



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, February 5, 2014

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**
Lyn Spevak led the Pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Decker removes item 'A' under requests. Commissioner Decker added a request from Rev. Billy Nickrand for road closures for a 5K/10K race. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the amended agenda.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **January 15, 2014**
Commissioner Decker moves to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 01/31/14-\$1,070,423.39**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$2,101,141.70**
Commissioner Kora moves to accept the claims. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Chief Jim Sosinski-Sheriff's office-Appeared before the Commission to thank those who sent their sympathy and assistance during the passing of his Father and his Wife's Mother. He commended his Deputy for the capture of the prisoner who escaped from a Michigan prison. He further requested permission to seek bids for new police cars. He said they need 7 or 8 new cars this year. He detailed for the Commission which cars need to be replaced. Commissioner Decker asked if any of the cars could be used to replace older vehicles. Chief Sosinski said they could. Commissioner Kora moves to give Chief Sosinski permission to approach the Council to ask for the police cars. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Chief Sosinski then indicated that he would need permission to publish the bid notice due to the time constraints that could be caused by the publication rules. Commissioner Kora changes his motion and moves to allow the Chief to seek bids and then approach the Council. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Sheriff Mollenhauer appeared before the Commission to commend the Officer who apprehended the escaped convict and to let them know that the State Police called as well as the Governor to commend Officer Suprina. He indicated that he will be recognized at their Merit Board meeting. Fran Tibbot and Amy Bluhm appeared before the Commission to commend all the emergency workers who have responded to various emergencies that LaPorte County has had this year. She further explained the declaration of travel for when there is heavy snow. Amy Bluhm gave a weather report for the weekend. Commissioner Kora commended the Coroner's office for his part in the rescue efforts. Pat Pease-EMS- appeared before the Commissioners to thank IU Health LaPorte for their generous donation toward the EMS station. Lynne Spevak appeared before the Commission to report that the filing deadline for several positions is Feb. 7, 2014.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None
9. **REQUESTS**
 - A. **Kayla Scelfo-Request for road closure for a 5K/10K race.**
 - B. **Erika Stallworth-Request for travel to Peoria, IL**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve, Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - C. **Dick Reel-Request for Tourism Funds for Pioneer Land-\$800.00.**

Commissioner Decker indicated that there have been so many requests they should limit the donation amount to \$500 per entity. Commissioner Decker moves to give Pioneer Land \$500. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. Bob Szilagyi-Request for travel to San Antonio, Texas.

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

E. Dan Plath-Request for Tourism Funds for Sandhill Crane Paddle Club-\$650.00

Commissioner Decker moves to approve \$500, Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. Hanna Lions Club-Request for Tourism Funds for Hanna Fest-\$500.00

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

G. Consider request of County Economic Development Director and County Attorney to travel to Tampa, FL February 20-22 for meetings with Tampa Port Authority officials in connection with Green express/KIP Project

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

H. Door Village request for 5K. Request to use sheriff's at the event.

Chief Sosinski indicates to the Commission that his office will work with the organizers. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Indiana Workforce Board regarding Michigan City Work One office.

Attorney Friedman indicates that his office is comfortable with the agreement and recommends approval.

Commissioner Kora thanks all involved in making this happen. Commissioner Kora moves to approve.

Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Consideration of appointment to fill vacancy on LaPorte Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Commissioner Kora nominates Martha King. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. Agreement for interm maintenance of army sewer system as part of KIP development project.

Nick Minich appeared before the Commission to explain the details of the development project. Attorney

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

D. Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Consideration of Bridge 157-Draft Specs/Contract Document.

Mika Yacullo appeared before the Commission to request approval to get bids. Commissioner Kora moves to allow Mr. Yacullo to get bids for this project. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Request to close Meer Road.

Mr. Yacullo indicates that Michigan City is doing some sewer work and has requested permission to close the road. He further states that the road will be open to local traffic. Commissioner Decker moves to approve.

Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Consideration of Design Services Contract with SEH for the design of a connector road between Lifeworks and CR 950 West.

Mr. Yacullo indicates that they need to establish a connecting road and he has taken quotes from 4 local firms.

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

C. Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Request permission to approach the Council for \$22,806, our portion of local match to fund the Inter-Urban Transit Initiative from either CCD Fund or Riverboat Fund.

Mr. Yacullo requests permission to approach the Council to get funding for the bus to run between Michigan City and LaPorte and to Purdue North Central. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. Barb Mossman-Human Resources- Policy Revisions.

Attorney Friedman indicated to the Commission that Mrs. Mossman had jury duty and was unable to appear, but that his office has been consulted regarding a retiring employee and his health insurance and recommends approval. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Attorney Friedman went on to indicate to the Commission that he has examined the policy revision stating that part time employees do not get paid for snow days and recommends that revision. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. Mitch Bishop-County Planner-Ordinance to Amend the LaPorte County Fair Housing Act of 1999.

Mitch Bishop appeared before the Commission to obtain approval on an Ordinance to amend the LaPorte County Fair Housing Act because it is not compliant with current HUD conditions. Attorney Friedman recommends approval. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. Consideration of Motion to clarify no present intent for Frontage Road near Leveltek Property-39 North.

Attorney Friedman indicates that a developer who made the request to attend the meeting. He further indicated that neither he nor the County Planner could find any plan for a frontage road on that property. There is no present intent to put a frontage road in front of Leveltek. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

G. Commissioner Decker/Mayor Milo-Discussion of potential land swap with the City of LaPorte-Dye Building on Washington Street for property near Waverly Road/Pine Lake Avenue.

Commissioner Decker indicated that a parcel on waverly road that includes part of stone lake is a piece of land that the park department would like to have, and the City of LaPorte has a building behind the annex called the Dye Building that would provide extra parking for county employees. He indicated it would cost approximately \$168,000.00 to tear

down the building. Commissioner Kora moves to allow the County Attorney to start negotiations for this land swap. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Seitz commended the Commission for the wisdom of creating the urban inter county transport. He stated they passed a Resolution regarding the elimination of the personal property business income tax that will be sent down state unless there is a substitute for that tax. He stated he is monitoring the situation and will keep the Commission apprised of what he discovers.

John Sullivan gave a brief overview of the I-94 incident. He commended all involved, stating that many counties assisted. He further commended the county employees involved in the incident were exemplary and highly skilled.

13.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Decker stated that we have had so many extra ordinary incidents happen in LaPorte County lately and that he is proud of the quality emergency personnel, and he is amazed that there are people on the Council that want to break that up and outside contract the ambulance services. He said he will never understand it and will never agree to it. He said we have great people who don't get enough rewards doing that job. He thanked everybody in the county and other counties for their good work.

Commissioner Kora echoed Commissioner Decker's thoughts and stated that Dr. Callahan, the President of St. Anthony's wrote a piece complimenting the personnel. He stated that February 19 will be the first meeting of the Neo Natal Task Force and he is excited about the work they will be doing.

Commissioner Milsap stated that a couple of Council members requested a workshop on privatizing our EMS service, he commended our EMS service for their outstanding efforts and that he would not entertain any possibility of outsourcing that service.

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