



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LA PORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 FAX: (219) 326-9103

Richard Mrozinski,
President

Michael Gonder,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

AMENDED AGENDA MINUTES LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Wednesday, April 19, 2017 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Gonder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Gonder asked Dennis Metheny to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chief Deputy Auditor Andrea Smith took the Roll Call. President Mrozinski – absent. Commissioner Gonder – present. Commissioner Kora – present. A quorum was formed therefore the meeting commenced.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned for approval of the amended agenda by adding to the record his email reply to constituents referring to the removed Ordinance 2017-4B that was originally on the Agenda. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Email included reads as follows:

“Thanks for sharing your concerns regarding the firearm related ordinance. I came to know about this ordinance Monday evening when the agenda was published. Yes there have been some safety related concerns in some subdivisions in the county but this ordinance is not the right way to accomplish that. We have a new legal team and staff who are getting used to the work of the commission. This ordinance should have been presented to the Commissioners for comments before it was added to the agenda. I have asked that this procedure be followed in the future. This item has been pulled from the agenda and it will not be considered nor voted on Wednesday. I was also going to make a suggestion at this meeting to form a committee of concerned citizens who can consider all the facts and come up with some simple common sense recommendations to improve safety where that is a concern.”

Commissioner Kora motioned to form a committee of 9 citizens that include various stakeholders which include members of gun clubs, the sheriff's department, hunters and citizens concerned about their safety. President Mrozinski will name the committee members. A public meeting will be held to seek input. A draft will be written, presented back to a public meeting and then go before the Commission for consideration. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Attorney Biege stated there are different ways to bring issues to the commission. One way is by forming a committee, another is by introducing an ordinance that could change significantly – tabled first, committee formed then changes are made and end with a different result from the original draft. Commissioner Kora stated be sure there is adequate input by the public whether it takes 6 months, a year or longer.

Vice President Gonder thanked all for attending the meeting. Regarding the gun issue ordinance, Vice President Gonder expressed his advocacy for the 2nd Amendment and his belief in gun rights. Public Comments for tonight's meeting will be limited to 3 minutes on the amended agenda items. Voices will be heard at the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 5, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Chief Deputy Auditor Andrea Smith read the Payroll ending 4-7-2017 - \$1,112,076.96 and the Miscellaneous Claims - \$1,320,997.51. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Opened at 6:08 p.m.

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. MC

Larry Mitchell - 7670 W. Arndt Ct LP

Terry Ritter - 175 Country Club Dr LP

Jeremy Cypher, Sibert? - 450 N. LP

Allen Stevens - 5277 W. 1475 S. Hanna

Nicole Thode - 9506 E. Division Rd. Mill Creek

Michelle McVay - 6601 E. 350 N. Rolling Prairie

Jeremy Smith - 702 N. 875 E. Mill Creek

Jack Ferrell - Hupp Rd and Central Rd in KIP – Business for hunting

Brian Kager - 406 Niesen St LP - brought the ACLU to LP 1995

Jacqueline Thomas - 3484 N. 400 W. LP

Allison Bender - 13 yrs old – 4-H Shooting Club Walkerton

Steve Malone - 4551 W. 900 N. MC Truck Driver

David Powless - 4656 W. 900 N. MC

Molly King - 426 Lakeside Dr. Fish Lake Walkerton – young girl

Tom Owens - 1937 E. 350 N. LP – Owner of Tactical Training

Ron Sullivan - 5288 N. 150 E. LP

Chris Schwanke - 7714 N. Meer Rd. MC

Paul Cook - 5707 N. 800 E. New Carlisle – Owner of 2nd Amendment Arms & Range New Carlisle

Haley Mulder - LPHS student – 1119 Poplar Dr Walkerton

Commissioner Kora motions to release a copy of the drafted ordinance that was removed from the previous agenda to the public. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Attorney Biege stated he would get the draft to IT director to post on the county website.

Annelise Bell or Ball - 7073 N. St. Rd. 39 LP – LPHS

Paul Cook - ****

Robert Bealor - 1405 E. US Hwy 6 & 35 Hamlet

Patrick Meaney - 4078 W. Schultz Rd LP

Terry Nelson - 1826 E. 150 N. LP

Steve Malone - ****

Joe Haney – 2695 W. Joliet Rd. LP

Ellen Fleshman – LPHS Sophomore – 4-H Shooting Club

Terry Ritter - ****

Brian Kager - ****

Attorney Biege, to be clear on procedure, stated the drafted ordinance on the original agenda is a dead issue.

Sarah Bender – 804 W. 13th St. LP

Attorney Biege stated if the meeting could get back to business on the agenda Commissioner Kora would rescind his motion of a committee being formed with 9 members. Under the rules the Commissioners have no intention of bringing this issue back for at least a year.

Randy Veatch – 4177 W. Schultz Rd.

Public Comment closed at 7:40 p.m.

**** - Represents second time at the podium.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Lynne Spevak – Treasurer – announced Tax bills were in the mail. Beacon on the county website is also a source to see previous tax years with amounts for the last five years. Invoice cloud for online payments show the actual statement.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Andrew McGuire - EMS Administrator - Requesting permission to approach the Council for funding for the state's portion of Medicaid Managed Care reimbursement program. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve Andrew to approach the council. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Kora motioned for all three items to be tabled. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.
Consider Ordinance 2017-4 Prohibiting the Use of Compression Release Engine Brakes - Jake Brakes - within La Porte County.
Consider Ordinance 2017-4A Regarding Truck Traffic on Severs Road.
Consider Ordinance 2017-4B Designating Load Limits on County Highways.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora motioned to dismiss altogether forming a committee or even creating an ordinance for discharging a firearm within so many feet of a dwelling unless there is a significant amount of complaints made to the Sheriff's department. Vice President Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Vice President Gonder adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.