



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 – FAX: (219) 326-9103

Willie Milsap,
President

Dave Decker,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

~~MINUTES~~ EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE Wednesday May 1, 2013

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

All Commissioner's Present

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Decker adds Jonkind Park Homeowners request. Commissioner Kora adds Closure of Cottage Grove Railroad Crossing. Amended Agenda approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 17, 2013- Approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. WEEKLY REPORTS

7. CLAIMS

- A. Payroll Ending 4/26/2013-\$973,120.13-Approved, motion carried by voice vote.
B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$3,095,712.38-Approved, motion carried by voice vote.

8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Robert Young-Highway Department-Asks to table his request for Riverboat/C&D funds and indicates he does not have enough quotes. Asks to table the bids for the parking lots so he can advertise properly.

Mike Yacullo-County Highway Engineer-Appeared before the Commission to give them an overview of the agreement with the Sanitary District regarding the maintenance of the sewers that are to be installed at 400 N. and 950 W. He indicated that the agreement has been provided to the County Attorney for review.

Chief Sosinski-Sheriff's Office- Appeared before the Commission to inform them that they are aware of the issue in Kingsford Heights with the truck traffic and he has instructed his officers to do an extra patrol in that area in an effort to resolve the issue.

Mitch Bishop-County Planner-Appeared before the Commission to give them an update on the ADA Transition Plan. He indicated that the plan has been accepted by NIRPC and that he would need to go before the Council for funding for the sidewalk portion of that plan.

Lana Buckles-Health Department-Appeared before the Commission to inform them that May 6-10 is National Drinking water week and that the Health Department will supply water bottles to residents for the testing of their wells. She indicated that the kits are free and can be picked up at the office of the Health Department. She further indicated that arrangements can be made for those who are unable to pick up the kits.

Jerry Cooley-Building Maintenance-Appeared before the Commission to let them know that they are working to improve the meeting room and upgrade the equipment which is owned by the County. He further indicated that he received proposals to repair the leaky roofs in the Juvenile Center. He said he only received one proposal from Tonn and Blank and he would recommend that bid be accepted. Commissioner Kora moves to allow Mr. Cooley to go before the Council to request funds for the roof repair. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Cooley indicated that there are other buildings within the county in need of repairs and he has received proposals on those repairs. He requested permission to go to the Council and request money for those repairs as well. Commissioner Kora moves to allow Mr. Cooley to go to the Council. Commissioner Decker seconds.

Jack Arnett-LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's Bureau-Appeared before the Commission to request they correspond with the Commissioner's from Lake County to discuss their intervention into LaPorte County's industry. He submits copies of current and proposed legislation regarding this matter. He requests that county counsel prepare an interpretation of the legislation that can be provided to governmental units that may need clarity. Attorney Friedman indicates that his office can prepare an official opinion letter for the Commission on this issue to be used in the

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

discussions with the Lake County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Commissioner Kora moves to have the Commission President contact the Lake County Commissioner's and request that they discuss the issue with their Conventions and Visitor's Bureau and requests that Attorney Friedman draft an opinion letter. Mr. Arnett went on to update the Commission on the Maple City Grand Prix. He indicated that there was a volunteer list generating and that anyone who would like to volunteer to work the event could contact them through their website or by visiting the office in Marquette Mall.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

10. **REQUESTS**

- A. **Lois Sosinski-Request of Friends of the Barn for letterhead/postage.**-Dick Rheel makes request to have in-house printing send fundraiser letters. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Tony Mancuso-Health Department-Request for payment of sick days to Mary Allen.**-Commissioner Kora moves to have the request approved by Human Resources. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Robert Young-Highway Department-Request for \$45,405.00 from Riverboat/CCD fund to remodel/expand Garage restrooms.**-Tabled.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Robert Young-Highway Department-Open Bids for Class II Bituminous Materials.**-Robert Young appears before the Commission and requests that the County Attorney open two sealed bids that were submitted earlier to the Auditor's office. County Attorney Shaw Friedman opened two bids and gave them to Mr. Young for further review. Mr. Young indicated that he would take the bids next door so if anyone wanted to see them they were available.
- B. **Closure of Cottage Grove railroad crossing.**-Commissioner Decker makes a motion to not close Cottage Grove. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Decker informs the public that it was discovered that the roads in that area are private and because of that the South Shore is unable to re-route any traffic, he further stated that the County Engineer and the County Highway Department will need to view the maps because the county, by law, cannot maintain private roads. He stated that unless there is some kind of agreement reached between property owners and the county, the maintenance on the roads will have to stop.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Tony Mancuso-Health Department-Private pay schedule for vaccines.** -Tony Mancuso appeared before the Commission and requested a change in the pay schedule for vaccines. Commissioner Kora asks if the changes have been approved by the Health Board. Mr. Mancuso indicates they were approved. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the changes. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Joyce Leon- Human Resources-Policy Revision-PT Hours.**-Joyce Leon appears before the Commission and requests approval for policy revisions changing the maximum part time hours from 31.5 to 28 hours effective this date to keep in line with the health care reform. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Michael Polan-MS4-MS4 Update.**-Michael Polan appeared before the Commission to give an update on MS4. He indicated that they had an IDEM review which Commissioner Kora attended. He said that IDEM gave them permission to remain as a unit during the remainder of their current permit and apply together for their next permit. He further indicated that they will be applying for a new permit and that will be good for a five year term. He indicated they are adding two technical advisory positions to their board, one from the Health Department and one from Solid Waste. He said due to the public outreach suggested by the State complaint calls have increased by almost 100%.
- D. **Consider appointment of County Highway Engineer as 'County Representative' for KIP development and as Reviewer of all claims.**
Commissioner Deckers moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion Carried by voice vote.
- E. **Consideration of Project Coordination agreement with INDOT-Mike Yacculo, Engineer.**
Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. **Fran Tibbot-EMS-Adoption of the Emergency Management Ordinance required by Indiana Title 10.**
Fran Tibbot appears before the Commission and requests that Commission pass the Emergency Management Ordinance. Commissioner Kora indicates he has looked the Ordinance over and asks Ms. Tibbot to expand on the Ordinance to let the public know what it means. Attorney Friedman recommends approval on first reading and hold over for final reading at the next meeting. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the first reading. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. **Erika Stallworth-Juvenile Center-Consideration of Grant Agreement.**
Ericka Stallworth appears before the Commission to request approval of a Grant Agreement and to receive signatures from the Commission. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the signing of the Grant Agreement. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. **Consideration of Contract with Grant Writer Heather McCarthy.**
Commissioner Kora indicates that Heather McCarthy is a very experienced grant writer and that he feels that she can assist our current grant writer Mitch Bishop in obtaining grants for the County. Attorney Friedman recommends

approval of the Contract to be paid from Professional Services. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the contract. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

I. Consideration of procedure for use of county vehicles.

Attorney Friedman indicates that there is one Commissioner's vehicle that is not often used and there was a need to set up some guidelines on the use of said vehicle. He indicated that the Commissioner's preference is that employees use their own vehicles and seek reimbursement for mileage, and if that is not possible, then they can request to use the county vehicle. He indicated that permission to use the vehicle will be at the discretion of the Commission. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the procedure for use of county vehicles. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

J. Consideration of Interlocal Agreement/Adoption of Shared Ethics and Values and Request appropriation for membership in Shared Ethics Advisory Commission.

Mr. Cal Bellamy from Lake County appeared before the Commission to explain the Shared Ethics Interlocal Agreement. He indicated that if LaPorte County joins, they will be the first entire county in this area to make a commitment to Ethical practices in their county. He gave a brief explanation of the steps to join the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the county executing the interlocal agreement for membership in the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission and to adopt the Code of Shared Ethics and Values as well as request \$2,500 appropriation from the Council. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

K. Marcella Kunstek- Indiana, Illinois, & Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting-Responsible Bidder Ordinance.

Marcella Kunstek appears before the Commission to submit the Responsible Bidder Ordinance for a first Reading. She indicated that the Ordinance may need to be tailored to meet the county's needs. She gave a brief overview of some sections in the Ordinance and submitted it to the County Attorney for review and any necessary changes. She indicated that they re-visit and revise their ordinance yearly. Attorney Friedman indicates that the Ordinance appears consistent with existing Indiana Law and would be helpful in getting bidders for public works projects. Commissioner Kora moves for first reading on the Responsible Bidder Ordinance. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gene Jonas- Rolling Prairie- Wanted to commend the Commission for moving forward with the Shared Ethics Commission.

Mike Sietz- Fish Lake- Indicates the Chamber fully supports the authorization of the County Attorney to investigate the issues with the Lake County Visitor's Bureau. He further wanted to commend the Commission on their participation in the Shared Ethics Commission. He went on to commend Jerry Cooley on the new technology in the Complex meeting room. He encouraged the Commissioner's to look at the Ordinance to put fees on local businesses for sewer and be sure it is not too much of a burden to the business owner.

Dean White- Ellettsville- Thanked the Commissioner's for the preservation work that they have done on the County Barn. He recommended that the brush on the roadside be cleared so people can see it better. He said the visitor's impression from the north would be enhanced if the corner of Pine Lake Ave and Waverly has a view that is obstructed by trees, though there are trees worth saving, he feels that the brush should be cleared to enhance the view. He indicated that he has volunteers and has requested help from the inmates and for the use of a dump truck and asks for assistance in disposing of the materials.

Tom Hodge- Enbridge Energy- Mr. Hodge appeared before the Commission to give them some information about the plans they have for the pipeline installation, clear up any misunderstandings and answer any concerns or questions that there may be. He explained the plans for the replacement of the existing pipeline and the new placement of the pipeline. He informed the Commission of the intended amount of workers that will be in our County for the project and the estimated financial benefits to the county as a result of the office being placed in LaPorte County. Attorney Friedman asks if Enbridge is going to provide the attorney for the Plan Commission with the requested discovery. Mr. Hodge says they are still evaluating the request and taking it under consideration, he further indicated they are hesitant to comply with local zoning regulations as that will set an unfortunate precedent in the future. Attorney Friedman reiterates that the ordinance stands and asks when the response to Attorney Biege will be forthcoming. Mr. Hodges said they will respond in 10 days.

14. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Decker thanks those involved last week in maintaining the Kankakee River, Fran Tibbot, the county surveyor, and everyone who worked hard to keep that in check. He also commended the potential adoption of the responsible bidder ordinance.

Commissioner Kora commends President Milsap on running an efficient meeting. He said he is pleased that they have retained the new grant writer as grant money is critical for the quality of life for the residents in the County, and helps attract more people to our community. He also said the Shared Ethics Ordinance is also very important to elected officials.

Commissioner Milsap welcomes the new grant writer with open arms and says he is sure that the current grant writer will welcome the assistance. He says the County wide clean up program will be happening on Saturday and he has already committed a team of 12 and encourages everyone to assist.

15. ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora moves to adjourn. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE _____
ATTEST: _____
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA