



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY
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Dave Decker,
President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Vice President

Michael Bohacek,
Member

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, March 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 were present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora adds Request for a road closure by Mary Cuff to requests. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve as amended. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 18, 2015
March 4, 2015

Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve the minutes of Feb. 18 and March 4, 2015. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. CLAIMS

A. Payroll Ending 3/13/15-\$1,020,315.95
B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$485,185.90

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Metheny appeared and apologized for being late at the last meeting he said he didn't know that a meeting was going on. He stated that he would like to hear a report from the employees who travel to conferences so that the public can find out what they learned since it is tax dollars that pay for the travel. He said it would also help to educate the children that sometimes attend the meetings.

8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

George Watkins-appeared to discuss a job fair that is coming to Bethel College on April 8, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. in Mishawaka. He indicated that he is currently seeking more information on this event.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Maynard R. Searing Sr. R&R Plastics.

Consider possible intervention by county in pending IURC rate proceeding

Commissioner Bohacek read the correspondence from R&R Plastics.

Attorney Friedman indicated that the office of Economic Development has been in contact with Doug Davie who is one of the property owners there who has the support of other property owners to potentially intervene.

Mr. Davie appeared and indicated that they have contacted most of the property owners out there, he stated they are against the rate increase and that it could devastate some of the businesses out there. He stated that they are requesting that the Commissioners look into this and offer any assistance they can give. Attorney Friedman stated he has suggested that the property owners take the lead on an intervention to spare the county funds. He recommended that the Commissioners make the motion to authorize the request for public hearing and to provide assistance from the counsel of the county to intervene in support of the effort that's being led by the property owners. Commissioner Bohacek asked what the potential cost is to the county. Attorney Friedman said it could run into the thousands for a rate intervention which is why they encouraged the homeowners to take the lead. Commissioner Bohacek asked if the monies could be reimbursed through the Redevelopment funds. Attorney Friedman stated he would sit with the Auditor to decide if there were other funds it could come from. Commissioner Bohacek asked if our partners the

Halfwassens were participating in this intervention as well. Attorney Friedman indicated they have reached out to them several times and they have not indicated any participation. Commissioner Bohacek moves to request a public hearing and to enlist the county in a support role. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. REQUESTS

- A. **Dennis Orr-Juvenile Center-Request for Jackie Atwater to travel to Cincinnati, OH.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Barbara Mossman-Human Resources-Permission to travel to Las Vegas.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **LaPorte Jaycees-LPCCVB fund request in the amount of \$2000.00 for the fireworks.** Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve \$500. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Union Mills Conservation Club-LPCCVB fund request in the amount of \$500.00 for Mill Pond Festival.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Request for road closure by Mary Cuff.** Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Jim Sosinski-Sheriffs Dept-Announce bid award for Sheriff Vehicles.** Sheriff Boyd appeared to make his bid recommendations. He recommended the bid from LaPorte Chrysler for the process server vehicles. He then recommended Sauters Ford in Michigan City for the remainder of the vehicles needed. Commissioner Bohacek moves to accept the recommendation for Sauters. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. There was a question about the cars from LaPorte Chrysler, the Commission asked the Sheriff to clarify and re-appear later in the meeting for approval. The Sheriff also requested to be taken off the agenda for the contracts as they were not completed yet. The Sheriff appeared later in the meeting with the correct information for the vehicles for LaPorte Chrysler and recommended the bid be accepted. Commissioner Bohacek moves to accept. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Heather McCarthy-Update on County Home.** Heather McCarthy appeared to give an update on options available for the County Home. Commissioner Kora moves to have a workshop with the Council to re-evaluate the County Home.
- C. **Consider recommendation of Judges for office space allocation for Probation during Courthouse construction.** Judge Thorne appeared and indicated that after exploring many different options, Adult Probation will be on the third floor of the annex building and he said there will be a portion of the office in the basement in the old maintenance office. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the temporary plan for the Probation Department space. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Attorney Friedman read the architect's report detailing how much money is needed to remodel a permanent space for Adult Probation. Commissioner Kora moves to allow them to approach the Council for funding of the remodel of the new space for Adult Probation from either CADGIT, Riverboat, or WINTAX not to exceed \$600,000.00. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Second and final reading of Ordinance to expand County Redevelopment Commission (RDC) from five to seven members.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Consider requesting County Highway complete demolition of unsafe white barn on County Home grounds/announce availability for interested members of the public to retrieve memorabilia from barn salvage.** Bob Young-County Hwy- appeared before the Commission and indicated they are very confident that they can remove the barn safely. He then outlined the process of removal. He said he can't predict how much of the material is going to be usable when they are finished, he said they do not have the expertise or the time to take it apart piece by piece. He stated they are going to demolish the building without regard for salvage as that would take much more time and skill. He further indicated that he was not comfortable with opening it up to the general public to pick through and take what is salvageable. He felt that was a liability to the county and he recommended that materials go to Pioneer Land or the Friends of the Barn. He said he would make space available for those entities to store the materials at the hwy yard if need be. Mr. Young indicated he would need around 4 or 5 thousand dollars for dumpsters and asked what budget that money should come from. Commissioner Kora moves to allow Mr. Young to use CEDIT funds to rent dumpsters for this job. Commissioner Bohacek indicated that he is not comfortable without it going to the Council first. Commissioner Decker steps down and seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Phyllis Marks requested boards to repair the hole in the barn her group is restoring. Bob Young indicated he would try to keep any salvageable materials that would work for that repair.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Consider four appointments to the newly constituted RDC.** Commissioner Bohacek nominates Pat Harris, Terry Larson, and Joe Coar and moves to remove Jeff Johnson and nominate Johnny Stimley. Commissioner Kora seconds the motion for Pat Harris, Terry Larson, and Joe Coar. Commissioner Decker steps down and nominates Commissioner Kora to be the Commissioner on the board. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Consider Resolution approving application for property tax deductions in an economic revitalization area for Hinkman, Williams, and Company.** Mary Jane Thomas appeared before the Commission to present a Resolution in support of the application for property tax deductions in an economic revitalization area. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

- C. **John Boyd-Sheriff-Consider contracts for law enforcement services for the towns of LaCrosse and Wanatah.**
- D. **Delores Mosier-Stonehedge Estates-Consider addition of Phase 2 that has been approved by the Plan Commission.**
 Attorney Friedman indicates that the Plan Commission has sent approval of this request. Commissioner Korra moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-**
 1.) **Request approval of Contract with Meridian Title Company to perform title search services on Hupp Road at a fee of \$300 per parcel.**
 Commissioner Korra moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 2.) **Request permission to seek approval from the Redevelopment Commission to fund the contract with Meridian Title Company.**
 Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Korra seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 3.) **Opening of the bids for the contract to paint Bridge #505 - Franklin Street Lift Bridge.**
 Attorney Friedman opened the sealed bids. Commissioner Bohacek moves to show the bids received and forward them to Mr. Yacullo's office for review and commendation. Commissioner Korra seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 4.) **Request permission to seek approval from the County Council to fund the Franklin Street Lift Bridge Painting Contract.**
 Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Korra seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. **Consider appointing working group to study feasibility of Central Purchasing**
 Commissioner Decker indicates that they have come to the point where it would be feasible to look into the idea of central purchasing. He indicated that the Auditor had mentioned the idea before and he thinks it is worth looking into. He indicated that he would like to set up a working group to research the feasibility of the idea. Commissioner Decker indicated that he would be willing to serve on it, and the Auditor and her Chief Deputy, Darlene Hale, and someone from the County Attorney's office and someone from the Council. He said he can appoint a working group on his own but he would like to have a motion from the board to reinforce that we all support the idea. Commissioner Korra makes the motion. Commissioner Bohacek seconds provided that all three Commissioners can have a voice during the process and any additional Council members that want to be involved as well. Commissioner Korra suggests that Commissioner Decker serve on the board, but that any Commissioners can give input. Attorney Friedman indicated that any new department has to come past the full Commission anyway. Motion carried by voice vote.

13.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Bohacek indicated he hopes the KOP will move along and that the Halfwassen group decides to get on the right side of the issue and start helping to move the development forward.
 Commissioner Korra thanked Commissioner Decker for bringing the idea of the Toll Road forward, he further thanked Attorney Friedman for all of the work he put in and putting a great team together. He said it had great potential and he's glad we pursued it.
 Commissioner Decker indicated he agreed with Commissioner Korra that the team put together was outstanding that worked on the Toll Road Bid. He indicated that if the opportunity presents itself again, we will be ready.

14.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Korra moves to adjourn. Commissioner Bohacek 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