



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

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Dave Decker,  
President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Vice President

Michael Bohacek,  
Member

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### AGENDA

#### LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

To be held at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Commissioner Decker called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL  
All Commissioners present
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Commissioner Kora asked to table item A under Old Business and add E. Open Bids for Superior Court 3 and F. Appointment to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission under New Business. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the agenda with the requested changes. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. February 9, 2015  
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. CLAIMS
  - A. Payroll Ending 2/13/15-\$1,054,860.07
  - B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$2,822,982.70  
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. PUBLIC COMMENT  
Roger Galloway appeared before the Commission to ask if a truck route would be extended from Severs Road to Fail Road. Commissioner Bohacek requested a public meeting be held to discuss this matter.  
Dennis Metheny appeared before the Commission to thank Commissioner Decker for taking care of an issue on 400.
8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS  
Jerry Cooley appeared to tell the Commission that everything is going well. He said IT is busy doing many change overs for the project in the Courthouse. He said things are really going smoothly.  
Sheriff Boyd appeared with Andrew McGuire to discuss the things that occurred during the storm on February 14, 2015. He stated the Sheriff's office had 162 calls for service in a 16 hr. period. Both Sheriff Boyd and Mr. McGuire indicated they had vehicle damage as a result of the storm. Commissioner Bohacek inquired if the vehicles were repairable and if they needed substitute vehicles in the meantime. He suggested that maybe the Sheriff's garage may have a vehicle he can use. Commissioner Bohacek then made a motion to let Mr. McGuire obtain a rental car until he can have his vehicle repaired. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Sheriff Boyd said many good things happened during the storm, that many people came together to help each other. Andrew McGuire stated they ran 65 calls and transported 47 patients in a 12 hour period. He said in an average 24 hour shift they run around 30 calls, that shows how busy they were due to the storm. He thanked all the employees and everyone involved in emergency services that day.  
Judge Greta Friedman appeared before the Commission on behalf of all the Judges and Adult Probation. Judge Friedman indicated that the Judges were just informed that Adult Probation will not have office space during the remodel of the second floor of the courthouse. She requested the absentee voting space to house the entire department. She stated that she had attempted to reach the clerk to see if they could make an acceptable arrangement with her, but was unable to contact the clerk, though she did indicate the necessity for input from the clerk. Judge Friedman further indicated that when the project was bid there was no money allotted for the remodel of the Adult Probation offices after the second floor remodel is complete. She stated that the office space will be available after the remodel, but there is no money to make the offices work for Probation. Commissioner Bohacek indicated that they could house the voting machines at the old Community Corrections Building temporarily. Jerry Cooley indicated that the clerk couldn't attend

this meeting because she went to church, but he said he did talk with her about the issue. He stated that she said everything has to be secure. Commissioner Bohacek inquired about the old maintenance office in the basement. Mr. Cooley said that is a storage room now. Commissioner Bohacek asked Mr. Cooley to try to find a secure place for the voting machines. Commissioner Decker indicated to Judge Friedman that the Commissioners would find a place for the voting machines.

Larry Butcher appeared before the Commission to discuss the storm and read a letter that was sent to his office by a citizen who was stuck in the storm. The letter commended the Emergency personnel that dealt with the white out. Mr. Butcher indicated that he was on the phone with the Sheriff 6 times and was impressed that each time the Sheriff answered the phone. He indicated that tomorrow at 10 a.m. they are having an after action review and requested that a Commissioner attend. Commissioner Kora made a motion to have the secretary send thank you letters to all the departments involved in the storm. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Dave Christian appeared before the Commission and indicated that there is starting to be activity at KIP. He stated that he has two businesses that are linking up with a Japanese company to move trains. He further reported on other advancements at KIP. Commissioner Bohacek asked what the schedule is to finish the infrastructure, he asked if the delay was due to the legal trouble with the Halfwassens. Attorney Friedman indicated that has been an issue for a year and a half and that his office, at the request of the Commission, is seeking a letter of intent from the joint venture partners. Commissioner Bohacek asked if CSX has agreed to put in a switch there. Attorney Friedman indicated that is all part of the letter of intent.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**  
None

10. **REQUESTS**

A. **Barbara Dean-Recorder-Request for signature on contract for record scanning.**

Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Decker indicated that he believes that this will put the entire Recorder's Office paperless.

B. **Andrew McGuire-Request permission to approach the Council for an additional appropriation of \$23,000 for the purchase of a generator for the new EMS building.**

Andrew McGuire appeared to get permission to go to the Council. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Heather McCarthy-Grant Writer-Update on County Application to Supportive Housing Initiative.**

B. **Second and final reading-Proposed Ordinance to vacate alleyway in Town of Hanna-2015-01**

Attorney Friedman indicated that Attorney Andrew Voltz has supplied the necessary documents and recommends approval. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Approval of the Sheriff's 2015 Contract.**

B. **Discuss process for non-profits to request permission to be placed on the sign in the front yard of the Courthouse.**

Commissioner Bohacek moves to allow the President to determine, upon application, that a qualified not for profit can use the sign on the Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. **Consider appointment of ex-officio member of Redevelopment Commission.**

Attorney Friedman indicated that the statute has been updated and that the Ordinance needs to be updated as well. He stated the changes now provide for 3 members to be appointed to the Redevelopment Commission by the Council. He recommended that the Commission consider the ex-officio member and also that they consider requesting a revised ordinance for the Redevelopment Commission to bring it up to date with the statute. Commissioner Bohacek moves to have Attorney Friedman prepare a new Ordinance. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Bohacek moves to name Mr. Kosier as the ex-officio appointee for the Redevelopment Commission.

D. **Consideration of payment of claim to Stan Hynek regarding damage to garage caused by Highway Department vehicle as per recommendation of liability agent of record.**

John Jones appeared to discuss the settlement for damage done by a County Highway driver who took his vehicle home and backed into his landlord's garage, knocking it off the foundation. He stated that the county clearly had liability and recommended signature. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

E. **Open bids for Superior 3 Renovation.**

Attorney Friedman opened two bids, one from Tonn & Blank and one from Larson & Danielson. The bids were turned over to Mike Yacullo and Robert Gerometta for review on a motion by Commissioner Bohacek, and a second by Commissioner Kora.

F. **Appointment to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission.**

Commissioner Kora moves to appoint Karen Biernacki to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Bohacek indicated that there is an opportunity to use a mailing service that would be more cost efficient to the County. He said he wants to take a look at the option when he gets more information. Commissioner Kora thanked the staff for their tremendous work during the storm. He also expressed gratitude to the Council, and PNC, and both Mayors for bringing the Triangle Transit to fruition. He stated the ridership will improve as the weather gets better and time goes on.

Commissioner Decker agreed with Sheriff Boyd's comments, he said LaPorte County has had a lot of catastrophe's and our employees step up year after year and they do the job well. He said our county employees are as good as any in the state. He said he appreciates the leadership displayed by the department heads. He further indicated that people think cities and counties cannot work together, but the triangle bus service is an excellent example of cities and counties working together.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Bohacek moves to adjourn. Commissioner Kora seconds.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA