



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Willie Milsap,
President

Dave Decker,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday June 19, 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**
Missy Felton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora added Andy Snyder request for road closure.
Attorney Friedman requested that Barnes & Thornburg request for a conflict clearance.
Commissioner Decker removed item A from requests.
Commissioner Milsap added Steve Eyrick.
Commissioner Kora moves to accept the amended agenda. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **June 5, 2013**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve the minutes for June 5, 2013. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **WEEKLY REPORTS**
None
7. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 06/07/13-\$973,824.57**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$1,540,693.46**
Commissioner Decker moves to approve the claims. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**
Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission and indicated he had a contract for them to sign for the repair of the Franklin St. Lift Bridge. Attorney Friedman advised the Commission that his firm had done legal work for HW Lochner and would be unable to advise the County as to whether or not they should accept the contract and that a motion should be made that acceptance is contingent on retaining conflict counsel to approve the contract regarding the bridge work. Commissioner Kora moves go ahead with HW Lochner and have the contract reviewed by conflict counsel, approval contingent upon recommendation from Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. He also indicated to the Commission that the Memorandum of Understanding related to the funding of Federal Aid projects through NIRPC. Commissioner Kora moves to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora expresses his gratitude at the level of cooperation demonstrated by the three government agencies involved in the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Yacullo further indicated that he and Jerry Cooley will be approaching the Commission for permission to ask the Council for funding to have one of the new generators installed.
Chief Jim Sosinski appeared before the Commission to give thanks to the Building Maintenance Department and their supervisor Jerry Cooley for their good work and quick response times to various issues he has recently reported. Jerry Cooley appeared before the Commission and indicated that he has been working with the elevator company, he said the elevators passed all the State regulations, but that some need to be replaced due to the fact that the elevators are old. He further indicated that he would be asking for money in the budget to start replacing and maintaining the worn out elevators.

Lynne Spevak appeared before the Commission and indicated that she received a letter from Lee Morris, Republican Chairman, which stated that he has replaced Greg Hofer with Ralph Howes on the election board, and he requested a meeting to examine voting centers, Ms. Spevak indicated that she was not inclined to do so at this time. She stated that it was not a direct refusal of Mr. Morris' request, but that she wants to look at the lines to be sure they are correct as they cannot be changed for eight years.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Robin Surber reads correspondence from Alan J. Sirinek thanking the Commission for a quick response to a request for speed limit signs on Range Road.

10. REQUESTS

- A. **Sue Beres-GOFR Fall Race Director-Request for use of county roads for 5K race.-Tabled.**
- B. **Kelly Daisy-Co-Producer of John Hancock Film-Request to re-route traffic on Lincolnway.**
Kelly Daisy appeared before the Commission and asked to re-route traffic on Lincolnway during filming. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Pat Pease-EMS-Request permission to use LaPorte County Ambulance in upcoming film production.**
Pat Pease appears before the Commission and requests permission to lend out an Ambulance for a film production. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora Seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Pat Pease-EMS-Request approval of agreement to provide Ambulance service for LaPorte County Fair/Motoland/Kingsbury.**
Pat Pease appears before the Commission and requests signatures on the afore mentioned agreements. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Jerry Cooley-Maintenance Director-Request for permission to pay sick days to Nancy Gee.**
Jerry Cooley appears before the Commission and requests permission to pay sick days to Nancy Gee. Commissioner Deckers moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds as long as Human Resources agrees. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. **Robert Szilagyi-Prosecuting Attorney-Request for signature on Adult Protective Services contract.**
Robert Szilagyi appears before the Commission and requests a signature on the Adult Protective Services Contract. Commissioner Kora moves to accept. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. **Robert Szilagyi-Prosecuting Attorney-Request for out of state training for APS, Minneapolis-St.Paul, Minnesota.**
Robert Szilagyi appears before the Commission and requests permission to travel out of state. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. **Verne Hohnke-Director of Security-Request for signature on Smiths Detection contract.**
Verne Hohnke appears before the Commission to request a signature for the Smiths Detection Contract. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- I. **Joie Winski-Auditor-Request for signature on Maximus contract.**
Joie Winski appears before the Commission and requests signature on Maximus contract. Attorney Friedman recommends the shorter term Contract. Commissioner Kora moves to sign the two year contract. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- J. **Erika Stalworth-Director Juvenile Services-Request for out of state travel for National Juvenile Justice Network, Washington DC.**
Ericka Stalworth appears before the Commission to request out of state travel. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- K. **Kay Felton-Director County Home-Request for signature on ARCH contract.**
Kay Felton appears before the Commission and requests signature on ARCH Contract. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- L. **Ken Purze-LaPorte County Drainage Board-Request for letter of support for IDEM 319 Grant.**
Ken Purze appears before the Commission and requests a letter of support for IDEM 319 Grant. Commissioner Kora moves to do a letter in support of the request. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- M. **LaPorte County Problem Solving Court-Request for out of state travel-National Problem Solving Court Convention, Washington DC.**
Steve Eyrick appears before the Commission and requests permission for out of state travel. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Mitch Bishop-County Planner-Resolution Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match Commitment.**
Attorney Friedman indicates to the Commission that he has reviewed the proposal and recommends approval. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Mitch Bishop-Consideration of Deercroft Landfill Redevelopment Study.**
Attorney Friedman indicates to the Commission that Mr. Bishop is unable to attend the meeting but did submit the proposed contract from the consulting firm that specializes in re-use of landfills. He stated that the fee would be taken out of the professional consultant line item. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Robert Young, Mike Yacullo, Jerry Cooley-Authorization to conduct Auction of Surplus county property including vehicles, office equipment and other furnishings.**

Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission and indicated that he has four proposals from auctioneers to conduct an auction for the county. He stated that the lowest rate was John Fritz auction services. He has indicated that he is not available Aug. 17 and 19, therefore Mr. Yacullo wants to set the County auction for July 30 2013 time to be determined. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. Preliminary results of county financial review conducted by Cender & Company.

Mr. Cender of Cender & Company appears before the Commission and distributes a draft report to each Commissioner and counsel. Mr. Cender then gave the Commission an overview of property taxes collected and a projected collection amount. He indicated that 2013 tax bills will go out by the end of the year and be collected in the first quarter of 2014. He indicated that it is difficult to calculate exactly how much money is outstanding at this time due to different reasons, one of which is the way refunds are processed. Mr. Cender went over the property taxes owed page by page of his report with the Commission. Mr. Cender and Attorney Friedman discussed that if the rainy day fund is not paid back the 9 million dollars owed and if the taxes are collected as projected the total as of April that the County is in the red would be approximately 2.5 Million Dollars. Mr. Cender's report will be available to the public online at the LaPorte County website in the near future.

E. Andy Snyder requests road closures for Tour de LaPorte.

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

F. Steve Eyrick request to have in house workers complete the renovation of the second floor of the Courthouse.

Steve Eyrick appeared before the Commission to request that the inhouse construction program do the renovations to the office on the second floor of the LaPorte Courthouse. Jerry Cooley indicates that there are issues in that office that need to be addressed by professionals. Mr. Eyrick requests permission to hire an outside professional to do the work. Commissioner Kora moves to proceed. Commissioner Decker seconds.

G. Barnes & Thornburg representation of LaPorte County in abatement request waiver due to their simultaneous representation of Dwyer in other matters.

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

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Kimmel appears before the Commission to thank Mr. Cender and the Commissioner's for having the courage to go forward and find out what the true deficit is for LaPorte County. He expressed relief at the light at the end of the tunnel.

Mike Yacullo appeared to give credit to Mitch Bishop for getting the generators for the County.

Jackie Clemons from Maximus thanked the Commissioner's for their continued partnership with Maximus.

14. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Decker thanked Mitch Bishop for his work on getting the generators and the truck saving the county close to 180 thousand dollars.

Commissioner Kora thanked Mr. Cender for his work and his report and thanked the Auditor and Treasurer for their cooperation.

Commissioner Milsap thanked Mr. Cender as well and expressed his desire to give the County employees a raise, he further indicated that the Commission is always looking for ways to save the tax payers money.

15. ADJOURN

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

ATTEST: _____
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA
Auditor