with the county? Could the county check and see if they have an end date for when they hope to have it opened?

Mr. Braje, the highway department could inquire what their plans are and we will check into what their authority is to keep it closed.

Mr. Jeff Wright, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, we will track it down.

Mr. Schultz, this is a bus route for three buses and now with grain going in to Union Mills, a lot of farmers use Long Lane versus the highway.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mr. Paul Trost, LaPorte County Health Department Administrator, we want to ask if you would approve an amendment to the contract that we have for our independent contractors for our H1N1 program. We erred and did not include that they could be reimbursed for mileage. They are going to be doing clinics at schools across the county. We would like to be able to pay them mileage through the grant fund.

Mr. Braje, if the Commissioners are interested in approving this, we simply would need a motion to approve the amendment to the contract and revise the language for mileage. We will then prepare the addendum for execution. It is just a matter if the Commissioners are interested in amending the contract.

Mr. Layton, I make a motion to amend the contract to allow mileage for the workers for the Health Department. This motion was seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Trost, we have not gotten a sufficient amount of vaccine in. When we started working with the state and the CDC, they said our first shipment would probably be 1,000 doses. We have gotten about 3,000 over three weeks and the shipment we are suppose to receive tomorrow is only 100. The whole system is back logged from what they projected. It is all in the works, it is a matter of them finishing it and sending it out. In the ensuing weeks, we will be much busier. At this point, we have already done three schools and most medical professionals in the community. With the limited supply we have on hand we are targeting expectant mothers. We are developing and making plans to go into each of the schools. The three schools that we went to worked very, very well. The schools are definitely on board. The schools know how to deal with their children. The flu itself is running across the country and Indiana and we have had several deaths as close to us as South Bend and Lake County. The state and CDC are considering anyone with the Type A virus is most likely the H1N1 or a seasonal flu. The flu is progressing; it is upon us. The school superintendents are reporting daily to us, their absenteeism.

Mrs. Huston, it is good your Health Department has started early in getting your teams together and letting the public know everything. I do want to commend you on that because I do think you were ahead of the curve before the flu started, knowing that someday it would come here. I know your Department is doing as well as it can with what you have to work with.

Mr. Trost, we are working hard to get out the basic message, if you are in one of these target groups, get your H1N1 shots as soon as possible. If you are sick, stay at home, don't spread it around.

Mr. Layton, we have had reports where LaPorte County's Health Department is well ahead of the curve and other Health Departments in our area. I think that speaks highly of you and your entire staff. The citizens of the county thank you for that.

Mr. Al Ott, Building Maintenance Engineer, I would like permission to advertise for the bids for the replacement of the windows in the Michigan City Courthouse and also bids for the upgrading of the lighting in all county buildings.

Mr. Layton, it gives me great pleasure, seeing how this was an in house grant from Mr. Bishop, to let our engineer go ahead with the bidding of this process and take care of these two items. The chair will second the motion.

Mrs. Huston, we are all very pleased, along with Mr. Bishop, for obtaining and bringing this grant forward. We are very glad to be putting new windows in Michigan City and the lights will save us quite a bit of money.

Mr. Ott, would the 17th's meeting be ok for the opening of bids?

Mr. Layton, I think we also need to make public that I spoke with the state's Wage and Hour Division, Mr. Brett Johnston, and there will not be a wage and hour hearing on this project because the grant itself calls for the use of the Davis Bacon wage and hour. There are federal guidelines that we will follow in this process.

Motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Jeff Wright, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, I met with Dave Scarborough in Union Mills about the dam problem in the Mill Pond Park. We have an idea as to what we need to do there. We will talk to the DNR about it, it will take a permit to do. I just don't know about funding and how to appropriate funds for this. I don't think this is something we want to sit on long. We know it is a leaking pipe and it is starting to sag.

Mrs. Huston, I was under the impression we had a grant to repair that along with some other things. I think you should talk to EMA, Paul Young and Fran Tibbot. I think she has put in for a grant for it.

Mr. Layton, Office Hohnke, do you have a report on the scanner issue?

Mr. Vern Hohnke, all of the x-ray equipment has been checked out and everything was sent to Indianapolis. We have received all the paperwork back and we are certified and up to date.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Gregory Reese, LaPorte County Highway Department/Retiree's County Insurance

Mr. Bob Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent, we have everything in order. Greg has been a valuable employee all these years and he well deserves what he is requesting.

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the request, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Layton, as long as you are here, there was a question brought up earlier by Mr. Schultz about the CSX railroad crossing on Long Lane. Have any of the railroad people contacted you?

Mr. Young, they haven't contacted us. I have been there a few times. There doesn't appear to be any damage to our roads, most of the damage is in the approach to the crossing. I can try contacting them.

Mrs. Huston, if you would try contracting them and then Mr. Braje can find out what there intentions are.

OLD BUSINESS

Rescind Ordinance 2008-18, Establishing County Affordable Housing Fund, Advisory and Administrative Committee (Tabled)

Mr. Layton made a motion to remove from the table, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Braje, there are two ordinances involved with this fund. One is the fund itself that the Commissioners passed and then the funding comes from the County Council. Ultimately, to take care of both issues to eventually fix the problem, there will also have to be action by the council, but as far as the Commissioners are concerned, we recommend that you rescind this particular ordinance.

Mr. Layton, on the advice of the council, I make a motion to rescind, seconded by the chair, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Pease, EMS Administrator/EMS Employee Handbook Addendum

Mrs. Pat Pease, this is a follow up to the amendment you made to the personnel policy for the county employees. This addendum is for the EMS field personnel to update the language to coincide with the County's Employment Handbook of policies and procedures.

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

Maximus Consulting Services, Inc./Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services

Mr. Braje, we have looked at this agreement and we are not satisfied with all the language and if we could hear from someone from Maximus, I'm sure we could work it out.

Mr. Layton made a motion to table, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mrs. Huston, Mr. Hinchman, would you contact Maximus and have a representative here or have someone contact our lawyer?

Mr. Hinchman, yes.

Resolution of Continuation of Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Braje, the current resolution we have drafted and if the Commissioners approve we need it signed and we have to return the originals to Mr. Szilagyi for recording.

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Solid Waste System, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

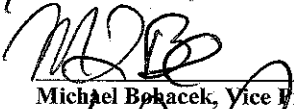
None

ADJOURN

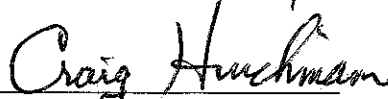
Mrs. Huston, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barbara Huston, President


Michael Bohacek, Vice President


Kenneth Layton, Member

ATTEST: 
Craig Hinchman, LaPorte
County Auditor