



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 - FAX: (219) 326-9103

Ken Layton
President
Barbara Huston
Vice President
Willie Milsap
Member

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Layton, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Mike Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 28, 2012, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending September 14, 2012, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Misc. Claims—\$4,974,785.58, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve in the amount stipulated, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Layton, for clarification, \$4,780,174.34 was a direct transfer in the Auditor's office. It was not expended funds. That was what was approved by the County Council for the construction of the Community Corrections Building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Mills, 1207 Scott Street, LaPorte, IN. I would like to try to get a fund set up so I can have money sent to this fund. I have ten different ways that we can raise money for the barn.

Mr. Willoughby, please call or come in and we can discuss what the county can or cannot do.

Mr. Layton, I was under the impression that the Friends of the Barn were in the process of doing that already.

Mr. Layton, I am going to ask Mr. Willoughby to contact Mr. Biege and find out what he was talking about. Please leave your name, address, and phone number with Mr. Willoughby after the meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Young, Highway Superintendent/Permission To Hire

Mr. Young, I am here to ask permission to go to the council to ask to hire three truck drivers/equipment operators. We are currently five people down and soon to be six; four drivers and two laborers. We are looking to replace three drivers to get them some training before winter.

Mr. Layton, since he is going to be four equipment operators short and two laborers, why don't we just ask the Council to approve all six and see where it goes. We are operating with the same number of personnel that we operated with back in the 50's.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the hiring of six personnel, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote. 3-0.

Lynne Spevak, LaPorte County Clerk/Approval of Polling Hours Per Resolution

Ms. Spevak, these are the absentee hours for the month of October. In 2010 the state law changed where we have to pass a resolution to have a satellite office open and that would be considered the Michigan City Courthouse. The election board passed a resolution to be open starting Tuesday, October 9 through Monday November 5th. We also added extended hours for the last two Fridays, October 26 and November 2 until 6:00 p.m., at both courthouses. The Saturday hours for October 27th and November 3rd are from 8:00 – 4:00. We have to have your approval for the buildings to be open and the one approved satellite office.

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

Resolution Accepting Conveyance Of Real Estate From Center Township

Mr. Willoughby, this proposed resolution, if the commissioners are so inclined, would allow the transfer of a parcel of real estate from Center Township to the County. Center Township previously received this parcel from the state and at that time it was going to be used for a new fire station. Further studies showed it not to be useful for that purpose. Between the state and Center Township they have decided the next best use would be to convey that property to the county. This would allow Center Township to execute and record a deed.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to present the resolution by title only, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TRANSFER OF EXCESS REAL PROPERTY FROM CENTER TOWNSHIP.

Resolution #2012-05

Mr. Milsap made a motion to accept Resolution #2012-05, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Cam-Or Access Agreement

Mr. Willoughby, this agreement is simply a license agreement that if you are inclined to approve and execute, would allow Cam-Or Site Extended PRP Group access to continue clean up of the Cam-Or Superfund Site.

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

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Milsap, just a reminder that tonight starts the DNC so if you get a chance watch it, it should be interesting.

Mr. Layton, to who?!

Mr. Layton, Council President Bernacchi contacted our maintenance department and asked that they do a cursory of the barn that was mentioned by Mr. Mills. Mr. Ott in turn asked for contractors to come in and give RFQ's on the barn and there were several submitted. Mr. Ott spoke with one of the contractors and for them to come in and completely strip the roof, put new sheeting on and then to put 40 year shingles on it was estimated at \$14,000 and a little change. This seemed reasonable to me. I am asking you to think about this and give direction to have Mr. Ott pursue this to see if we can solidify the bids if you are interested in proceeding with this. We can pass this information on to President Bernacchi and he can do with as he wishes.

Mr. Milsap, I think President Bernacchi mentioned that this was a possibility. I think we can pass this on to him.

Mr. Matt Bernacchi, the Friends of the Barn are very aggressive and we instructed our attorney, Dough Beige, that if in fact they wanted to set up a 301C, not for profit, to get in touch with him. After speaking with Friends of the Barn I said I would do my due diligence and contact our maintenance department and get a price through different contractors for either getting a new roof or just putting a sheeting over it to button it up for a year or two while they make their collections. Everyone on the council wants to see this move forward but right now it is tough fiscal times. My idea was just to get an estimate and see where we sit. I would be happy if you made a motion to move it on to the council. I thought this was a good option to look at before winter set in.

Mr. Layton, we have one further option. Due to the aspect that of the previous action we took in changing out the lighting and windows in the courthouse in Michigan City, we have a surplus in our utilities that Mr. Ott seems to think will be a surplus when it comes to the end of the year. There is enough money there if we allow the transfer within the budget item to take care of this project without additional funds. It can be taken care of in the Maintenance Dept. budget.

Mr. Milsap, I would feel more comfortable if we would go step by step with this.

Mr. Layton, I will issue an email tomorrow to the other six council members and your attorney with the information I relayed to you this evening and then you can take it to your council members on the 17th.

Mr. Layton, at our last meeting you asked me where the Kingsbury project was at. I have received a letter from the CSX Transportation. (Please see attached) One other thing I find to be extremely encouraging, we are also on track to designate the Inland Logistics Park in Kingsbury a CSX Select Site in the coming weeks. It's finally coming all together. There are only 26 of these sites east of the Mississippi and we are going to be one of them.

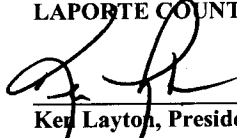
Mrs. Huston, I would like to personally thank Commissioner Layton for all of his hard work as far as this CSX rail. He has had numerous, numerous meetings and because of this it is coming to LaPorte County. A big thanks to you, Mr. Layton.

Mr. Layton, many people have been involved in this over this period of time. I mean CSX, the Halfwassen Group, Mr. Baugher from the City of LaPorte, Mr. Faccinda from Barnes and Thornburg, Mr. Cook from Economic Development; everybody has pulled on the same rope. The light has finally come on in the window.

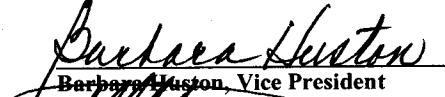
ADJOURN

Mr. Layton, President, adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS




Ken Layton, President



Barbara Huston, Vice President



Willie Milsap, Member

ATTEST: 

Craig Hinchman, LaPorte County
Auditor



Jeffrey S Wagoner
Industrial Development Manager
CSX Transportation
1211 W. 22nd Street, Suite 1002
Oak Brook, IL 60523

31 August, 2012

Ken Layton
President of the Board of Commissioners
La Porte County
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350

Dear Mr. Layton:

CSX Transportation is pleased to advise that the sidetrack agreement has been completed for the construction of a turnout connecting the Kingsbury Industrial Park in La Porte County, Indiana, to the CSXT Garrett Subdivision at mile post BI 206.04.

Given the current projected delivery time for materials, CSXT expects construction to be completed in the first or second quarter of 2013, prior to or within the time frame contemplated for the completion of the balance of the Rail Spur Project within the Kingsbury Industrial Park.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your team on this important project and look forward to bringing additional investment and employment to La Porte County.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Wagoner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey S. Wagoner
Industrial Development Manager

Cc:
ILPK, LLC
Attention: Colin Brent Halfwassen, Secretary
2231 North Booth Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

Chris McGrath
Principal
Providence Logistics
245 Sidney Ct.
Villa Park, IL 60181

Layton, Ken

From: Wagoner, Jeff [Jeff_Wagoner@csx.com]
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Layton, Ken
Cc: Robertson, Clark; Hess, Belinda; Brent Halfwassen; Chris McGrath (mcgrath@provloginc.com); Colin Halfwassen (halfwassen@att.net); Don Baugher; Leigh E. Morris (INDOT) (lemorris@iedc.in.gov)
Subject: Kingsbury Sidetrack Agreement Completed
Attachments: STA Completed Letter to County - Kingsbury.pdf

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We are also on-track to designate the INland Logistics Park - Kingsbury a CSX Select Site in the coming weeks. It's finally coming all together.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your team on this important project and look forward to bringing additional investment and employment to La Porte County.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Jeffrey S. Wagoner
Industrial Development Manager
CSX Transportation
1211 West 22nd Street
Suite 1002
Oak Brook, IL 60523

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