



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 – FAX: (219) 326-9103

Dave Decker,
President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Vice President

Michael Bohacek,
Member

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, April 15, 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 Bohacek added approval to allow the Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month walk to use the Courthouse lawn. He then added the new contract for credit card billing for the tax bills and moved approval. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 8, 2015

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

6. CLAIMS

A. Payroll Ending 4/10/15-\$1,006,532.61

B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$640,208.94

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Metheny appeared before the Commission to question the money used for fuel for the County Highway. He further gave the Commission information regarding the raise of the school tax in Michigan City.

Earl Cunningham appeared before the Commission to question the County Attorney about his bills.

Ray Wolf appeared before the Commission to discuss public records requests.

Coral Lauen appeared before the Commission to discuss the billing of the County Attorney.

Lou Carlisara appeared before the Commission to discuss the billing of the County Attorney.

8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Jack Arnett appeared before the Commission to discuss the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, he indicated that tourism has suffered statewide as a result of the bill. He indicated that the Tourism Bureau would be coming back for support in the form of a Resolution to try to repair the damage. He then discussed the Grand Prix race details. He said they will honor veterans, run shuttle buses, have a block party, it will be a great weekend.

Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-appeared before the Commission to let them know that it is going well with the heating systems shut down. He also said the contractors are working very well with the public and doing a great job.

Sheriff Boyd-Sheriff-appeared before the Commission to discuss their Jail Inspection. He stated that they scored well and that the inspector was impressed with the state of the jail, that it was very clean.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. REQUESTS

A. **Wanatah Chamber of Commerce-Request for LPCCVB funds for Scarecrow Festival-\$500.00**

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

B. **Request permission to use Courthouse lawn for Child Abuse Prevention Walk.**

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

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-Request for signature on Fair Building Contract.** Attorney Friedman indicates he has been working with Mr. McGuire on drafts of this contract, and his office is comfortable with the terms and recommends approval. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve the lease. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-**

1. **Fee Schedule increase.**

Mr. McGuire indicated that the fee increases are consistent with what other counties are charging. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. **Approval of contract with PayGov.US for the acceptance of credit cards for payment. (EMS, Animal Shelter, and Health Department)**

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

- B. **Robert Young-HWY-**

1. **Request for \$250,000.00 from CREDIT for fuel.**

Commissioner Bohacek asked the Auditor if CREDIT was the appropriate funding source for this request, she indicated that it is appropriate. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. **Bid Recommendations for Class 11 and Class 12.**

Mr. Young indicated that for the Class 11 materials he recommends both bids from Asphalt Materials and BITMAT Products. Commissioner Bohacek moves to accept both bids. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Young indicated there were two bids for Class 12 also, from Reith and Riley and Walsh and Kelley, he recommended that both of those bids be accepted as well. Commissioner Bohacek moved to accept both bids. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

- C. **Consider Resolution in support of retaining Common Construction Wage.**

Commissioner Kora read the Resolution into the record. Commissioner Bohacek requested that some of the language be changed prior to approval. He wants the people down state to know that we are a good partner and not seeking to grandstand. He made a motion for approval upon the addition of more positive language to the first and second whereas. Commissioner Bohacek seconded.

- D. **Consider Resolution regarding LaPorte County's share of highway projects contained in new INDOT four year plan.**

Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds and reads the Resolution into the record.

- E. **Consider contract for InvoiceCloud to take credit card payments for taxes in the treasurer's office.**

Commissioner Bohacek forwarded a copy of the contract to the attorney for approval and asked that it be voted on at the next meeting.

13.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Bohacek expressed concern about the tax cap in Michigan City for the schools. He indicated that the ability to raise the levy's is now gone as the cap is maxed out. He urged the public to contact their school board members with any concerns regarding that raise.

Commissioner Kora indicated that he shares concerns about the tax increase and that he was surprised by the increase. He indicated that he will continue to investigate it further. He stated that the Auditor will be responding to open door requests as timely as possible. He further stated that the County Attorney works at the direction of the Commission and he thinks the Commission is able to hire quality services at a reasonable rate and that the bills are a matter of public record. He commended him for his work on the Toll Road and his work putting the whole thing together. He indicated that Mr. Friedman has exceeded his expectations for providing great legal service. He cited a quote from Mr. Cunningham from last year indicating that Mr. Friedman is one of the best, if not the best attorney in the County.

Commissioner Decker stated that the language in the Common Construction wage might have offended the Governor, but the Governor has been offending the citizens of Indiana quite often. He stated he is not worried about offending this Governor right now with what he is doing. He said he was a Union member and works with many Union members, he is not worried about offending the Governor, he said the Governor should be worried about offending them. Regarding Mr. Friedman, he stated that Mr. Cunningham always leaves out the good thing, and that if anything happens with the Toll Road our county is still in line to attempt to acquire the lease. He stated that it would bring in a lot of money for the County. He said there could have been up to an extra Billion and a Half Dollars that could have come into LaPorte County as a result of that project. He said the chance at that profit is worth a \$10,000.00 investment. He said that Attorney Friedman did work that he didn't charge for, and he is glad that we have the best attorney at a good rate.

Commissioner Bohacek indicated that his concern did not lie with offending the Governor, but his concern is that we do our best to work with people down state to get as much for our county as possible. He is not worried about offending the Governor, but he is not worried about offending the citizens of Indiana.

Common Construction Wage and Organized Labor.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST:

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

Auditor