



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Dave Decker,
President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Vice President

Michael Bohacek,
Member

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MINUTES LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

To be held at 10:00 a.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 adds a request to travel by Larry Butcher and Reserve the County Complex for Drug Court Graduation and moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **August 17, 2016**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **CLAIMS**
 - A. **Payroll Ending 08/26/2016-\$1,081,163.48**
Miscellaneous Claims-\$1,942,929.40
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Joe Haney appeared and requested information on how to add an item to the agenda. The administrative assistant indicated that they would need to send an email request.
8. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**
George Watkins-Veteran's services-Appeared to inform the Commission of the date and time for the Veterans Town Hall meeting in Portage.
Robert Young-Hwy-Appeared to inform the Commission that he will be requesting permission to hire at the next County Council meeting. He further indicated that they are working on line striping. He gave an update on re-paving efforts and chip seal projects.
Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-Appeared to inform the Commission that he is on the County Council agenda for roof repair. He further indicated that the 8th street building has an issue with the roof as well. He also said there may be some electrical issues there as well. He also indicated that the air in the meeting room is out temporarily. The County Attorney indicated that the City of Michigan City has been notified that the electrical issues will be remedied in the Ameresco Phase II project.
Linda Simmons and Rick Wright-Convention and Visitors Bureau-Appeared to inform the Commission of the revenue generated by the Great Lakes Grand Prix in Michigan City and the PGI Fireworks.
Dave Christian-Economic Development-Appeared before the Commission to request permission to go before the County Council and request more funding.
John Espar-Prosecutor-Appeared before the Commission to request permission to have maintenance install a wall in the basement of the Michigan City Courthouse.
Jeff Wlatrowski-EMA-Appeared to update the Commission on the 800MHZ project. He further commended other entities for helping do sandbagging at the Kankakee.
Milke Yacullo-Hwy Engineer-Appeared to inform the Commission of the reason they did not pursue the Community Crossings Grant.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
10. **REQUESTS**
 - A. **Carolyn Shebel-Request for retiree health insurance.**

Carolyn Shebel requested retiree health insurance, Barb Mossman indicated that it was not in accordance with the current policy. Commissioner Bohacek moves to deny the request. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. **Steve Eyrick-Probation-Request for travel to Michigan for MRT training.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Larry Butcher-Request to use appropriated funds for computer repair. –Tabled Moved by Commissioner Kora, Second by Commissioner Bohacek.** Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Lynne Spevak-Clerk-Request approval of absentee hours.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Sheriff John Boyd-Sheriff-**
 - a. **Request approval for Lease Agreement with City of LaPorte for storage of SCUBA truck.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve and allow Commissioner Decker to sign for the board. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - b. **Request for travel for Deputy Andrew Morse to attend training September 12 – September 15 at Nevada National Security Site (Nye County, Nevada) for Department of Homeland Security training. All expenses will be paid for by Department of Homeland Security.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - c. **Request insurance coverage for three volunteer groups: Mounted Posse, Reserves and Lake Patrol.**
John Jones, Michiana Insurance, appeared and informed the Commission of the terms of the policy. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve and directs the Auditor to issue a check. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. **Jerry Cooley-Maintenance-Request permission to approach council for \$7,316.00 appropriation to remove damaged/decaying tree on courthouse lawn and submit \$7,000 damage claim from tree limb destroying City lamppost to insurance carrier.**
Jerry Cooley appeared and indicated that the recommendation is to remove the tree in the Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. **Andrew McGuire-EMS-Request permission to approach the Council for funding for replacement furniture for ambulance bases/for funding for computer replacement/approval to apply for AFG Grant and 10% match.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. **Larry Butcher-EMA-Request for travel to Elgin Il. And to travel to a training in state.**
Commissioner Bohacek moved to approve the in state training. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. The Auditor indicated that the county cannot pay the Hotel for the travel to Elgin.
- I. **Reserve the County Complex for Drug Court Graduation.**
Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Consider approval of Commissioners Deed Sale Calendar.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Bob Young-County Highway-Request to allow Area Excavating to extend their material bid for 2017.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Consider letter authorizing re-submittal of application to IHCDA by UP Development LLC, for potential tax credits award to permit renovation of the County Home for senior housing/veteran's housing.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. **Doug Beige-Consider proposed Ordinance for Flood Hazard Areas for LaPorte County and Incorporated Areas.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. **Consider approval or reject and seek amendments to Joint Zoning Ordinance.**
Commissioner Kora asked Mr. Beige to take the amendments back to the Plan Commission. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve all the changes except accessory use, and requests that Mitch Bishop revise the language and present the changes at the next meeting. Commissioners, instead, table the matter for the next meeting. Commissioner Bohacek moves to table. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. **Mike Yacullo-County Engineer-**
 - a. **Request approval of supplemental contract for Professional Engineering Services for Butler, Fairman & Seufert to complete design of Lincoln Trail project in Westville in the amount of \$8,800.00.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve and allow Commissioner Decker to sign on behalf of the board. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - b. **Request approval of revision to Land Improvements and Damages budget to allow for \$10,000.00 in Legal Services related to land acquisition for Lincoln Trail Project in Westville.**
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. **Discuss county's mosquito abatement program re: requests from residents of Fish Lake.**
Tony Mancuso indicated that his department does not have money in the budget designated for mosquito abatement. Commissioner Kora moves to approve money not to exceed \$2500 with a 50% match from the local township trustee or another entity. Commissioner Decker steps down and seconds. Commissioner Bohacek indicates he has to abstain from the vote. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Bohacek said the 911 memorial is important that parents and aunts and uncles make sure that the young people don't forget what happened.
Commissioner Kora thanked all of the first responders that were so critical on 911 and those who continue to serve. He further indicated that the PAARI group has been meeting regularly to discuss the opioid problem. He said they have come up with a protocol for those who want treatment and they also have a plan for volunteers.
Commissioner Decker thanked all of the County employees who helped during all of the flooding. He said parts of the county got 10 ½ inches of rain in one day.

14.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora moved 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 _____

Signature

ATTEST: _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA