



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, November 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**
Sarah led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora added a travel request for Commissioner Decker to attend the NACO meeting in February. He further added a request for re-imbusement to Mike Schultz for travel. He also added to New Business Consideration of Resolution for NICTD and Honoring Jerry Hanz.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **November 5, 2014**
Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 11/07/14-\$1,016,053.38**
 - B. **Miscellaneous Claims-\$1,013,177.80**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Claims as presented. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Robert Young-Hwy Dept-Appeared with a request from Schaeffer Farms to do a road boar under 400 W. He indicated that he has looked into it and recommends approval of their request. He further indicated that the hwy department would monitor the project. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mike Yacullo-Hwy Dept- Appeared before the Commission to discuss the bridge on Co. Rd. 1000 N. He stated that there was severe deterioration and that the road to the bridge had to be closed and asked that the road remain closed until the bridge can be replaced. He stated that in the summer they could be putting bids together and get a contract in place.

Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-Appeared before the Commission to discuss the electrical issues at the County Hwy Building. He stated that the issues were very serious and are being repaired by Marquiss Electric. He also talked about the roof that is moving up and down, he stated he has an appointment with the company that installed the roof to discuss how it will be repaired and who will pay for that repair. Mr. Cooley then discussed the flood in the jail, and what it will take to fix the problem that is causing the floods to happen repeatedly. He stated that when the floods happen they effect many departments, such as IT, the Detective Bureau, and others. Commissioner Decker indicated that he feels the problem needs to be fixed properly to stop future flooding issues.

Lynne Spevak-Clerk-Appeared before the Commission to discuss the new precinct lines. She stated that notice to the public of changes will be published and she will appear before the Commission for approval at that time. She asked that candidates refrain from turning in their forms for their campaign funds until after the approval is given. Attorney Friedman recommended approval of the proposed notice. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Earl Cunningham-Council-Appeared before the Commission to report on the general fund balance.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None

9. **REQUESTS**
- A. **New Day Foundation-Request permission to use roads for a 5K/10K run/walk.**
Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - B. **Mike Schultz-Assessor-Request to pay Donna Melson sick pay upon retirement-HR recommends.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - C. **Tim Morgan-Park Dept.-Request to receive sick pay upon retirement-HR recommends.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve and commends Tim Morgan for his service. Commissioner Decker seconds and agrees. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - D. **Dave Decker-Commissioner-Request to travel to Washington D.C. for the NACO Conference.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - E. **Consider request from County Council to pay Mike Schultz travel expenses-**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. **OLD BUSINESS**
- A. **Robert Young-County Hwy Superintendent-Material Bid recommendation.**
Robert Young appeared before the Commission to recommend which bids to accept. Commissioner Decker moved to approve the bids. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - C. **Jerry Cooley-Maintenance Superintendent-Open proposals for vending machines, telephones, trash removal, pest control, generator maintenance, snow removal, fire protection, and preventative maintenance for 2015.**
Jerry Cooley appeared before the Commission to open proposals. Attorney Friedman opened the proposals for maintenance. Attorney Friedman recommended that the Commission show the bids as received and refer them to Mr. Cooley for review and recommendation.
11. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. **Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-Consider proposal from Weaver Boos to perform one year's worth of sampling and reporting at the Rolling Prairie Hwy. Facility.**
Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission to report on contaminated soils in Rolling Prairie maintenance site. He indicated they have been working with IDEM to resolve it and they are close to a resolution. Weaver Boos proposal is in line with the request made by IDEM for the resolution. Commissioner Decker moves to approve the proposal from Weaver Boos, Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
Consider DLZ proposal for the design of Johnson Rd. at CR 500 W/CR 250 N.
Mr. Yacullo indicated that this project will re-align the intersection to remedy line of sight issues at this intersection. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Yacullo then asked permission to approach the Council for approval for the funding on both projects. Commissioner Kora moved to approve permission to approach the Council, Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - B. **Consider Plan Commission's Findings of Facts/Conclusions of law in the Feece Petition for Vacation of a Public Right of Way.**
Attorney Friedman indicated that Mr. Adamsky is present with the proposed Ordinance and that the plan commission has approved the petition. Attorney Friedman recommended approval. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - C. **Consider authorizing county grant writer, Heather McCarthy, to submit application to Supportive Housing Initiative/re-purposing County Home.**
Heather McCarthy appeared before the Commission to detail the Supportive Housing Initiative. Attorney Friedman indicated that this could help to save the County Home, keeping it going and preserving it for the future. Commissioner Kora indicated that there are only 12 residents currently living in the County Home and that the number could be much higher if renovations are done to make more independent living. He indicated that they are going to Indianapolis to meet officials from the Housing Institute to continue to explore the options further. Commissioner Kora moved to authorize Ms. McCarthy to submit the application. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - D. **Consideration of settlement agreement (mutual releases/no financial payment) in the matter of Wantuch et al v. Mrozinski et al.**
Attorney Friedman indicated that the parties have fought to a draw and concluded it was best to end the litigation with all sides bearing their own costs and fees with no payment by anyone. He recommended approval. Commissioner Kora moves to accept. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - E. **Consider Resolution authorizing LaPorte County to join a multi-county consortium to bid on the Indiana Toll Road (ITR) lease rights.**
Attorney Friedman indicates that the Lake County Commissioners took up a similar Resolution at their meeting and it was approved. Attorney Friedman read the Resolution into the record. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - F. **Consider engagement of Piper Jaffray as financial advisor in connection with bid submission on ITR.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - G. **Consider authorizing \$10,000.00 one-time payment to Piper Jaffray under "Professional Consultants" line item as an expense contribution for expenses incurred in Toll Road consortium bid.**
Attorney Friedman indicated that the Auditor advised there is sufficient funds to cover that expense, and asked that the Commission approve. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - H. **Consider Resolution for NICTD.**

Commissioner Decker read the Resolution into the record. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sara Hefner appeared before the Commission to commend them for taking the initiative to try to acquire the Toll Road. She stated that she uses it frequently and the machines don't work and the rest stops are not maintained. She also stated that she is glad that the South Shore is in our area.

Dennis Metheny appeared before the Commission to ask for more details about the lost money from the Treasurer's office. Attorney Friedman indicated that Mary Ray has been charged with taking the money and the case is still in Court. Mr. Metheny further indicated that the jail sewer system was designed by DLZ, and that if there is an issue with it DLZ should not be considered for further work in the County. He requested that the County look into doing voting centers. He felt it would save the County money. He then asked how many workers in the JDC and how many juveniles are housed there. He then commented on the amount of people living at the County Home compared to the amount of employees at the County Home. He stated he was interested in comparing the statistics from JDC with the statistics from the County Home. He said the Toll Road is a good idea. He wished the Commissioners a Happy Thanksgiving.

13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Decker stated that even though the Toll Road needs to be fixed, the investment will pay back in spades. He said depending on who you talk to the profit is in excess of 40 million dollars now. He said he thinks we can operate it. He stated that the idea is unique and no one has thought of it before.

Commissioner Kora stated that there has been a lot of work that has gone into the Toll Road project, he said he wants out people to have better service and better roads. He said it's a very intriguing and interesting proposal and we will continue to pursue it, though it is a long road to get to where we need to go. He stated he will attend a workforce development meeting for the Centers for Workforce Innovation and he will report back. He also stated he is going to Indianapolis to pursue the Housing Initiative.

Commissioner Milsap echoed the other two Commissioners with regards to the Toll Road. He said he thinks it's a good idea, but it's still early so we'll see what happens. He polled the other two Commissioners and stated that LaPorte County has a dedicated workforce and the day after Christmas should be awarded as a day off for County Employees, the other two Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Decker seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Milsap adjourned the meeting.