



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, April 2, 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**
The Marquette Boys Basketball players led the Pledge.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora adds a Resolution to Honor the Marquette State Championship Basketball team. He also added consider authorization for Michiana Resources to apply to Council pursuant to IC 12-29-1-1 for \$100,000.00 to assist in providing services to the developmentally disabled population. He also added consider authorizing Ameresco to perform energy audit as part of the energy efficiency project. He also corrected New Business section D subsection c the bridge number should be 157 not 257, it's a typo. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **March 19, 2014**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 03/28/14-\$1,007,872.91**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$605,770.16**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**
Commissioner Kora reads Resolution to honor Marquette High School Basketball team. The three Commissioners presented the Coaches and team members with the Resolution. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Nancy Hawkins-Treasurer-Appeared before the Commission to give an update on the taxes. She indicated that long hours have been worked to get the tax bills out, and that there are extensions available for people who may be unable to pay, without any additional penalties. She indicated that they are moving quickly to get the 2014 bill out on time. She indicated that the next bill will not be a provisional bill. She indicated that the spring due date will be May 12 and the fall will be Nov. 10. She then thanked Darlene Hale, Lisa Parret, and Mikey Mauer for their efforts in making the taxes happen. She indicated they work many extra hours and ask for nothing in return. Commissioner Kora thanked Ms. Hawkins for her efforts in getting the taxes straightened out.

Chief Jim Sosinski-Sheriff's office-Appeared before the Commission to request that a re-bid be put out for the previously requested Sheriff vehicles as the approval from the Council did not cover the entire previous bid. Commissioner Decker moved to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. He went on to inform the Commission that Precision Pipeline made a gift to the Sheriff's office to thank them for their assistance during the installation of the pipeline in the amount of \$20,000.00. He indicated that the money was used to buy a vehicle for the department. Commissioner Decker commended him on his efforts to get a vehicle for the department and for all the good work done by the Sheriff and his

staff. Sheriff Mollenhauer indicated that the car is outside for anyone who wants to see it. He said it will be given to a K-9 officer. He then stated that the jail inspection was completed and they are waiting for the report. He said the inspection went very well and commended his staff and the maintenance staff for the good work they do. He also said that the Council funded two new deputies for the school liaison positions. He thanked them for that and gave the names of the officers and the schools. He talked about an automated phone system that they are getting that will let people call in and get any available information on people in the jail.

Bob Young-Hwy Superintendent-Appeared before the Commission to inform them that the frost law has been put into effect for the weekend and will be re-examined on Monday. He said Franklin St. Bridge is repaired and fully operational.

Amy Bluhm-EMA-Appeared before the Commission to give them an update on the operations of EMA.

Earl Cunningham-Council-Appeared before the Commission to discuss the state of the General Fund pursuant to his calculations.

Jerry Cooley-Maintenance Superintendent-Appeared before the Commission to inform them that they are making the change over to heat, but it takes time because of the boilers. He indicated that now they are done with Work One they are going to work on improvements at the Hwy Dept., which will save money for the County. He said they are going to start the sign for the courthouse lawn. He went on to commend IT and Darlene Hale for her excellent work.

Barbara Dean-Recorder-Appeared before the Commission to discuss the actions of Councilman Mrozinski with and ethics complaint that was lodged against her.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None

9. **REQUESTS**

A. Commissioner Decker- request for travel.

Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap steps down and seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Jeff Hamilton-EMA-Request for travel to Northbrook Illinois.

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

C. North Central Community Action-Request for tourism funds for 50th Year Banquet-\$500.00.

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

D. Barb Mossman-Human Resources Director-Request for travel.

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

E. Robert Young-Hwy Dept. Superintendent-Request for CEDIT money- \$3 Million dollars.

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

F. Plan Commission-Request for approval of Vacation of Roadway-11 Pleasant St. LaPorte, In.

Andrew Voltz appeared before the Commission on behalf of Ricky Albertson for this vacation. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Amy Bluhm-EMA-Salary reimbursement Grant.

Amy Bluhm appeared to request a signature on the salary reimbursement grant. She indicated that the signature page is not ready yet and indicated she will bring it when she receives it. Commissioner Decker moves to approve.

Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. Consideration of Resolution approving Economic Development area for 39 North Conservancy District.

Nick Minich appeared before the Commission to request approval of a Resolution. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. Lynne Spevak-Clerk-Approval of Polling places, Absentee Hours, Poll Workers Pay.

Lynne Spevak appeared before the Commission to seek approval of the polling place changes. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the polling places. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the voting hours. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

D. Mike Yacullo-Hwy Engineer-

a. Contract with Gerometta & Kinel Architects to design the new EMS base for 6.75% of Construction Cost.

Mike Yacullo appeared and requested signature of the contract. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. Recommendation for award to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder for Construction of the replacement of Bridge #157.

- Mr. Yacullo recommends LaPorte Construction for construction of the replacement bridge. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- c. **Contract with HW Lochner to provide Construction Inspection Services for replacement of Bridge #157 in the amount of \$23,000.00.**
Mr. Yacullo recommends HW Lochner. Atty. Friedman indicates a conflict of interest and informs the Commission that Attorney Hedge reviewed and approved this contract. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - d. **Contract with Weaver Boos to provide Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Services related to Bridge #14 (CR 400 N over Wolf Creek) in the amount of \$22,500.00.**
Mr. Yacullo recommends the services of Weaver Boos to provide services that are required by IDEM. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Attorney Friedman indicates that the approval is conditional upon the funds being appropriated by the Council.
 - e. **Approval of INDOT/LPA agreement for replacement of Bridge #18 (CR 875 West over Trail Creek).**
Mr. Yacullo indicates that the County has received an award of federal funds to rebuild Bridge #18, he said the local share is capped at \$190,000.00. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Consider Resolution for Economic Development District (NWIEDD).**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. Joie Winski-Auditor-Consider signature for contract with SRI Consulting regarding Ineligible Homestead deductions.**
Jim Hughes from SRI appears to inform the Commissioners of the details of his contract and his program. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. Consider authorization for Michiana Resources to apply to Council pursuant to IC 12-29-1-1 for \$100,000.00 to assist in providing services to the developmentally disabled population.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. Consider authorizing Ameresco to perform energy audit as part of the energy efficiency project.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nina Salyer requested permission to place blue ribbons around the courthouse in honor of Child Abuse Awareness month. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Dennis Metheny indicated that he would like to see the Commission allow for public comment at the beginning of the meeting rather than the end. He inquired as to the start of the tax sales. He also asked how much was spent in gas to guard the pipeline. He further indicated that he is not happy to see more TIF districts going in and does not want to see anymore go in.

Jim Kimmel appeared and informed the Commission that the National Softball Association will bring the girls fast pitch World Series to Northwest Indiana in June. It is the largest tournament that NSA conducts. He said LaPorte County will host 16 and under and 18 and under age group.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker indicates that there was nothing at the meeting that he would have said no to, he said there are too many no's in this county and not enough yes'.

Commissioner Kora welcomes Barb Mossman as the Human Resources Director. He thanked Mr. Cunningham for being focused on getting the finances straightened out for the county. He said in January when they look at the year end numbers, he won't be on the Council but he will be invited back to celebrate a substantial reduction or maybe the county will even be in the black by then.

Commissioner Milsap indicated that it is refreshing to have a State Basketball team back in LaPorte County, it has been years and the youth is showing in the quality of the sports program in the Michigan City area schools, but today we honor the students of Marquette High School, State champs, I'd like to reach out to the parents of the students, I applaud them for supporting the kids morally and financially. This is a reflection of the quality of people we have in our County. He said Work One is up and running.

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