



# 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 September 17, 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**
3. **ROLL CALL**  
Commissioners Milsap and Decker present. Commissioner Kora did not attend due to a medical conference.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
Commissioner Decker moves to approve the agenda. Commissioner Milsap steps down and seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. **September 3, 2014**  
Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
  - A. **Payroll Ending 09/12/14-\$1,004,561.76**
  - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$941,085.72**  
Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

**Jack Arnett** appeared to discuss the economic impact of the PGI event. He said he checked the study from that time and provided the Commission with a copy. He also shared the economic impact study from the Great Lakes Grand Prix held in Michigan City, he indicated that it was very successful, it brought 8 Million Dollars to the County for that three day event. He said they are looking to do some new things for both races. Commissioner Decker indicated that since Mr. Arnett has taken over the Tourism Bureau the revenues taken in have increased substantially and commended him for doing a great job. Mr. Arnett said he has a great team out there helping make it happen.

**Sheriff Mollenhauer** appeared to indicate that the new phone system is working great and they were able to reduce the amount of calls that have to be fielded by the employees. He introduced a new security staff member. He then complimented his officers for their response to powder in a letter as well as a bomb threat, he complimented Michigan City Police Department for their fast response. He commended the MC Fire Department, EMS, EMA, and Hazmat for a great job. He indicated that they have the suspect in custody.

**Richard Buell** appeared to discuss the issue of meals provided to Community Corrections by the jail. He indicated that the offenders in need of meals are typically indigent and coming straight from the jail. He stated that his assistant explained to the Council why these meals are necessary. He stated they pick up the meals at the jail. He further stated that initially he had hoped the Juvenile Center would provide the meals but that did not work out. He shared the amount of meals that were taken in 2013 and 2014 by his department from the jail. He indicated that the meal situation has been discussed in an advisory board meeting. He indicated that the vending machines are operating properly. He indicated that he was very upset at the way this was presented.

**Mike Schultz** appeared and indicated that the form 11's have gone out in the mail. He informed the Commission about that document. He further indicated that the PTBOA board is hearing more cases than originally indicated. He said it would be nice to come to a conclusion before the end of the year so things don't get behind. He then asked about a request for travel. He indicated that if he has to pay for the travel he will do so.

**Jerry Cooley** appeared to address the remarks made by Phyllis Marks regarding the dumping and maintenance of the grounds at the County Home. He stated they have taken trustees out there and they have all worked together to keep it cleaned up around the barns. He stated they have been working closely with the barn committee to facilitate all of their needs. He said the grass has been growing so fast this year that it is difficult to keep up with.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

9. **REQUESTS**

**Eric Derucki-Request to vacate partially paved road (Iriquois Trail) in LaPorte County.**

The Commissioners indicated that the petitioner did not follow the proper procedure and are referring him to the Plan Commission. Commissioner Decker moves to table and refer to the Plan Commission. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Dennis Orr-Juvenile Center-Request to travel to North Carolina.**

Dennis Orr appeared and requests travel to North Carolina. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Joie Winski-Auditor-Opening of tax software bids-Referral to Commission-appointed committee for final recommendation.**

Attorney Friedman indicates there are three timely received submissions and opened those bids. Commissioner Decker moves to show all bids as received and refer them to the Auditor for review and recommendation. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Opening of contractor bids for rehabilitation of Bridge #505, Franklin Street Lift Bridge.**

Attorney Friedman indicates there is only one bid. Commissioner Decker moves to show the bid received and turn it over to the Hwy Engineer for review and recommendation. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Opening of contractor bids for Roof Repair Contract at the County Complex Building and the Highway Garage Building on Zigler Road.**

Attorney Friedman opens the bids. Commissioner Decker moves to show the bids received and turn them over to the Hwy Engineer for review. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Consider tightened enforcement of county's credit card policy – Resolution 2013-13.**

Attorney Friedman indicated that credit card usage is an issue, which is why the Commission adopted Resolution 2013-13, he said that, per the Commissioners request, his office has reviewed the Resolution to see if any changes could be made. He recommended that the Commission authorize the Auditor to speak with each of the departments to see if there is a way to limit the amount of credit cards in use. Commissioner Decker moves to have the Auditor contact each department and request that there be only one card per department and that the department head or their designee have care and custody of that card. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Request County Planner to study 'highest and best use' for excess acreage near County Home/Consider authorizing grant writer Heather McCarthy to pursue application to Supportive Housing Initiative for County Home**

Commissioner Decker moves to have Mitch Bishop and Heather McCarthy perform the study. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-Consider extension of EMS lease agreement with LaPorte Hospital.**

Attorney Friedman indicates he has reviewed the agreement and recommends approval. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Doug Biege-Plan Commission Attorney-Consideration of Plan Commission recommendation for Rezoning of R.S. Real Estate property.**

Attorney Friedman indicated they have reviewed the approval from Mr. Biege and are comfortable with approval. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

D. **Joie Winski-Auditor-Consider Request for appropriation to undertake re-codification of Commission and Council ordinances.**

Auditor Winski indicated that she has contacted two different companies to see about codifying the ordinances. She indicated that Mitch Bishop has been giving them the ordinances and that they would like to continue to do so with American Legal. Commissioner Decker moves to table until the next meeting for proposals from both companies.

E. **Consider options presented by U.S. Heritage Group regarding re-staining/moss prevention/re-point joints on Circuit Courthouse exterior.**

Attorney Friedman indicated that they have had several conversations with the Council President to see what options the Council would consider. He said U.S. Heritage re-stained the south area of the Courthouse and that is holding up well. They have proposed finishing off the re-staining of the other three sides at no additional cost, which would complete the whole Hertzig commitment to the county. He said it doesn't take care of the tower. He indicated they have provided options to do other things to the building for a fee, but the stain is at no additional cost. He said it would be at a not to exceed amount. Commissioner Decker indicated that Jerry Cooley said that there is mortar coming out of some of the larger capstones on top, and several other issues with the building. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the not to exceed amount of \$148,950.00 for the Courthouse repair and forward that to the Council for approval. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Mills** appeared before the Commission to ask to put the County Home on the National Registry, he stated he has a check for the fee of \$1000.00 and all he needs is the approval of the Commission. He also said he would like to see the Commissioners and all of the Councilmen put up the money for the Courthouse as well, he said \$100 each would

get the Courthouse started. Mr. Mills said there is a lot of grant potential if these buildings are on the registry. Commissioner Decker said they would talk with the grant writers to see if it's to our advantage to do so, and if so, they would be glad to donate \$100 toward that cause.

**Randy Novak** appeared before the Commission and asked if the Commissioners would look at the vacant homes in his area. He said the county needs to have the authority to secure these buildings for public safety. He submitted copies of an ordinance that may help give the necessary authority.

**Earl Cunningham** appeared before the Commission and indicated that he had issues with the Sheriff stating that he shouldn't buy meals for the Community Corrections.

**Ken Purze** appeared to rebut the letter read at the last meeting from the News Dispatch.

**Mike Bohacek** appeared to discuss comments made by Commissioner Decker at the last meeting.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Milsap commended the Visitor's Bureau for their hard work.

Commissioner Decker commended the emergency personnel that responded to the bomb threat.

14. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Decker moves to adjourn.