



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 November 6, 2013

To be held at 10:00 a.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
2. ROLL CALL
All Commissioners present.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. October 16, 2013
6. CLAIMS
 - A. Payroll Ending-10/25/2013- \$957,962.39
 - B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$3,306,176.24

Commissioner Kora moves to accept the Claims as presented. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Robert Young-Highway Department-Informed the Commission that the Highway Department is preparing to advertise for their annual material bids. He stated they will hopefully have the bids in by the first meeting in December. He then submitted letters from vendors who wished to extend their bids for the approval of the Commission. He said the bid extensions are for area excavating and Reith and Riley. The Commission took the letters for extension under advisement and will agenda them for the meeting on November 20, 2013.

George Watkins-Veterans Office-Appeared before the Commission to inform them that they will be presenting medals Nov. 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. also indicated that Veteran's Day at the Civic Center begins at 9:00 a.m., PNC has a ceremony at 11:00 a.m., and that links to special Veteran's Day offers are on the LaPorte County website. He further indicated that people can contact him at g Watkins@laportecounty.org or call 219-326-6808 x-2216.

Joyce Leon-Huma Resources-Presented the Employee of the Month Award to Patty Nocek from the Health Department.

Richard Mroziński-County Council-Appeared with Budget Appropriation questions. The Auditor indicated to Mr. Mroziński that any transfers were a result of using the wrong budget lines to pay bills and that the Health Insurance has gone up, leaving a shortage in that budget line. She assured Mr. Mroziński that any issues had been a direct result of everyone learning the budget and which line items pay what bills and nothing more. The Auditor further indicated that any monies paid from the wrong account were returned to the proper accounts and that these issues did not cause any financial loss for the county.

Anne Marie Polan-Plan Commission-Appeared to give an update on the permits and to let them know that the new flood maps go into effect today.
8. CORRESPONDENCE
None
9. REQUESTS
 - A. **Tony Mancuso**-Health Department-Request for travel to Anniston Alabama.
Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
Request for fee increase for Birth and Death Certificates and fee addition for Nitrate Testing.

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

Request approval for updated LaPorte County Food Ordinance.

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

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Karl Cender-Updated County Financials Report.

Karl Cender appears before the Commission to give an update on county finances. He distributed a report to the Commission and to Earl Cunningham and Rich Mrozinski of the County Council. He focused on the general fund. Mr. Cender examined the receipts of funds that have come into the County along with the projected tax collections and various other factors to conclude that the General Fund deficit should be \$2.6 million if all collections go as expected. Mr. Cender will be back in December to provide another update.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Judge Jennifer Koethe-Superior Court 3-Consideration of Resolution in Support of Veteran's Court.

Judge Koethe appeared before the Commission to get support of Veteran's Court. Commissioner Kora reads the Resolution for the record.

Consideration of Contract with Architect Robert Gerometta for preliminary design of plans to move Superior Court No. 3 to 2nd floor courthouse/possible addition of project to proposed energy savings project.

Judge Koethe requested approval to contract Robert Gerometta to see if a renovation of the Courthouse second floor can be added to a proposed energy savings project due to a new administrative rule regarding Court security.

Commissioner Kora moves to approve the fee not to exceed \$5000.00 for the study. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Barbara Dean-Recorder-Consideration of E-Recording Contract.

Barbara Dean appeared before the Commission to request the Commissioners sign a contract so her office can begin E-Recording. Atty Friedman indicates that his office has reviewed the contract and is comfortable with the terms.

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

C. Matt Reardon-Economic Development-Consideration of contract between Office of Economic Development and Bradley Company LLC. (Realtor Todd Dickard) to market available commercial/industrial properties nationally.-Tabled.

D. Erika Stallworth-Juvenile Service Center-Consideration of Contract with Choices.

Erika Stallworth appears with a contract with Choices. Atty. Friedman indicates that he has reviewed the contract and is comfortable with the terms and conditions. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. Mitch Bishop-County Planner-Consideration of Phase II of Rolling Prairie Sewer Project and authorization for public hearing.

Mitch Bishop appears before the Commission to request signature on a Planning Grant Application for preliminary engineering of the sewer extension into Rolling Prairie and a Sub Recipient Agreement between the Regional Sewer Board, the Sewer District, and LaPorte County the recipient of the OKRA Grant. Atty. Friedman indicates that he has reviewed the documents and recommends signature. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. Rick Brown-MS4 Director-Doug Biege- MS4 Counsel-Consideration of MS4 re-organized structure/notification letter to state.

Doug Biege appears before the Commission to request signature on a Re-Organized Structure/Notification letter to the State. He informed the Commission of differences between this application and last years and requested signatures. He further indicated that the Council has funded this Re-Organized Structure fully. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

G. AED units.

Commissioner Kora indicates that the Duneland Health Council and its President Mr. Norm Stider have donated the money to maintain the AED Units in the amount of \$1850.00 and Tony Mancuso from the Health Department and his staff are going to maintain the 5 units and the supplies will be purchased through the donation. He said the units will be in the LaPorte County Complex, the LaPorte County Courthouse, Michigan City Courthouse, Hiler Building and LaPorte County Home and three additional AED's on in the Michigan City Health Department will be paid for by the Health Department, and 2 for the Parks Department to be maintained by Mr. Tim Morgan. He thanked the Duneland Health Council and Mr. Stider for the contribution. Commissioner Decker indicates that the Sheriff's Department will take the remaining AED units that are not being used. One will be going to the Springfield Township Trustee's office.

H. Receipt of Energy Savings Proposals.

Commissioner Milsap indicates that two proposals have been received and a committee will be appointed to review and evaluate the proposals. Commissioner Kora moves to appoint the committee consisting of: 2 Council Members, 1 Commissioner, Mr. Cooley, Darlene Hale, Mr. Yacullo and Mr. Bishop. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. The Auditor then opened the sealed proposals.

I. Weaver Boos presentation regarding the Deercroft Facility.

Eric Neagu presented photographs and discussed the potential uses for the facility. Commissioner Kora moves to schedule a workshop with the Council to discuss the ideas further. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny-Congratulated the tax payers of Michigan City for voting No to the Referendum. He then thanked the Auditor for assisting him with information. He indicated that he was involved with the landfill when they were dumping there and that a problem prior was the leech (sp) which amounted to approximately 10,000 gallons per month because of the garbage being squeezed down to a bottom of a pit. He indicated that when he worked at NIPSCO he was involved with asbestos being dumped there. He expressed concerns regarding hazardous waste that may have been dumped there and suggested that the Commission investigate further before utilizing that land. He thanked the Commissioners for tabling item 11. C, he indicated that he had offered input regarding that item and appreciated that all three Commissioners will listen to a tax payer. He wanted to know Mr. Cender's pay schedule. He indicated that the cell phone ban is not being fully enforced.

Earl Cunningham-Presented his calculations on the standing of the General Fund.

Sherry Banik-Appeared to express concerns regarding the Great Lakes Poultry Plant in Kingsbury. She indicated that there was excavating going on in the back of the property and they discovered that a storage tank to hold waste water was being installed. She said she checked with the Building Commission and they were told that M2 zoning permits locker plant approval in that zone that it is permitted. She said she feels this facility is a slaughterhouse and presented documentation showing such and that as a slaughter house it would need special zoning. She asked for the Commission to help ensure that the proper channels have been followed in order for the work to continue at the plant.

Pat Graham-Appeared before the Commission to inform people about the Worthy Women's Recovery Home and to let people know they have a dinner on November 16, 2013 and invited people to attend and hear testimony of the girls who are in the program and perhaps donate if so inclined.

Chief Jim Sosinski-Thanked the Commission for the Resolution in support of Veteran's Court and Judge Koethe for her determination in getting the Court started.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker thanked Eric for the work he has done on the Landfill, he said it's going to be very involved and that everything is going in the right direction, that this is what they said they would do if they got elected and this is what they are doing.

Commissioner Kora echoed Commissioner Decker's comments about Deercroft and Eric's wonderful work so far. He said that tourism is a significant portion of our economy and this will enhance that and he looks forward to the workshop with the Council to take it to the next level.

Commissioner Milsap thanked the LaPorte County team that met last night with the Jonkind Park Homeowners association regarding their water issue, he said it's a perfect example of people stepping up to help all of the taxpayers in LaPorte County. He also said job creation is the flavor of the day and he will be going to Indianapolis a week from today to offer testimony in a NIPSCO case, to prevent NIPSCO from passing along 1million dollars in infrastructure costs to rate payers and to encourage them to make the needed investment at the Kingsbury Industrial Plant.

14. **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 _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA