



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

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Willie Milsap,  
President

Dave Decker,  
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Member

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### MINUTES

#### LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday April 17, 2013

To be held at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Commissioner Milsap called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
Led by Phyllis Marks, followed by a moment of silence for the victims and families of the Boston Marathon.
3. ROLL CALL  
All Commissioners present.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Commissioner Kora adds Request a change in the traffic pattern on Wilhelm Rd. on Fri. May 24, 2013 and Resolution honoring the retiring Executive Director of Dunebrook.  
Commissioner Decker adds Letter of Intent to submit planning application.  
Commissioner Kora moves to accept. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. April 03, 2013-Approved.
6. WEEKLY REPORTS
7. CLAIMS
  - A. Payroll Ending 4/12/2013-\$977,223.29-Approved. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$18,141,996.63-Approved. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Robert Young- Highway Department brings Annual Operation Report for signature.  
Dick Buell-Director of Community Corrections update on progress of new building. He says progress is a week or so behind, but overall very good. Submits yearly grant for signature from Commissioners. Commissioner Kora moves to approve both reports submitted for signature. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Mike Yaculo-County Highway Engineer- Draft Agreement with INDOT for Federal Aid Project on Co. Rd. 950 W to reconstruct the roadway. He requests that Commission review the document and vote next meeting. Project plans are open for public view in the Office of Economic Development.  
Chief Sosinski-Sheriff's Office-Informs the Commission that the date for the fallen officer memorial service has been set for Monday, May 20, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Meeting room #3. The speaker will be the Superintendent of the State Police Doug Carter.
9. CORRESPONDENCE  
None
10. REQUESTS
  - A. Steve Eyrick-Adult Probation-Request for office space on the second floor of the LaPorte Courthouse.-Mr. Eyrick appears before the Commission and requests the use of a portion of the second floor offices in the LaPorte Courthouse with the understanding that if the Court should ever need it then he will vacate said office space. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - B. New Prairie High School Students-Request to put a plaque in the commons hallway of County Complex.

Students appear before the Commission and request to place a memorial plaque in the common hallway of the County Complex. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Dr. Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Tiffany Bley- Request permission to host new events. Request for use of the parking circle.**

Tiffany Bley appears before the Commission to request to use the parking circle for the taste of LaPorte. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. She further requests to use the Courthouse lawn and the parking circle on Sat mornings at 9 a.m. to do yoga and/or Jazzercise and health screenings. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Discussion of Cottage Grove Crossing Closure.**

Representatives from NICTD appear before the Commission to present a proposal to either repair the bridge at that crossing or close the crossing and raise the bridge which would include space for a snow plow turn around. They request a decision from the Commission so they can begin, and they indicate to the Commission that they will be covering the cost of the project. They indicated to the Commission that NICTD feels the changes are necessary to ensure safety at that crossing. They said it would also eliminate the need for the train to blow the whistle. Changes to that crossing would eliminate maintenance charges as well. They provided the Commission with maps. Several residents of the Cottage Grove Crossing area appeared before the Commission to remonstrate the closure of the Cottage Grove Crossing. Their names: Joyce Forbes, Steve Forbes (submits exhibits), Josh Swizer Fire Department Chief, Mike Scott Fire Department Captain (to speak on the availability of water in case of a fire if that crossing is closed), Ben Perkins (submits exhibits), Larry Peppers, Michael Sabinas, Carla Ushack, Debbie Jurkowski. Commissioner Kora moves to have this situation researched and bring it back for a vote. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Consideration of Amended Development Agreement re: KIP Project-Tabled.**

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Richard Buell-Consideration of NIPSCO contract for new Community Corrections Building.**

Mr. Buell appeared before the Commission and requested approval of the NIPSCO contract for the new Community Corrections Building. He indicated that he and Attorney Friedman had been working diligently to be sure it is acceptable and Attorney Friedman recommended approval. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Mitch Bishop-Consideration of Supplement to OCRA/HUD grant application for the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project/ADA Transition Plan.**

Mr. Bishop appeared before the Commission and requested to substitute the Letter of Intent to obtain a grant for this project. He informed the Commission what the Grant would pay for in this project and told them what he did for the county to qualify for this Grant. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the substitution. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora then moves to approve the signature on the Letter of Intent. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Bishop then informed the Commissioner's about the ADA Transition Plan that was created in house which saved a lot of money for LaPorte County. He requested approval of the plan and requested permission to ask the Council for funding to implement the sidewalk portion of the plan. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Consideration of design/authorization for expenditure for Courthouse Community Sign.**

Commissioner Kora reads a letter from the Director of Harmony House and CASA of LaPorte County in support of the Courthouse Community Sign. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the sign design with the stone and to go to the Council to request funds. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. **Resolution for Diana Dibkey**

Commissioner Kora explains what Dunebrook is and what role Ms. Dibkey played in its creation and reads the Resolution honoring her service. Commissioner Kora moves to accept. Commissioner Decker seconds.

E. **Request for change in traffic flow on Wilhelm Rd.**

Mr. Kennedy appears before the Commission to request that on Friday May 24, 2013 the traffic on Wilhelm rd. be changed to one way for their commencement ceremony. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. **Appointment of the replacement on the Community Corrections Board.**

Commissioner Kora moves to appoint Bruce Ashley Sr. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Carpenter-Friends of the Barn-Requests permission to put a banner on the Barn to draw the public's attention to the fundraising program. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Debbie Jurkowski-Informed the Commission that she thinks the roads in Cottage Grove are maintained by the county because a school bus driver lives there and a handicapped person living there that was picked up by a bus. She then asked a question to the NICTD representatives regarding the plans for the bridge.

