

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

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LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

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Willie Milsap,
President

Dave Decker,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, March 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

Barb Mossman led the Pledge.

3. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Milsap and Decker were present. Commissioner Kora did not attend, he was in Washington DC. With the AMA.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Decker moves to add Bid Opening for Sheriff Vehicles as per date indicated on bid documents. He also added consideration of agreement of public accounting firm to perform a financial review on Council of Aging, with the approval of their task force. Commissioner Decker moved to accept the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Milsap stepped down and seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 5, 2014
February 19, 2014

Commissioner Decker moved to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. CLAIMS

- A. Payroll Ending 02/28/14-\$1,011,968.49
B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$1,131,366.80

Commissioner Decker moved to accept the claims as presented. Commissioner Milsap seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

The auditor then reported that two Council members have not submitted their ethics forms and she requested to leave the meeting early due to the volume of work in her office.

7. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Chief Sosinski-Chief Deputy Sheriff-appeared before the Commission to give them a report from the United States Department of Justice in conjunction with the National Institute for Corrections. It was based on an examination of the jail staffing, nursing and medical analysts at LaPorte County Jail, he indicated that the report shows their liabilities in the jail. He also reported that Monday they did a drug search in the jail with the dogs and no drugs were found. He stated they are currently working on the crime statistics for 2013.

Earl Cunningham-Council-appeared before the Commission to dispute the report given them by Chief Sosinski. Mr. Cunningham went on to recite the balances of the General Fund.

Mike Mollenhauer-Sheriff-appeared before the Commission to discuss the nursing situation in the jail. He indicated that it is difficult to find part time people in that environment for \$17.50 per hour. He stated they are trying to find a part time and a full time person, and that Porter County has 10 nurses, 7 RN's and 3 LPN's, for the same population jail as we have, they pay them \$76,000.00 to the person in charge and we pay \$36,000.00.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. **REQUESTS**

A. **Jeff Wiatrowski**-Request for use of the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Decker indicated that he talked with Gene Schirt and that he said it should be no problem. Commissioner Decker moves to approve pending the fair board approval. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Michigan City Police Department**-Request for tourism funds for Easter egg hunt-\$500.

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

C. **Union Mills Conservation Club**-Request for tourism funds for Mill Pond Festival-\$500.

Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion Carried by voice vote.

D. **Door Village Harvest Festival**-Request for tourism funds for Door Village Harvest Festival-\$500.

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

E. **Amy Bluhm**-EMA-Request for signature on Grant.

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

F. **Kay Felton**-County Home-Request for signature on Contract with Consolidated Fire Protection.

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

G. **Barb Mossman**-Human Resources-Request for signature on New Avenues contract.

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

H. **Nicole Caylor**-NAC-Request for road closure for Wing Ding Dash 5K.

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

I. **Robert Szilagyi**-Request to go to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Los Angeles, CA.

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

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Pat Pease**-EMS-Ambulance Bid Recommendation.

Pat Pease appeared before the Commission and recommended AEV to be awarded the bid pending Council approval of the funding at their March meeting. With reservation as long as they have the chassis in stock. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the recommendation and allow Ms. Pease to go before the Council to ask for the funds. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Resignation letter of Fran Tibbot/Invitation for resumes for Emergency Management Director.**

Attorney Friedman indicated that the entire Commission is thankful for the good work put in by Fran Tibbot. He then invited people to apply via the posting on the LaPorte County website.

B. **Mike Yacullo**-County Engineer-INDOT/LPA contract for Johnson Road project.

Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission to get a signature on the contract. Commissioner Decker moves to approve.

Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Bid Opening for Reconstruction of Bridge 157.

Attorney Friedman indicates that all the bids were timely received and proceeded to open them and turn them over to the County Engineer. Commissioner Decker moves to turn them over to the county engineer for examination and recommendation. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Signature of Construction Inspection contract for CR 950 W with HW Lochner.

Attorney Friedman indicates that due to a conflict of interest with his office, William Hedge, conflict counsel, has reviewed and recommended the contract. Commissioner Decker moves to accept as recommended by conflict counsel, William Hedge. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Ralph Howes**-Petition to vacate roadway.

Ralph Howes appeared before the Commission to request vacation of a roadway. Attorney Friedman indicated that if it's a platted subdivision it needs to go to the Plan Commission. Mr. Howes indicated that it's a platted subdivision. Attorney Biege advised Mr. Howes of the process for a platted subdivision starting with the Plan Commission. Mr. Howes requested the matter be tabled until he could take it before the Plan Commission.

D. **Bid Openings for the Sheriff Vehicles**-Attorney Friedman indicates that the bid request indicated that Sauer Ford and LaPorte Chrysler both submitted bids in a timely fashion. He opened the bids and turned them over to Chief Sosinski upon a motion from Commissioner Decker and a second from Commissioner Milsap. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. **Consideration of agreement of public accounting firm to perform a financial review on Council of Aging**-Attorney Friedman indicated that there were two parts to the settlement with Parents and Friends, one part was the continued funding and operation of the Council on Aging services for 30 days, the other was engaging a public accounting firm to perform a financial review of Council on Aging operation and make a recommendation to the task force. The Task Force set up a subcommittee to provide a request for proposals on two large accounting firms. Blue and Co. is the only firm that submitted a bid. Attorney Friedman indicated that the Task Force will take this up at their meeting. Commissioner Decker moves to accept the proposal of Blue and Co. conditional on the approval of the Task Force. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

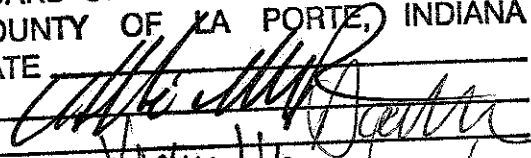
3. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

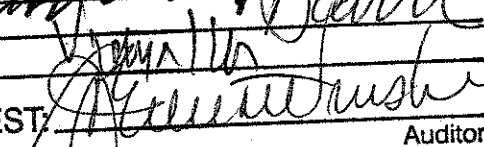
Commissioner Decker indicates that they have be working very closely with ENDOT and NIRPC on a lot of projects, thanks to Mike Yacullo and Mitch Bishop. He thanked all involved for the cooperation that the Commission has been getting. Commissioner Milsap indicated that we are in the last stage of the grand re-opening for the Michigan City office of Work One. He stated that the number one priority is Economic Development and job creation and this office will be used as tool to get everyone back to work in LaPorte County.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Decker moves to adjourn. Commissioner Milsap 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