



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 Milsap,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

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MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday December 4, 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**
Dr. Kora led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
Commissioners Milsap and Kora were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **November 20, 2013**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve the minutes. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending-11/22/2013- \$982,960.99**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$784,681.00**Commissioner Kora moves to approve, Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Mike Schultz-Assessor-appeared before the Commission to discuss the tax situation and give a status regarding the issue of the DLGF. The Auditor interjected that they are two weeks behind on the originally scheduled billing for the taxes. Commissioner Kora moves to have the county attorney explore all remedies, legal, administrative and legislative remedies to see that taxpayers cannot halt the county taxes by circumventing the county with ex-parte communications with the DLGF. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Blair Milo appeared before the Commission to discuss the problems that the City of LaPorte are facing as a direct result of the tax issues in LaPorte County. She offered her assistance in the research for a remedy and in any other area that the City of LaPorte can help.

Joyce Leon-Human Resources-Announced the Employee of the Month from the Juvenile Services Center-Dennis Orr.

Nicole Messacar-Soil and Water-Appeared before the Commission to request signs to mark the local bodies of water. She indicated that Michigan City Board of Works is supportive of the project. Commissioner Milsap takes it under consideration until further research is conducted by the Highway Department and the sign shop. Commissioner Kora moves to have Ms. Messacar meet with the Highway Department and make a plan and present that, along with cost, to the Commission for a decision.

Dick Buell-Director of Community Corrections-Appeared before the Commission to update them on his new facility. He stated they have addressed the heating issues and that repairs have been assessed and are being made. He stated that any other issues are minimal.

Earl Cunningham-County Council-withdrew his Correspondence from the Agenda. He went on to give the Commission an update of his calculations regarding the financial standing of the county.

Attorney Friedman-County Attorney-informed the Commission and the public about the Conflict of Interest and Anti Nepotism policies and that the forms are ready to be distributed to county officials.

Ken Purze-Drainage Board-appeared before the Commission to give an overview of the things that the Drainage Board is working on. He also discussed the possibility of getting an urban drain in Jonkind park to resolve their drainage issues.

Tony Hendricks-Surveyor-appeared before the Commission to request permission to travel to a quarterly meeting in Illinois for the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jim Sosinski-Chief-appeared before the Commission to inform them of the press conference regarding a burglary ring. He credited his staff and Michigan City Police for solving the crime and recovering the stolen property.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
Earl Cunningham-County Council

9. **REQUESTS**

A. **Nicole Caylor-NAC-Request for Road Closures.**

Nicole Caylor appeared to request road closure for the Dingus Day Dash. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Consideration of designated space for Work One office/re-allocate office space to accommodate.**

Attorney Friedman indicates that Maintenance is hard at work on a plan along with the I.T. Department to remodel a space to accommodate a Work One office in Michigan City at the 8th Street Building. He stated that the Maintenance budget would be able to fund the changes. He said they believe construction can be completed by January 15, 2014 and Work One can move in by February 1, 2014. He commended all the departments housed in the 8th street building for their cooperation in getting this accomplished. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the plan. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-Recommend Proposals for 2014.-Tabled.**

C. **Consider next phase of study with Weaver Boos regarding county landfill conversion to recreational/tourism destination-consider designating Economic Development Funds.**

Mitchell Bishop requests this be tabled. Commissioner Kora moves to table. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. **Joyce Leon-Human Resources-Policy Revisions.**

Joyce Leon appears before the Commission to revise the vacation policy. Attorney Friedman suggested revisions and asked Ms. Leon to re-appear.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Mike Yacullo-Proposed contract with NIES Engineering to design Passing Blister at the intersection of Johnson Rd. and Pahs Rd.**

Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission to request signature on the NIES Engineering Contract. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Commissioner Kora-Consider Resolution opposing plan to eliminate business personal property tax without adequate substitute revenue source for local government and schools.**

Commissioner Kora reads a Resolution opposing plan to eliminate business personal property tax without adequate substitute revenue source for local government and schools. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Margie Graf from Fish Lake appeared to discuss the drainage on Lakeside drive. Commissioner Kora asked Mike Yacullo to assess the situation and bring back a report to the Commission.

Mike Seitz said he lives on Lakeside drive as well and confirms there is a drainage problem. He further wanted to let the Commission know that property tax relief is on their agenda for the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting.

Clarence Hulse, Economic Development Director for Michigan City was introduced by Commissioner Kora.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Milsap indicates that they are moving forward with Work One and he is looking forward to working with them to get our County working again, it's long overdue.

14. **ADJOURN**

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