

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

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, January 2, 2104

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**
John Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Decker moves to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
Commissioner Decker nominates Commissioner Milsap for Commission President. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora nominates Commissioner Decker for Commission Vice President. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR 2014**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS-**
 - A. **Department Heads.**
Commissioner Kora moves to re-appoint County Attorney, Friedman and Associates, Confidential Secretary, Robin Surber, Insurance agents of record, Michiana Insurance and GIS, and all present Department Heads. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora then moved to re-appoint in the County Highway Department: General Foreman, Rick Webb, Garage Foreman, Steve Cox, Bridge Foreman, Joe Skalka, Rolling Prairie District Foreman, Lee Wuthrich, Hanna District Foreman David Doud, Utility Inspector, Richard Dombroski, and Right to Know Director, Jeff Hamilton. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - B. **Commission Liaisons.**
Commissioner Kora then listed the Commission Liason appointments for 2014 and made a motion to accept them all. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - C. **Board and Commissions.**
Commissioner Decker then read the appointments to the Boards and Commissions. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. **ESTABLISHMENT/APPOINTMENT OF LAPORTE COUNTY NEO-NATAL TASK FORCE-Commissioner Kora.**
Commissioner Kora indicates that in an effort to address the issue of low birth weight babies in LaPorte County, the Commission would like to establish a Neo-Natal Task Force. He read into the record Resolution 2014-01. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Neo-Natal Task Force. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora then reads the list of proposed members of the task force as follows: Dr. Kora, Dr. Catherine Jackson-Evans; Dr. Jeffrey Ellis, Dr. Gelan Gandra, Laurie Williams R.N., Marsha Morris, Theresa Luce, Peggy Rose, Matt Burden, Greta Friedman, Linda Bachinski, Cindy Rizzo, Philip Winchell, Tony Mancuso, and someone from LaPorte Schools and one from Elite Communities of LaPorte County. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the potential members. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. **REPORT ON 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/STATUS UPDATE ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**
Commissioner Milsap gave a report summarizing the achievements that were made in 2013. Commissioner Kora then indicated that he was very pleased with the work done by the Economic Development Advisory Committee and made a motion to keep them and have the same individuals return for 2014. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. **ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Attorney Friedman announces that Joyce Leon has accepted other employment. He further indicated that the Commission and the Council will need to have a workshop later in the month. Commissioner Kora thanked Ms. Leon for her service and said that she will be missed. Commissioner Decker indicated that Human Resources and Ms. Leon has been a blessing in that she has helped to deter many lawsuits for the county. Commissioner Milsap indicated that Ms. Leon always had a home to come back to.

11. **RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE EVALUATING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROPOSALS TO COMMISSION- County Engineer Mike Yacullo.**
Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission to present the official letter stating why Ameresco was chosen for this project. He then read the letter into the record. Commissioner Kora moves to have the county attorney begin negotiations with Ameresco and present that to the Council. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
12. **OLD BUSINESS**
Robert Young-Hwy Department-Recommendation for Material Bids.
Robert Young appeared before the Commission and made his recommendations for material bids for the County Highway.
13. **NEW BUSINESS**
Consideration of proposed contract with LaPorte Hospital regarding EMS base.
Attorney Friedman indicated that he has been communicating with Pat Pease of EMS and that EMS has been working to set up a base at LaPorte Hospital for EMS. He said that if the Commission approves the agreement, they will need to have a workshop with the Council. He recommended that the Commissioners approve the agreement presented to them.
14. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Pat Pease appeared and commended all the agencies that were involved in the recent bus accident. Sheriff Mollenhauer appeared to also commend everyone involved in the bus accident. He indicated that they are under a severe weather warning and that he is going to have his employees prepare accordingly and he encouraged the public to do the same. He thanked Ms. Leon for all her assistance over the years. He then commended his off duty officer who responded to an accident and was able to bring an injured driver back to life.
Joyce Leon appeared and thanked the Commission, the County Attorney, and the County Employees for a great run. Jerry Cooley appeared and thanked Joyce Leon. He then thanked the Commission for hiring a company to come in and analyze what needs to be done in the County. He indicated that he has been having trouble with the elevators and the boilers. He then said that the work one project is moving along well in the 8th street building.
Mike Seitz appeared and thanked the Commissioners for the appointment to the tourism board.
John Jones appeared and wished the best to Joyce Leon.
15. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
Commissioner Decker commented on the events that have occurred through the year, he commended the County Employees for their good work in tough situations. He relayed his appreciation for the county workers. Commissioner Kora also commended the employees. He indicated that he was pleased that after much effort the KIP contract has come to fruition. He thanked Shaw Friedman for his efforts in making it happen. Commissioner Milsap stated that all the Commissioners are in it for the right reasons, good government, enhancing the quality of life of ALL LaPorte County residents. He said they are looking forward to doing more in 2014.
16. **ADJOURN**
Commissioner Kora moved to adjourn. Commissioner Decker seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

ATTEST: _____
Auditor

COUNTY, INDIANA