



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 16, 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**
Major McGrath led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners are present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora adds Resolution Honoring the ROTC Program. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Agenda with the addition. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **April 2, 2014**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 04/11/14-\$989,514.35**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$6,107,336.91**Commissioner Kora moves to accept the claims as presented. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Barb Mossman-Human Resource Director-sent a letter stating that ethics training was delayed due to the resignation of the former HR Director and that training sessions will be scheduled with the department heads, hopefully, by June.

Richard Mrozinski-County Council-He spoke of the Candidate Ethics Action Pledge for any candidate who is running for office, he hoped that our county is sending them in, as the list of people who signed the pledge will be published in the paper. He indicated that he thinks the county home should be utilized as a veteran's home. Commissioner Kora indicates that many counties have struggling county homes due to the lack of Arch funding. He asked to be informed of any meetings of the veterans group so all commissioners can attend and gain the information. Mr. Mrozinski indicated that he will set up a meeting and advise the commission of the date and time. He further advised the Commission that the Veteran's recognition medals will be awarded this year on July 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. He indicated that the Veteran's service office has applications available.

Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Indicated that the Indiana Toll Road needs to do roadwork at the Toll Road Bridge and Co. Rd. 600 E. and need to close the road from April 25-May 1, 2014, they have a proposed detour route which Mr. Yacullo finds reasonable and recommends approval. Commissioner Decker Moves to approve. Commissioner Kora Seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. He indicated that the contractor will notify the newspaper.

Sheriff Mike Mollehauer-Sheriff-Informed the Commission of the Department of Corrections Report. He said he will give the Commissioners a copy tomorrow. He gave the Commissioners the summary at the end of the report that was very positive. He indicated that issues from the last report have been resolved and do not appear on this report. He stated that he will also give a copy to the County Council. Attorney Friedman appreciated the efforts of the Sheriff to resolve the potential liability issues that have previously appeared in these reports. Commissioner Kora expressed appreciation to the Sheriff for the attention to the health care standards and suggested that in the future they can work together on that issue. He indicated that as our financial situation gets better, hopefully, they can do whatever is necessary to be sure they are in compliance with the national standards.

Earl Cunningham-Council-Indicated this is the best financial day he has seen in a year. He stated that over 23 million dollars was deposited into the general fund yesterday which cut the deficit in half. Though he indicated that the debt will rise again due to payroll.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None

9. **REQUESTS**

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Lynne Spevak-Clerk-Amended list of polling places.**

Lynne Spevak appeared before the Commission and indicated that she missed a few polling places on her original list and presented an amended list to the Commission. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the amended list. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Consider approval for after-hours outside consulting contract for I.T. Director.**

Attorney Friedman indicated that the county has a moonlighting policy and any department head doing outside employment should be approved. He further indicated that Swanson Center has requested assistance with computer relocation to their new location. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-**

➤ **Approval of agreement between the county and INDOT regarding accepting the US 421 frontage roads into our road inventory in exchange for installation of sewer and water pipeline casings.**

Mike Yacullo appeared and indicated that INDOT wants to take the frontage roads off their maintenance list in exchange for sewer lines and water pipeline casings. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

➤ **Permission to seek Council approval for local match funds for CR 950 West Road Reconstruction Project-\$326,100.00.**

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

➤ **Permission to seek Council approval for local match funds for Johnson Rd/CR 400 North Intersection Improvement Project-\$340,000.00.**

Commissioner Kora moves to give Mr. Yacullo permission to approach the Council. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

➤ **Approval of INDOT/LPA Agreement for Johnson Rd/Pahs Rd. Intersection Improvement Project.**

Mr. Yacullo asked for approval for the completion of the project. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. **Mitch Bishop-County Planner-Request signature for OCRA Planning Grant.**

Mitch Bishop appeared before the Commission to request a signature on the Planning Grant. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Bishop then requested permission to attend the next County Council meeting to request a commitment letter that will enable him to apply for a grant through INDOT's open call to be applied to sidewalk deficiencies and make them ADA compliant. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. **Resolution to Honor the ROTC Program, Major McGrath, and Captain Paul Tobalt and Staff Sergeant Kayla Orzech.**

Commissioner Kora read the Resolution into record. Major McGrath thanked the Commission and stated that he did not think this would be the last of their scholarship recipients. He said he has many good students.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dennis Metheny appeared and wanted to know if the public meeting for the roundabout is going to be held. Attorney Friedman indicated that a meeting will be held and that there has not been a determination for that project yet. He indicated that he is pleased that more roads are being put in, and he believes the money would be better spent on the roads we already have rather than building new. He also requested that when a new road goes in it be striped immediately. He also suggested talking with the other trustees about people who may be able to utilize the county home. He expressed a desire to have voting centers for the elections. He thanked the Commission for getting the money for the Council on Aging.

Jerry Cooley appeared to inform the Commission about the new Weather Station for Alco TV. He said if you go to accesslaportecounty.org you can see the live shot of Lake Michigan all the time.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Decker commended Access LaPorte County for the improvement over the last couple of years. He commended the Highway Department stating that they had a pizza party for them to acknowledge their hard work over the winter.

Commissioner Kora thanked the other Commissioners and the county Attorney for their support in getting the transition for the Council on Aging. He said he has received several calls of thanks from concerned families. He also thanked both LaPorte County Hospitals for donating to get this program started.

Commissioner Milsap applauded Major McGrath and the students for understanding the importance of serving our country, he thanked them for standing up and making our community and our nation safe.

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