



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

Wednesday March 19, 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**
Steve Grott led the Pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora deleted item 11 C., and added recommendation of task force for emergency transition assistance to continue services for the elderly and disabled and signature to the Unity Foundation check to finish the animal shelter. Commissioner Decker adds quote for Pavey Excavating to tear down the house on Tyler St. and to remove approval of construction contract with Northern Indiana Construction. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the agenda with changes. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **February 19, 2014**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 03/14/14-\$996,731.51**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$1,189,270.60**Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Robert Young-Hwy Superintendent-Indicated that they put up the frost law signs enacting the frost law for approximately the next couple of weeks. He further indicated that Franklin St. Bridge was unable to open due to the ice buildup in the pit. He said they are working on it around the clock.

Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-Indicated that the Health Department had some water damage along with some offices on the third floor. He said they have been talking to the insurance company and they are trying to determine who bears liability for the damages. He stated the elevator in Michigan City has been down for three days and they are having trouble finding the parts to repair it. He indicated that the issue with that elevator needs to be addressed and evaluated soon. He also informed the Commission that the phone system has been acting up again and they are having problems with the phone companies, he submitted a contract to the County Attorney for review and indicated that it might be prudent to use another company. Commissioner Milsap commended Mr. Cooley's staff that executed the modifications to the 8th street building to accommodate the new Work One office. Mr. Decker then thanked the IT Director for giving up that space for the Work One office. Commissioner Kora commented that Work One is going to give many great opportunities for the People of Michigan City. He thanked the Commission President and all involved for making it happen.

Sheriff Mollenhauer-Sheriff-Indicated that the water damage is also in the detective bureau, but they got some tarps and saved the equipment in that office. He stated that the Jail inspection happened today. He said the feedback was positive and the jail was clean. He said the Council gave them funding for two new deputies for school resource officers. He stated that the merit board chose two jail deputies to fill the vacated slots. He indicated that they went to the graduation at the graduation ceremony at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He said Aaron Stobaugh graduated second in the class. He indicated they are getting a new message service that will give an automated update on the inmates, which will help eliminate the calls to the jail.

Earl Cunningham-Council-Appeared to give his calculations of the amount of debt in the general fund.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

9. **REQUESTS**

Great Lakes Auto Club-Labor Dayz car show-\$500.00

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

Rolling Prairie Business & Community Association-Farmers Fest-\$500.00

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

Harmony House/CASA-Super Hero Run-\$500.00

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

Harmony House/CASA-Use of Courthouse lawn for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month.

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

Robert Young-Hwy-Request for signature on Annual Operational Report.

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

Pat Pease-EMS-Request for signature on Letter of Engagement for Blue & Company.

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

Kay Felton-County Home-Request for signature on Agreement between Koorsen Fire & Security and County Home.

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

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

Pat Pease-EMS-Amended Ambulance Bid recommendation.

Pat Pease appears and indicates to the Commission that the bidder she had previously recommended did not meet their specifications so she is now recommending the third highest bidder, PL Custom. She indicated that the second bidder did not submit a bid form 95, or Non-collusion affidavit or custom prints. Commissioner Kora moves to approve.

Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. She was then given permission to request funds from the Council. Commissioner Decker indicated that Mrs. Pease is retiring and will be greatly missed.

Bob Parks/Mike Yacullo-Recommendation regarding bids for Sheriff's vehicles.

Mr. Yacullo recommends the bid submitted by Sauers Ford. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mike Yacullo-Approval of construction contract with Northern Indiana Construction to rebuild Bridge #157.

Tabled.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Jim Neulieb-Discuss Possible mistake of parcel of land in section 11 being included into the Corporate Limits of the Town of Long Beach.**

Mr. Neulieb discussed his views on the possible mistake and was directed to the attorney for the Town of Long Beach. Commissioner Kora moves to table. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Rebecca Meyer-City Attorney-Consideration of proposed land swap with City of LaPorte to acquire Dye Property building on Washington St. for county-owned parcel near Waverly Road.**

Rebecca Meyer appeared to present a copy of the proposed agreement to the Commissioners. She indicated that the City of LaPorte has sought to find a use for the Dye building, and with the knowledge that the county has a use, they propose a swap for a property off of Pine Lake by Waverly Road. She requested approval of the proposal and permission for legal counsel for both entities to move forward with the paperwork to execute the deal. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Tony Mancuso/Commissioner Kora-Consideration of application for Maternal Health Grant.**

Deleted.

D. **Transportation Council on Aging Task Force Recommendation-**

Kristine Harlow appeared to inform the Commission that the Task Force recommends that Michiana Resources take over Council on Aging in its entirety partnering with Harmony House CASA to provide volunteer guardianship services. She indicated that Michiana Resources will need emergency funding in the amount of \$125,000.00. Additionally a committee will need to be established to advise the county Commissioners, Council and that monthly reports be made. Commissioner Kora commended Ms. Harlow and the other members of the task force for their quick actions due to the deadline that will stop the services. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the recommendation of the task force and to give them permission to approach the Council to ask for the emergency funding. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Attorney Friedman indicates that there may need to be a special meeting of the County Council to address the financial issue. Commissioner Decker commended Ms. Harlow for her efforts and expressed his concern that the State of Indiana is throwing these people away, he stated it's time to do something about it.

E. **Signature for the Animal Shelter-**

Jane Bernard appears before the Commission to request a signature on the Unity Foundation check so that she can repay the Council \$50,000.00 and use the remainder to complete the project. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. She went on to remind the Commission that the open house and ribbon cutting for the new addition will be on April 26, 2014. The open house will be 11-2 and ribbon cutting at noon.

- F. **Pavey Bid for House demolition**-Attorney Friedman indicates that there are deadlines to be met with the demolition of the property so it can fulfill its intended use as an ambulance station and recommends approval of the demolition bid. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ross Ratliff said that he is happy to see the positive things brought forth by the Commission in the last year, the Economic Development aid in creating jobs for the county should cause the Commissioners to be publicly commended.

Rip Ludlow commended Bob Young for the assistance that the County Highway has given to his department during the bad winter.

Dennis Metheny wanted to thank Dr. Kora for his presentation at Lindos on the ACA. He also said it was good that the Commissioners got Work One back to Michigan City, he said it's long overdue. He stated he does therapy 3 days a week on his knee and he saw a vehicle that had PAF and COA on the side, he wanted to know if the Audit report had been released, he wanted to know if the report was complete and released to the public. He wanted to know who bought the vehicle, and said that it needs to be looked into. He wanted to know if the money was mismanaged and how the Parents and Friends and Council on Aging got into trouble to begin with. Commissioner Kora indicated that it appeared they were taking in less money and spending more than they took in that led to the problem. Mr. Metheny then indicated that he is not happy about the idea of having a roundabout on Johnson rd. He said he is trying to find a cost for revising the lighting instead. He stated that the accidents at that intersection are .01.

Mike Seitz Chamber of Commerce discussed the legislature and invited the Commissioners to attend their last house session.

Greg Kelder stated he has been bothered by the Parents and Friends issues and everything that was done to attempt to keep them in service. He stated that PAF has done good work for years and he is troubled by the bad image the public has been given about them. He stated he was upset that a government entity would audit a private organization. He wanted to know if the government has every audited any other non-profit organizations. He wanted to know if his business is at risk of being audited by the County as well. Attorney Friedman indicated that the Commissioners did not seek out this issue, they were given the issue with no notice of closure as PAF was to immediately stop services. Because the Commissioners bear responsibility to the public, they needed to ensure that the services remain functioning. He further indicated that it wasn't an audit that the settlement provided for a financial review of their records to assist the task force in making its recommendations to the board.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker says he thinks they covered everything tonight.

Commissioner Kora indicated that he will be talking to Mr. Cender to schedule future meetings to get an update when the tax money starts coming in.

Commissioner Milsap closed the meeting by saying he wants to use Work One as a tool to help with our number one priority which is job creation and economic development. He said the next task is the KIP project.

14. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Decker moves to adjourn. Commissioner Kora 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