



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

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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 January 15, 2014

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**
Julia Surber led the pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora deleted item 10.D and 11.A and 11. E and added request from Sheriff to approach the Council for a vehicle.
Commissioner Kora moved to accept the agenda. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **January 2, 2014**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 01/03/14-\$1,018,745.55**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$6,220,830.67**
Commissioner Decker moves to accept the claims as presented. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Jane Bernard-Animal Control-Gave the Commissioners an update on the new building and invited them to visit the facility. She thanked the Commission for closing and keeping the employees and public safe in the bad weather and she thanked the employees that made it in despite the snow. She also thanked Jerry Cooley for quickly addressing a leak they had and for plowing so they could get in. She thanked the County Highway and all the other emergency agencies in LaPorte that continued to perform their duties in the storm.
Commissioner Decker moved to add 11 E back on the agenda, Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jerry Cooley appeared before the Commission to give a report regarding the performance of the maintenance department and the Highway Department, he indicated that they worked very well together in the snow. He also indicated that his trucks are getting old and soon will be unable to perform as they should.

Pat Pease-EMS-Commended all county offices who assisted EMS in getting to the emergency calls in the snow. Commissioner Kora moved to extend the appreciation of the Commission to all the County employees who worked during the storm.

Earl Cunningham-Council-Appeared before the Commission to discuss the financial status of the County. He also thanked the County Employees who worked hard during such a difficult time.

Commissioner Milsap indicated that the Employee of the Month award will be delayed due to the closures.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

From Mike Kellems
Captain Mike Kellems wrote to the Commission to commend the LaPorte County Highway department for their hard work during the storm.
9. **REQUESTS**

Attorney Friedman indicated that the third party claims adjusters have requested clarification on when the county will pay for damaged mailboxes. He indicated that Bob Young recommended that the county should pay if the box is damaged by a snow plow, but not if damaged by snow. Attorney Friedman advised that he is also comfortable with that recommendation from a legal perspective. Commissioner Kora moved to accept Mr. Young's recommendation. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Decker indicates that some of the new plastic mailboxes don't hold up in the cold weather when snow hits it, he recommended that people put up a piece of plywood to protect their box.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Consider re-appointment of ex-officio member to Redevelopment Commission.

Commissioner Kora nominates Mr. Mike Kellems. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Consider appointment for Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

Commissioner Kora nominates Mr. Mike Kellems. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. Consideration of proposed Interlocal agreement between Town of Westville, Westville Schools, LaPorte County and LaPorte County Parks.

Mike Yacullo appeared to request signature on the agreement that has been worked out between the entities. Atty Friedman indicates that everyone has worked very hard to make this agreement and commends all involved.

Commissioner Decker moves to sign the agreement. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. Jerry Cooley-Request for signature on contracts for proposals for Vending, Trash, Telephones, Generators, Preventative Maintenance, and Pest Control. – At the end of the meeting Mr. Cooley approached the Commission to get signatures for his contracts. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Opening of sealed bids for County Complex Wall Coping Repair Contract.-REMOVED

B. Barb Mossman-Human Resources-Travel Request to the SHRM Conference. Policy Revisions.

Barb Mossman appeared to request to travel to the SHRM Conference in Florida. Commissioner Kora indicates that since there is no department head in Human Resources at this time he moved to table the request to travel.

Commissioner Decker seconds. She indicated the vacation policy change language had been changed as previously requested. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the policy change. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. Pat Pease-EMS-Request permission to advertise for two new Ambulances. Proposed purchase agreement for parcel re: new EMS base.

Pat Pease appeared before the Commission and requested permission to advertise for two new ambulances. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Atty Friedman indicated that there is a workshop scheduled for the Council and Commission regarding the parcel for a new EMS base to be located near LaPorte Hospital, he stated that part of that agreement dictates that LaPorte County acquire a parcel of land to submit for the base and he presented a proposed purchase agreement contingent to financing and approval by the County Council. The agreement has to be completed by the end of February. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. Consideration of appointment to Drainage Board to fill vacancy in District 1.

Commissioner Decker asks the county attorney if the party has to be replaced by a person with the same party affiliation for the Washington Township Board. Commissioner Kora moves to appoint John Cuzon. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. Consideration of appointment to Washington Township Board.

Commissioner Decker nominates Bruce Vermillier, subject to party affiliation approval. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. Jane Bernard-Animal Control-Memorandum of Understanding (Animal Services Fund)

Jane Bernard request signature on MOU that would give funds to the Animal Shelter from Michigan City. Atty Friedman indicates that his office is comfortable with the MOU. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

G. Permission for Sheriff Mollenhauer to approach the Council for a new vehicle.

Commissioner Decker indicates that a car was totaled in the storm leaving the Sheriff short one vehicle. He states the deductible is higher than the amount of a new car. Commissioner Decker moves to approve permission to go to the Council. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker moves to make a Resolution which commends all the employees that worked the storm, he stated they all had to work in difficult conditions with little rest and they did a tremendous job and that he is thankful that we have them all.

Commissioner Kora seconds his motion.

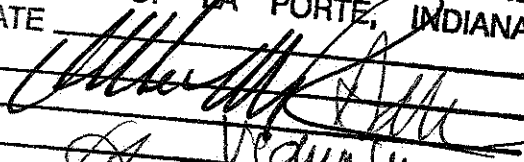
Commissioner Milsap agrees with the comments of the other Commissioners and indicates that he rode with the Highway Department in a plow and that he realized how difficult a job it is. He further commended the State and the City of Michigan City and the City of LaPorte for their efforts in the storm.

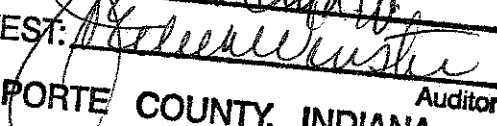
14.

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