



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Willie Milsap,  
President

Dave Decker,  
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Member

## LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REORGANIZATION MEETING

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

To be held at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

### I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Milsap Called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mary.

### III. ROLL CALL

All Commissioners present.

### IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Auditor Winski opened the floor for nominations. Dr. Vidya Kora nominates Commissioner Milsap for President, Mr. Decker seconds. Nomination carried by voice vote 3-0. Dr. Vidya Kora makes a Motion for Commissioner Decker for Vice President, Mr. Decker seconds, Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

### V. APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR 2013

Commissioner Milsap makes a motion to move meetings from the first Tuesday of each month to the first Wednesday of each month and from the third Tuesday to the third Wednesday of each month. The first Wednesday to be held at 10:00 a.m. and the third Wednesday to be held at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

### VI. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS OF VARIOUS POSITIONS TO ANNUAL APPOINTMENT LIST.

Commissioner Milsap makes clarifications for Department Heads. Commissioner Milsap: Because the Commission is new there were questions about certain departments where a given Commissioner might not be comfortable making a one year appointment without more information about that department or activities of that department head. Consequently, motions may be made to make certain department heads acting when a given Commissioner has questions about either the performance of the department head or wants to evaluate the duties and responsibilities of a particular department. It would be my intention as President to have the Commission re-evaluate the acting designation of each department head listed as acting within 6 months or either to remove the designation, continue the designation, or take some other action as a Commission with regards to the department head. So that we are all clear. Commissioner Kora: Thank you Mr. President, in conferring with our legal counsel I have been counseled that it would be advisable to add certain

positions to our annual appointment list. For those who serve either as a policy making or confidential capacity, and delete those positions that are not, or cannot be considered either policy making or confidential. Accordingly, I'll make the motion that we add the following policy making positions to our annual appointment list: County Planner, IT Director, GIS Director, Commissioners Confidential Executive Secretary. And that we delete the following positions as they are not viewed as either confidential or policy makers: Telephone Switchboard Operators who henceforth should be considered regular county employees subject to the hire and discipline by the maintenance department and Highway District Foreman who henceforth shall be considered regular county employees subject to hire and discipline by the highway superintendent and highway engineer. That would be a Motion Mr. President. Dave Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

## VII. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Kora: We start out with the County Attorney position and I nominate Friedman and Associates for this position. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Commissioner's Confidential Executive Secretary, Robin Surber. Commissioner Decker: Second, Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora:

Insurance Agent of Record- Michiana Insurance, GIS, and Apex. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Switchboard Operators

Department Head Appointments

Commissioner Kora: Acting County Planner, Mitch Bishop. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Acting GIS Coordinator, Melissa Mischke, Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: IT Director, Darlene Hale. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: County Financial Advisor, Carl Cender. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote. 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: County Economic Development Advisor, Matt Reardon. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: We would recommend the County Home Administrator, Kay Felton.

Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Veteran's Service Officer, George Watkins, Acting. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Museum Curator, Susan Richter. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Assistant Museum Curator, Janet Sokorski. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: EMS Administrator, Patricia Pease. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: E-911 Director, Acting, John Dudak, Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Animal Shelter Director, Jane Bernard. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Stationary Engineer, Jerry Cooley. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Emergency Management and Disaster Director, Acting, Fran Tibbot.

Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Inspector of Weights and Measures, Affirmation of Mr. Michael Quinn.

Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: County Highway Engineer, Mike Yacculo. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: County Highway Superintendent, Robert Young. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion Carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Utility Inspector, Richard Dombowski. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Decker: Right to know, Jeff Hamilton, acting. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kora: Mr. President, I'm going to now nominate for the liaison positions for 2013 for the Commission.

Board Appointments- Commissioner Decker: Advisory Boards, we'll start with the library boards. LaCrosse Public Library, Angela Vernon. Michigan City Public Library, Sam Melnick, Wanatah Public Library, Linda Werner, Westville Public Library, Barbara Hannon, Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Hassan Dabagia. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: LaPorte Animal Control Advisory Commission, Lisa Pulazi, Lisa Booth, and Barbara Hopper. Commissioner Kora, Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Board of Construction Review, Jay Fuller, Scott Cooley, John Carr. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Board of Health, Tamara Yagelski, Dr. Richard Houck. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Human Resources Review Board, Commissioner Decker and Commissioner Milsap. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Board of Zoning, Candice Adams, Wally Pritz. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora: Community Corrections Advisory Board, Terry Garner. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Convention and Tourism Bureau Board of Managers, Gene Schurt. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Data Board, Barbara Dean, Lois Sosinski, Michael Schultz, John Dudak. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: E-911 Advisory Board, Lois Sosinski, Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer, Patty Pease, Ron Martin, Andy Snyder, James Imes, Jeff Hamilton, Fran Tibbot, Mayor Blair Milo, Mayor Ron Meer, Chief Marshall Bob Sokowski and Chief of Police Mark Swistek and Chief of Police Adam Klimczak. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion Carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora makes a motion to add John Dudak on the E-911 Advisory Board. Commissioner Decker makes motion to accept. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Economic Development Commission, Pat Harris, Rich Mrozinski, Diane Borawski. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Emergency Medical Service Council Members, Andy Snyder. Commissioner Kora: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Park and Recreation Board, Chris Fronk. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion Carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Kenneth Acre, Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Plan Commission, Hassan Dabagia, Jay Wright. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: Property Taxes Assessment Board of Appeals, Tom Wagner, April Van Buren. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission, Terry Larson, John Knoll, Joe Coar, Pat Harris, Jeff Johnson. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commission Liaison Positions- County Highway, Milsap. Commissioner Milsap: I should make mention that historically all three Commissioners were the liaison with the County Highway Department; however, in 2013 we are going with a single Commissioner to eliminate any confusion. Commissioner Kora: Regional Bus Authority, Decker. County Home, Kora. Plan Commission, Milsap. Right to Know, Decker. NIRPC, Decker. Animal Control Board, Milsap. Kankakee Valley Workforce Development, Kora. Commissioner Decker: I'll second that page. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: On the other appointments, Northern Indiana Commuter Transfer District, Decker. Drainage Board, Milsap. E-911 Board, Milsap. EMS Board, Dr. Kora. Data Board, Milsap. Waste Management, Milsap, Decker, Kora. Local Planning Council, Kora. Fair Board, Decker. County Corrections Board, Milsap. Commissioner Kora: I second that. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### VIII. CONSIDERATION OF POLICY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Milsap: Next on the Agenda is Consideration of policy for participation of public comment, Mr. Decker would you please address that. Commissioner Decker: Yes, I asked Mr. Friedman to draw up something that we can go by in these meetings to have some kind of guidelines on public policy and I think this is taken from basically from the Michigan City School Board, I thought theirs was pretty good, and if you would like me to I would read that to you. Commissioner Milsap: Go ahead. Commissioner Decker: In accordance with the Indiana Open Door Law, all regular and special meetings of the Board will be open to the public because the Board desires to hear views of citizens and organizations residing in LaPorte County, visitors will be recognized in the following

manner. A) when a citizen or organization has requested to be on the agenda. B) During Public Comments portion of the meeting. Rules to follow those addressing the board are as follows: Each person must give his/her name and address when addressing the board. Those persons or organizations that reside outside of the county boundaries may be requested by the President to show bonafide reason for addressing the board. Discussion of agenda items shall be limited to the board, it's counsel and those citizens recognized by the President. All visitors must address their comments or questions to the President, others present may speak only in response to an inquiry from the President for the purpose of providing additional information or clarification to the subject being discussed. No person may present orally or discuss any meeting of the board or any changes or complaints against individual employees of the county, department heads, or elected county officials without first presenting such charges or complaints to the board, through the President, in writing, signed and verified by the group or person making the charge or complaint. Remarks by any person addressing the board which reflects adversely upon the character or motives of any other person or group are out of order. Also attacks in a form of emphasis in insinuations and innuendos against the character or motive of any person are out of order. During the course of the meeting the President may recognize persons in the audience who have something to contribute to the topic being discussed. A President may terminate any individual's privilege of addressing the body for persistent violation of conduct or by a participant repeatedly declared out of order for violation of the above rules. Under certain conditions it will be the President's discretion to set time limits on public comments to the board. This may be necessary due to long agenda or a large number of persons requesting and having a valid reason to address the board. Comments made during a special meeting must be relayed to the subject for which the meeting is called.

Commissioner Kora: I would like to make a motion to adopt this policy. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### IX. CONSIDER ORDINANCE TO REPEAL COUNTY ETHICS ORDINANCE AND ADOPT NEW STATE LAWS REGARDING NEPOTISM AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST/CONTRACTING WITH A UNIT

Commissioner Milsap: Next up is the Consideration of the Ordinance to Repeal the County Ethics Ordinance and adopt new state laws regarding nepotism and conflict of interest, contracting with a unit, and that will be addressed by Commissioner Decker.

Commissioner Decker: As you know, you were involved in the local Ordinance that did the ethics. Since that time, unfortunately, or fortunately the State has moved forward and adopted one that is I think twice as good as ours, it has a little more teeth and a few other things that are addressed that we did not address, including the nepotism. I don't know what the Ordinance number would be, but I would propose an Ordinance repealing LaPorte County's ethics Ordinance in favor of adopting the new State Ordinance on nepotism and conflict of interest contracting with a unit. Commissioner Milsap: Legal Counsel

Attorney Friedman: Thank you and one of us will need to read it into the record. Mr. Decker contacted me and asked me to put together a draft for consideration of the board today based on the fact that new statutes pertaining to local government officials regarding nepotism and conflict of interest are tougher and stronger than anything that we can do at the local level by Ordinance and that is one of the reasons that the Michigan City Council, just three months ago, rescinded, repealed its Ordinance that has been in place for nearly 20 years. Both the Mayor and the City Council of Michigan City Unanimously felt that the new state statute provides more teeth, more enforcement, more reassurance and so Mr. Decker asked me to come with a draft that we need to read into the record at this point if we could.

Commissioner Decker: Whereas the absence of a coherent set of state statutes pertaining to nepotism issues and conflict of interest matters regarding local government officials led this board to adopt the LaPorte County's Ethics Ordinance on April 3, 2012 and whereas in 2012 the Indiana Legislature passed and the Governor signed HEA 105 entitled Nepotism Conflict of Interest which took effect on July 1, 2012. IC 36-1-20.2, IC 36-1-21 and whereas the LaPorte County Council meeting on its regular session on August 27, 2012 referenced the new state laws when it duly passed a motion by a vote of 6-1 pending repeal of the County's Ethics Ordinance. And Whereas the Michigan City County Council did by unanimous vote of 9-0 repeal that city's Ethics Ordinance on July 17, 2012 in favor of adopting the new State laws regarding nepotism and contracting with a unit and whereas the Board of Commissioners commends the Indiana General Assembly for adopting rigorous and stringent ethic requirements for local government officers. Now therefore it be ordained by the Board of Commissioners the County of Indiana as follows: 1. Ordinance number which ever you assign that

number is commonly known as LaPorte County Ethics Ordinance, is hereby repealed. The State law governing nepotism IC 36-1-20.2 and Contracting with a unit conflict of interest IC 36-1-21, as the same may be amended from time to time are hereby adopted by the County. This Ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication adopted this day of January 13.

Attorney Friedman: Mr. President, Just further clarification too so that those in the audience, those in the general public know what's happening with this, under the new State law a governmental unit is required to either adopt its own code or adopt the State law. In this particular case and as you saw with Michigan City, the Council there felt that the new State law had more teeth, more enforcement, and that's why they repealed their 20 year old statute. Under the new State law, we're going to have to come up with a form, it will be in my office, to come up with a form that all elected officers are now going to have to sign, under penalties for perjury, stating that they are in compliance with both the anti nepotism statute and the conflict of interest statute. Each unit is to come up with their own statement, each elected officer shall certify in writing, subject to the penalties for perjury, that the officer is in compliance with both of those codes and so the compliance statements will need to be filed with the Commission and then available for audit. So it's a tough rigorous set of standards. We're going to make sure that in the public file that's available through the Commissioner's office we've got a copy of the Michigan City repealer as well as the Motion's made by the County Council some three or four months ago that urged repeal of this Ordinance.

Commissioner Kora: There is some confusion about whether or not the state law is applicable to local entities so I'd like to ask the counsel to clarify that confusion. Attorney Friedman: The State Ethics Commission, I think there was some inquiry made, the State Ethics Commission doesn't apply to local officials, but the inquiry that was made down state did not address by some individuals, did not address the new local government statutes. These are 2 specific statutes that have been adopted now by the City of Michigan City and other communities, that potentially could be adopted by the county, but this statute, and again, as you know, Commissioner Kora, both Commissioner Milsap and I were heavily involved with drafting an Ethics Ordinance because there was a lack of State statutes so we put in a lot of volunteer hours, there was a great committee that worked with us to help come up with this, the new state statute fortunately is stronger is tougher it provides stronger penalties and that's why we're recommending adoption of that as your official policy. Commissioner Kora: I move for the adoption of this policy, I also move for suspending the rules...Attorney Friedman: We'll have to do a couple of different motions one would be, if it's the pleasure of the board to move for the adoption of the repeal Ordinance on the first reading, if you could.

Commissioner Kora: So moved. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora: I make a Motion to suspend the rules so that we can adopt this resolution today. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Attorney Friedman: And now you'll need a motion on the ordinance itself, the repeal ordinance itself, now that you've passed the second motion which was to provide unanimous consent so that the ordinance can be adopted, the third motion would need to be, if that's the pleasure of the board, to adopt the repeal ordinance. Commissioner Kora: So moved. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### X. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CREATING COMMISSIONERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Commissioner Milsap: Next on the agenda is Consideration of the Resolution Establishing a County office of the Economic Development and creating Commissioners Economic Development advisory Group. Commissioner Kora: When I ran for this office one of the main reasons I ran for this office was to focus on Economic Development, in my own practice I see people who are struggling to make ends meet because of some of the high unemployment we have in our County. I felt that after the people heard what we had to say during the election, whenever I went on the campaign trail they emphasized how important this was to our community. So at this first meeting I want to hit the ground running with our Economic Development plan this is very critical for our county. Consequently, I am making the Motion to adopt this Resolution and I am going to read this Resolution Mr. President. Whereas LaPorte County has experienced nearly a 10% unemployment rate during much of 2012, and whereas the need for a highly intensive coordinated and energized Economic Development effort to recruit new business activities acute and whereas the ongoing LaPorte County Economic Development alliance efforts are worthwhile and well intentioned the alliances key benefit is in data gathering, marketing and communications, within various Economic Development entities and whereas county tax payer dollars that may have been granted to assist the alliance with start up costs should now be devoted in a transparent and cost affordable way to allow the county to develop its own Economic Development arm to serve as a one stop shop for developers and site locators. And whereas

there is a demonstrated need for a single point of contact for developers and site locators, interested in locating and manufacturing a commercial business anywhere in LaPorte County. And whereas the undersigned believe that a creation of a LaPorte County office of Economic Development with its own dedicated office space, consultants and staffing is an important step to signal to site locators and business prospects that county government is serious and intent on creating a convenient one stop shop for those seeking information and assistance with zoning, land use, infrastructure, job training, target attacks incentives, and other site assistance. Now therefore be it resolved by the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners that there is hereby created a LaPorte County office of Economic Development, office space in the county annex will be designated and assigned immediately for such an office, which will now serve as a nerve center and a central focus for all county job creation efforts. In addition there is hereby created an 11 member County Commissioners Economic Development Advisory Group. Composed of representatives of the business community who shall help advise and consult with the County Commission, Redevelopment Commission, and the Office of Economic Development on job creation initiative. The office of Economic Development shall work with and cooperate with existing local Economic Development corporations, alliance, city and town governments, labor and business leaders in the sharing of leads and business prospects that will be key point of contact for business decision makers and site locators seeking assistance in LaPorte County. All of which is adopted if it is the pleasure of this Board. Commissioner Kora moves to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### XI. APPOINTMENT OF AN 11 MEMBER COMMISSIONERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Commissioner Milsap: Commissioner Kora can you appoint the 11 member Commissioners Economic Development Advisory group?

Commissioner Kora: As we were discussing these ideas, I did approach several members of the business community to help us with this advisory group. Several of them came forward and were willing to serve on this advisory group these are individuals who have talent, they are leaders of their organizations and businesses and they are willing to give of their time and talents to help promote economic development in this community and in our county. With that Mr. President I'm going to read the names of these individuals and if it is the pleasure of this board then we're going to adopt these names as members of our Economic Development Advisory Group. Mr. James Dworkin, Dr. James Callaghan, Mr. Craig Dwight, Ms. Michelle Thompson, Mr. Brian Donnelly, Dr. Barbara Eason Watkins, Mr. John Pappas, Mr. James Laughlin, Mr. Bernard Baltis, Mr. Dave Christian. Commissioner Kora moves to create the 11 member Economic Development Group. Commissioner Decker: Second Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Drexler: 207 Plain St. Secretary of the Libertarian party of LaPorte County. As you know, we filed an ethics violation or complaint against you and I'm really disturbed that you voted one unanimously for this repeal and none of the paperwork has been processed to this point. It's been 7 months, this has been stonewalled and this is of great concern, I think that the people of LaPorte should be very concerned with your actions today. All of you. Thank you.

Commissioner Milsap: Thank you, thank you for sharing that. Is there anyone else?

Ray Wolf: 2007 Michigan Ave. I have concerns also and I want to voice my opposition to the adoption and I guess the repeal of the Ethics Ordinance. I would disagree that it is more encompassing, the repealed Ethics Ordinance had provisions for nepotism, had also other guidelines for moonlighting, political activity, gifts or loans, nepotism, proper use of county property and personnel, which according to this adopted code, only does not apply, or does not use those guidelines anymore, I'd also voice the gentlemen who just spoke regarding a complaint, I would also, am opposed to the adoption today of the repeal of the prior ordinance simply on the fact that I think there is public knowledge there was an open complaint involving one of the Commissioners and that as such, there is a conflict of interest for one of the Commissioners to vote as part of the unanimous vote today, so I think that adoption should not have been done today, or it should have been by two votes only, and pushed to a second reading, so further comment could be made as well. So thank you very much.

Commissioner Milsap: Thank you for sharing that. Next.

Dennis Metheny: 6757 W. 450 N. I myself am disappointed, I was appointed to the Ethics board and does that mean that the Ethics Board is now null and void in the county? My first statement. I'd like an answer sometime in the future here. Commissioner Milsap: I can answer that for you right now, legal counsel? Attorney Friedman: That's correct, the Repeal Ordinance was adopted today, the State law requires each unit to adopt a policy and by repealing the County Ordinance they adopted the State laws as the ethics provision pertaining to the county. Mr. Metheny: As a previous ethics board member then, I never received those from the Human Resource person, which I asked for that, she had the county but not the state. So I think that needs to be looked into. The other thing is I'm very disappointed that you go to a three minute limit, if we have questions. I'm very disappointed that you moved public comment to the end, so we can't ask a comment or make a comment and expect an answer or response. I just think it's terrible that that's the way that it's going. I supported a couple of you people here, and now I see that we're moved as taxpayers and voters to the end of the meeting, which we have no comment, until after you make your vote. I certainly appreciate Michigan City that allows us to comment on every issue. I think the Commissioners make enough money that they should be able to set here and listen to the public with their questions and comments before you make a decision for two meetings a month. \$30,000.00 ain't bad money. Other than that, the Economic Development Corporation I thought we had a county Economic Development Corporation? And now I find that you're setting another one up? Is it a paid body now? I think it's ridiculous you had, it was working, Michigan City has one, Laporte has one, county had one, I thought that was ridiculous to have three different entities when everybody should be working together as a county. So I find that kind of ironic that we now set another one up? Doesn't make sense I thought we were all supposed to work together. So thank you for your time, I hope I didn't take three minutes.

Commissioner Milsap: No problem, thank you. Next.

Mike Schultz Laporte County Assessor: for the Commissioners information and for the public, we have extended the deadline to file an appeal on their form 11 to January 4, 2013 Friday at 4 p.m. that can be via U.S. Mail, email, fax or hand delivered. So we've extended that three days because of the holidays' and the closures we had in the county, so again, January 4, 4 p.m. Friday is the deadline for any appeals on form 11's that were sent out about 45 days ago.

Commissioner Milsap: Anyone else for public comment?

Michael Mack: 201 Roberta Ave. Michigan City, As a Democrat working a lot of the campaigns I just want to speak to some of the Libertarian type views I've been hearing regarding the Milsap vendetta type deal with the junk car, \$500 junk car, All I can say is that where were a lot of these voices when Michigan City did away with their Ethics Ordinance? There wasn't a lot said, at that point in time. The county voted to get rid of the Ethics Ordinance existing and adopt the state, in a lot of our eyes that is going to be a good thing because it is going to be a little more stringent. Mr. Milsap pushed for these Ethics Ordinances in the beginning in Michigan City, when it didn't even exist, so I think in some ways we should be commending him for some of the work he's done in that area. He does so many things in the local community for people that some of our own community doesn't even help, like the snow removal and I've seen a lot of good work done out of that office for a lot of young people that don't get a lot of attention from the general public, and from a lot of people. Part of the word that I just heard, there's got to be a lot more unity, I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of that in the future, little less complaining would go well in the entire nation from what I've been seeing on the news today, complaining, finding divisiveness and ways to trump one another, hopefully that's ending as the status quo and I hope you guys are successful in your new endeavors. Thank you.

Commissioner Milsap: Is there anyone else that would like to come to the mic for a public comment?

Commissioner Milsap closed public comment.

### XIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora: Thank you Mr. President, couple of comments first of all I want to express my gratitude to both of you for getting us started on the right track here, I know we have a lot of things to accomplish over the next four years but I think Economic Development is the key, as I've said in various forums before how we as a community and as a county are going to look 10-15 years from now

will depend on what we're going to do in terms of our education for the kids and what we're going to do for Economic Development that will decide our future. I think we have taken the first steps towards that process and I do know that we have other Economic Development activities going on in other cities so this is going to be a venture that will cooperate and work well and cooperatively but at the same time, we're not going to just outsource our Economic Development activities we're going to work on it ourselves diligently I want to thank the previous Commissioners and the Council that have worked on these activities before, but we want to raise it a notch higher that way we have more activity and more results. The second thing is about the Ethics Ordinance that has been talked about, I believe that we have a stronger State Ordinance we want transparency in our deliberations and when we have a State Ordinance, and a State statute which is better, stronger, and covers this activity. I think we ought to move in that direction, I'm glad that we have done that today. I also believe that the government should be efficient, if there is a State statute that is doing this, why we need a redundant ethics board here doing the same work that the State statute helps us do. In a way I have a libertarian streak myself because I want less government and more efficient government and more responsible government and less redundant government and lastly, I want to thank all the county employees who do a tremendous job year after year, which sometimes goes unrecognized and unnoticed, I want to express my gratitude to all the staff and county employees, and we are here to help you take care of the work that you do, please consider us facilitators, we are all in this together, this is a service business, we are here to serve the people and we need to take care of your needs and that's what we've been elected to do and anything we can do to help facilitate that we are available. Thank you very much Mr. President.

Commissioner Decker: I've got to echo a lot of what Doctor said, and Economic Development was our main goal. And this is what we are going to push mainly, right off the bat, is Economic Development, also working together with PNC with education with what they can offer us so many things in LaPorte county that we aren't taking advantage of and we're going to start taking advantage of that, and that all ties into Economic Development and tourism. Right now I think we're on the right track, within 10 years I think you aren't going to know LaPorte County and that's a good thing. That brings jobs so, you know not everybody can go to college, some of us have to, you know we've worked all of our lives on just regular jobs, and not everybody has a job right now so we need to provide as many jobs as we can, keep your families close to you, keep them home, keep your grandkids close to you, and that's our goal. And that's what we're going to work toward.

Commissioner Milsap: Thank you Commissioner Decker, and my last comments would be to all of the LaPorte County tax payers and everyone in attendance today we wanted to send a message right out of the gate that this would be an active County Commission taking a lead on issues like job creation, we also want to get away from the bickering and the personal attacks that have dominated county government in the past few years. And that's why we adopted a policy for some civil discussion at these meetings. I think the residents of our county are going to like what they see and in reference to the Libertarians a good gift for the LaPorte County tax payers would be to work towards giving good county government to all taxpayers not the select few, all taxpayers and provide service before self. This team is about improving the quality of life for everyone in LaPorte County and starting the new year off right let's all work together and enhance the quality of life for everyone. Thank you and God Bless.

XIV. ADJOURN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

DETERMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
MEMBERS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA.

ATTEST:

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA