



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LA PORTE COUNTY
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Richard Mrozinski,
President

Michael Gonder,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

Minutes

La Porte County Commissioners meeting held on March 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Richard Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked that all non-essential personnel please turn off cell phones. Commissioner Kora led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Joie Winski took the Roll Call. Commissioner Mrozinski - present. Commissioner Gonder - present. Commissioner Kora - present. Commissioner Kora asked all present for a moment of silence for Sam Melnick who passed away February 25, 2017.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Gonder made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a travel request to item number 3 and adding item number 8 under New Business. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kora made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Joie Winski read the Claims of: Payroll ending 2-24-2017 - \$1,083,273.57 and miscellaneous \$1,260,891.52. Commissioner Kora made a motion to accept the claims. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Ritter asked where the money goes when collected from the scrap sale at the highway department. Auditor Joie Winski answered the money goes back into the unappropriated General Fund.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tony Mancuso and Patty Nocek – Health Department - Permission to hold a Bake Sale to benefit the Worthy Women organization on the sidewalk between the La Porte courthouse and the County complex on April 3, 2017. Time will be 10am – 2pm. Commissioner Kora made a motion allowing the bake sale to take place. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Seitz – Economic Development – Requested permission to attend the Broker-Developer-Site Selector luncheon in Indianapolis on March 15. Requested funds for Executive Pulse Economic Development/Retention Visitation software not to exceed \$4,000. Requested funds to attend the Rail Summit Conference in Chicago June 13-14, 2017. Cost is \$850 per person or \$4,000 for a table of 8 people. Requested annual membership dues for 2016-2017 to the Northwest Indiana Forum. Amount of \$5,500 is due. Commissioner Kora made a motion to approve all 4 requests. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Cutler – Coroner – Thanked Commissioners for “job sharing” a van for the Coroner’s use on the weekends as a second vehicle until his office acquires a permanent vehicle. Thanked the Auditor; EMS – Andrew and Eric for working with him since he took office.

Lois Sosinski – Recorder – Invited the Commissioners to her office to view an area where she would like to have installed a knee-wall or half-door so the public would not go beyond that point or area. Commissioner Kora made a motion to have maintenance find out the cost. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Erika Stallworth – Juvenile Services – Reported on her trip to New York. Commissioner Kora suggested she email her positive summary to all county judges.

Rick Brown – MS4 – Updated Commissioners on the progress of his office.

Lynne Spevak – Treasurer – Requested her office to have extended hours on 3 days: May 8, May 9 and Nov 13, 2017.

Hours will be 8:00 am until 6:00 pm. La Porte County Courthouse Security will work and be paid accordingly. Motion made to approve by Commissioner Kora. Seconded by Commissioner Gonder. Motion carried.

George Watkins – Veterans Service Officer – Introduced Joseph Golec as the Part-Time VSO.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Bob Schuster – Adult Probation, on behalf of Steve Eyrick - Requested permission for Travel to Washington, DC. March 29-30, 2017 for a Financial Management Training Seminar due to a Drug Court grant received by the Federal Government. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Kora. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Andrew McGuire – EMS - Opening of Ambulance bid from Crossroads Ambulance. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve the only bid submitted. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Clay Turner – Solid Waste – Requested permission to use property for a storage building. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Jeremy Sobecki – Parks Department – Requested permission to seek bids for paving Luhr County Park parking lot. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

John Espar – Prosecuting Attorney – Requested signature from President Mrozinski on the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety and the La Porte County Prosecuting Attorney in regards to Internet Crimes against Children Task Force-Reimbursement. Attorney Biege stated next year it must be an Inter-Local Agreement not a Memorandum. Commissioner Kora moved to approve the President's signature. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Attorney Espar then requested permission for Julianne Havens to travel to Kentucky to attend a conference. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Gonder. Motion carried.

Patrick Meaney – Resident on Schultz Road – submitted a petition signed in 2016 by La Porte County residents to restrict truck traffic on Schultz road. Mr. Meaney referred to the county's Ordinance 97-9 that designates load limits on county roads.

Consider converting 400 West at Johnson Road to a one-way due to obstruction of the Toll Road bridge guard rail causing accidents when drivers are turning left or going east. Commissioner Kora suggested we check with local residents who travel that route.

Commissioner Gonder moved to table the issue. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Consider the approval of INDOT Projection Coordination Contract – Otis Road Bridge. Attorney Biege stated requires signatures. Commissioner Kora moved to approve the contract. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Consider the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Larry Butcher – EMA – This is done every five years. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Consider the Commissioners' appointment for the Michigan City Public Library Board of Trustees for Barbara Holdcraft to replace Sam Melnick due to his passing away on February 25, 2017. Commissioner Kora moved to approve Barbara. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora commented on his trip to Washington, DC. He also updated the public on the Lead Task Force Committee that was formed. A meeting is scheduled at 1:00pm today.

Commissioner Mrozinski spoke about his trip to Washington, DC on behalf of the Veterans. He attended President Trump's speech to a joint session Congress on February 28, 2017.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

