



# 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, May 6, 2015

To be held at 1 in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora added several items to the agenda and moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Decker seconds.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 18, 2015

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

6. CLAIMS

A. Payroll Ending 4/24/15-\$1,009,534.41

B. Miscellaneous Claims-\$52,374.32

Commissioner Kora moves to approve the Claims as presented. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

8. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

**Jerry Cooley**-Maintenance-Appared before the Commission and indicated he has been working with Mitch regarding the ADA compliance of the bathrooms in the Courthouse project. He indicated that the contractors recommended consulting an architect who can give them all the specs for ADA. He indicated that both Tom and Blank and Larson & Danielson have in house architects that can be used for this matter. He then discussed the generator on 8<sup>th</sup> street and indicated that he was getting complaints from people at lighthouse mall that they can smell the generator all the way over there. He stated that it might be best to shut the generator down until the problem is resolved. He then requested permission to look into getting a cover over the walkway to the Courthouse, he stated that it was the County Council that asked him to look into the walkway. He also stated that he has a meeting to discuss the grinder pumps for the Sheriff's office at 1:00 tomorrow.

**Andrew McGuire**-Appared before the Commission to discuss the receipt of a grant that was applied for in 2013 for Medicaid reimbursements from 2011 and 2012. He thanked the staff members who worked diligently to get all the needed information for the grant. Commissioner Kora indicated that he was aware that the grant was out there and was pleased that it worked out so well. He asked Mr. McGuire to thank his staff for their hard work. Commissioner Decker also commended Mr. McGuire and his staff.

**Milke Yacullo**-County Engineer-Appared before the Commission to inform them that the bridge on 1000 N was opened up last week and the total amount spent was a little over \$11,000.00, which was far below the budget given by the Council. Commissioner Decker indicated that he was told by many people that they are happy that the bridge is open.

**Dave Christian**-Economic Development-Appared before the Commission to give them information regarding the rail summit that he attended.

**Jerry Cooley**-Maintenance-Appared to request permission to put up the signs to honor vets during the week of Memorial Day.

**Bob Young**-County Highway-Appared to inform the Commission that he has taken possession of the bus stop that will be placed on the corner by the Courthouse. He stated that as soon as they can, they will put a crew together to assemble and install it.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. REQUESTS

- A. **Commissioner Decker and Commissioner Bohacek request to change May 20, 2015 meeting to May 27, 2015.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **The Wall Gang-Veteran Support Group-Request for millings-leftover asphalt for Johnson rd. clubhouse.** Mark Huffman appeared to inform the Commission of how many truckloads they would need. Attorney Friedman indicated that pursuant to the State Board of Accounts, there had to be a nominal charge to purchase the millings, even \$10 per truck load. The Auditor concurred. Robert Young agreed to make arrangements with the Wall Gang for any available millings. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **American Legion-Request for LPCCVB funds for Wanatah Fireworks-\$500.00. ONLY \$500 TOTAL LEFT IN FUND.**
- D. **Wanatah Chamber-Request for LPCCVB funds for Wanatah 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-\$500.00. ONLY \$500 TOTAL LEFT IN FUND.**
- E. **Rolling Prairie Business and Community Association-Request for LPCCVB funds for Old Farmers Fest-\$800.00 ONLY \$500 TOTAL LEFT IN FUND.**
- F. **LaPorte County Master Gardener Association-Request for LPCCVB funds for LaPorte County Master Gardener Garden show-\$1000.00. ONLY \$500 TOTAL LEFT IN FUND.**
- G. **International Friendship Gardens-Request for LPCCVB funds for Music under the Stars-'As much as possible' THIS EVENT HAS ALREADY RECEIVED LPCCVB FUNDS FROM MICHIGAN CITY AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS FROM LAPORTE COUNTY.** Commissioner Kora moves to give \$125.00 to the first four requests. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. **David Christian-EDC-Request for out of state travel to Chicago for the Rail Summit.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- I. **Sheriff John Boyd-Request for signature on Proclamation to establish May 3-9, 2015 as Corrections Officer Week in LaPorte County.** Sheriff Boyd read a quote from Ronald Regan praising Corrections Officers. He requested that the Commission read the proclamation and sign it. Commissioner Kora read the proclamation into the record and all the Commissioners signed it. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- J. **Tom Ferrara-Jonkind Park Homeowners Association-Request for Road closures.** Mr. Ferrara appeared before the Commission to request road closures for the Jonkind Park Garage sale. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Mike Yacullo-Hwy Engineer-Opening of Bids for Jail Kitchen Repairs.** Mike Yacullo appears before the Commission to receive the opened bid from C & T Design. Because there was only one bid, and the Council has already approved the funding, and the bid falls within the approved funding amount, Attorney Friedman recommended that the Commission accept that bid. Commissioner Kora moves to accept. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-Consider revised, final contract for EMS Building at LaPorte County Fairgrounds.** Attorney Friedman indicates that this is the final revised contract and he has reviewed it and is comfortable with the terms. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. McGuire then requested permission to approach the Council to replace two command vehicles. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Decker seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-Permission to approach the Council for replacement of two command vehicles.** Andrew McGuire appeared and requested permission to approach the Council for replacement of two command vehicles. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. **Proclamation in honor of National EMS Week.** Commissioner Kora read the proclamation into the record and moved approval. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Mike Yacullo-Hwy Engineer- Permission to advertise for bids on a bridge repair contract for bridge #'s 97,104,129, and 236.** Mike Yacullo appeared before the Commission to request permission to advertise for bids for bridge project. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Barb Mossman-Human Resources-Policy revisions.** Barb Mossman appeared to request approval on changes to the smoking policy, the FMLA policy, and the Motor Vehicle policy. Commissioner Kora moves to adopt the revisions. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Robert Young-Hwy Superintendent-Request permission for a lease purchasing agreement for a loader for the Hanna District, not to exceed \$25,000.00 per year. Funds to be taken from the LRS account for Rental of Large Equipment. 1169.31005.000.0207.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Attorney David Jones-Consideration of proposed settlement in the matter of Brian Collins v. LaPorte County Sheriff's Department.**

Attorney Jones appeared before the Commission and indicated that it would be more cost effective to settle this matter than to pay the cost of litigation and asked the Commission to approve a settlement in the amount of \$30,000.00. Attorney Friedman indicated that his office agrees with Attorney Jones assessment of the case and recommended approval. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**F. Commissioner Decker-Seek Authorization not to exceed \$275K from the County Council for Phase 1 restoration of Courthouse interior ceilings.**

Commissioner Decker indicated that during the course of the renovation on the second floor of the Courthouse, they discovered that the original ceilings and that they decided to restore the second floor to its original state with high ceilings. He indicated they determined it would cost around \$275,000.00 and that the Council has already given him permission to start the job not to exceed that amount. He requested permission to submit the bills to the County Engineer who would review them and return them to him for signature. Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**G. Commissioner Decker permission to travel to NIRPC event, to be paid by NIRPC.** Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**H. Resolution establishing Drug Court Month.** Commissioner Kora reads the Resolution into the record and moves to approve. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**I. Continuance of vacation of public way.** Commissioner Kora moves to make it public record that this matter is continued to June 3, 2015. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kora thanked the Drug Court Staff and the Correctional Staff and the EMS staff and Lynne Spevak for jobs well done.

Commissioner Decker indicated that our employees are well trained. He congratulated the EMA director on his completion of all the advanced classes. He said with all of the emergencies that have happened in our county, it shows how important training is and that if someone needs to go to training, they should go.

**14. ADJOURN**

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

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auditor  
 LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA