



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 July 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**
Nolan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora adds a request from Chancellor Dworkin.
Commissioner Decker adds procedure from the Highway Department regarding the use of Cones.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **July 3, 2013**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **WEEKLY REPORTS**
7. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 07/17/13-\$990,989.99**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$2,723,346.59**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve all Claims. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Jerry Cooley-Supervisor Building Maintenance-Informed the Commissioner's that the Fire Department helped him do a training session in the building. He indicated that there is water damage in the Jail building along with other issues in all the County buildings and he requested a workshop with the Commission and the Council to discuss what can be done. He said the elevators are in need of repair and that some employees had been stuck in the elevator in the Jail building and that a motor burned out. Commissioner Kora moves to arrange a joint workshop to discuss the repair issues in the County buildings. Commissioner Deckers seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mitchell Bishop-County Planner-Gave an update to the Commission regarding the grants for phase II of the Rolling Prairie sewer project. He indicated that September 1 he will be looking for engineering services. He said the required public hearing for the grant will be held September 3, 2013 in Meeting Room 3 at the complex.

Pat Pease-EMS Director-Acknowledged the organizations that participated in the rescue of the boy who was stuck in the sand at Mt. Baldy. She specifically acknowledged Scott Erickson, Jason Albin, Mike Watkins, Buddy Kasinger, and Lisa Urbanski for their part in the rescue. Commissioner Kora thanked all who were involved in the rescue efforts and said he is sure this rescue will go into medical literature. Commissioner Decker said it was a miracle and that the little boy is one of the luckiest people in the world. He said he was sure the rescuers were exhausted mentally and physically but they kept going and the result was truly a miracle. Commissioner Milsap stated that part of having a healthy community is having effective and efficient emergency services. He said LaPorte County is blessed to have people of that caliber representing us. Commissioner Decker stated that we have had a very unusual month in LaPorte County as one deputy saved a train full of people, the rescue at Mt. Baldy, and other instances this month. He stated that the people involved in these situations couldn't have enough said about them, that their departments were well trained and he thanked them all for their service.

John Dudek-911-Thanked the people in his department that took the initial call regarding the boy in the sand. He said he is very proud of the work they do daily. He individually recognized Pam Rentzberger and Danielle Lokowski from his department. He further thanked Paige, Tori, Mandy, Candice, Chad, Larry, Lindsey, Sandra, and Jeremy.

Chief Jim Soskinski-Chief Deputy Sheriff-Thanked the individuals involved in the Mt. Baldy rescue, and stated that he has said for a long time that LaPorte County is truly blessed for its public service people he said we have the best of the best and it really showed during the Mt. Baldy rescue. He said he is proud to be in the same profession as all the rescuers. He went on to describe the incident with the explosive device he said it was 7 minutes from the time they got the first call until the time they located the subject and secured the device. He indicated that the Officers go directly to the threat. And he said once they found the device there was no longer a threat to the public.

Lynne Spevak-Clerk-Informed the Commissioner's that Amber Lapaich resigned from the election board and John Jones has appointed Sam Melnyk as her replacement. She informed the Commission of a special election for the Michigan City Area Schools on November 5, 2013 regarding a levy on taxes. She then expressed concern about the new Order banning cell phones in the Courthouse.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

Commissioner Decker read Correspondence from the Highway Department regarding their procedure for borrowing cones and other equipment. Commissioner Decker moves to adopt the procedure for borrowing cones and equipment. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. **REQUESTS**

A. **Hugh Tonagel-Purdue Extension Director-Request to travel to Pennsylvania.**

Dean Matsaid-appears before the Commission to request out of state travel. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chancellor Dworkin-Chancellor Purdue University North Central-appears before the Commission to request support for a building they want to build at Purdue North Central. He indicated that the total cost would be 34.7 Million Dollars, and indicated they have 70% of the funding from the State, 20% of the funding is coming from student fees, which leaves a balance of 3.7 Million Dollars. He indicated that many fund raising efforts are underway and stated that it would be a nice gesture to get support from the County. He presented proposals to the Commission for later review. He then answered questions from the Commission. Commissioner Kora moves to support the request and forward it to the Council. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

Mike Yacullo-Open sealed bids for the roof repair at the Juvenile Services Center.

Mike Yacullo-appears before the Commission to accept the opened bids. The bids were: Walsh & Kelly-Parking lot-\$25,600.00 for the annex parking lot. W&K-Hiler Building parking lot-\$51,200.00. W&K-Juvenile Services Center parking lot-\$101,800.00 alternate bid \$12,200.00. Tonn & Blank-Roofing at Juvenile Services Center-\$48,670.00. Reith Riley-Juvenile Services Center parking lot-\$74,271.00 alternate bid-\$8,857.00. Reith Riley-Hiler Building parking lot-\$38,927.00. Reith Riley-Annex parking lot-\$11,500.00. Midland Engineering-Not timely filed-Roof Repair-Juvenile Services Center-\$50,400.00. Maris & Son-Juvenile Services Center high roof-\$29,813.00-Low Roof-\$10,913.00. Mr. Yacullo was given bids to determine lowest and best. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the bids and allow Mr. Yacullo to determine which bids to recommend. Commissioner Decker seconds.

Mike Yacullo-Open sealed bids for parking lot repair for three county facilities.

See paragraph above.

Mike Yacullo-Open sealed bids for construction of the Stevens Treatment Center Small Animal Shelter Addition.-Tabled

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Mike Yacullo-Recommend approval of the professional services contract with HW Lochner to design the rehabilitation of Bridge # 505.**

Mike Yacullo appears before the Commission and requests approval of contract that had previously been approved by the special counsel hired for this matter. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Mike Yacullo-Request permission from Commission to approach the Council for funding of a connector road between Pals Rd. and US 20 near the east end of Evergreen Plaza.**

Mike Yacullo appears before the Commissioner and requests permission to approach the Council. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Consider settlement in Edwards v. LaPorte County and Rosenbough v. LaPorte County.**

Attorney Friedman indicates to the Commission that this case can be settled for \$1500.00 per Plaintiff, for less than the cost of defense. He recommended that the Commission approve the settlement. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. **Authorize posting of notices regarding Courthouse cell phone ban ordered by County Judiciary. Consider installation of lock boxes at Courthouse entrances for storage of banned cell phones.**

Judge Boklund appeared before the Commission with the support of Judge Stalbrink, Judge Lang, and Judge Koethe who sat in the audience, to discuss the Order banning cell phones from the County Courthouses and the Annex Building. Commissioner Kora moves to proceed with the Judge's Order with the exceptions mentioned and to continue to add them as required and he asked that the attorney work with the Judge's to make the exception document and work with the sheriff to implement a process to enforce the order. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. **Establish Small Property Claims resolution process-Liability Agent of Record John Jones.**

John Jones appears before the Commission and indicates the need for a process to resolve small property claims and recommends that the claims be sent to the carrier and then a recommendation sent to Robin Surber for approval from the Commission and quickly pay small claims with a set ceiling amount. Attorney Friedman recommends the process with a maximum amount of \$1500.00. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the settlement form as well as the maximum amount. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. **Pat Pease-EMS-Request for approval of a stand by unit for the Grand Prix boat race.**

Pat Pease appears before the Commission and requests a verbal approval for a pending agreement for the boat race. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mitch Bedulle appeared before the Commission to discuss an easement at 316 Grayson rd. He indicated that there was a sign posted to keep the easement clear and that people are still parking on the easement which blocks access to his home and the neighbor's homes. He asked if there is an ordinance that prohibits people from parking on the easement and if so, he requested a copy of that ordinance. Commissioner Milsap asked him to come to the Commissioner's office in the morning to get a copy.

14. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker commented on the tax situation and said that we are nearly up to date. He further stated that the problem was avoidable, if politics hadn't gotten in the way and if they had stood by the approved assessments to begin with, it would have saved so much for the county. He released copies of documents that show the 2006 pay 2007 assessments were approved twice in 2007. He reiterated that the county officials did what they were supposed to do. He stated that the County officials then sided with the residents rather than standing behind their own assessments like they should have. He indicated that they allowed their personal feelings about Carol McDaniel get in the way of doing what was right. He further indicated that we settled with Nexus earlier in the year because there was no reason not to pay them.

Commissioner Kora commented on the importance of confidence. He commended the emergency personnel stating that their exceptional skills give the people of LaPorte County confidence in emergency situations. He further stated that if we are able to clean up our tax issues and financial issues that will create confidence in business and many other aspects of the county.

Commissioner Milsap informed the people that the first County Auction is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at the Fair Grounds. He encouraged everyone to attend.

15. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Decker moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kora 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 Auditor