



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

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked Justin Kiel to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Joie Winski called the roll: Commissioner Gonder - present. Commissioner Kora - present. President Mrozinski - present. Quorum with all three attending, meeting commenced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora added to the agenda under Old Business a presentation by Maggie Spartz, Better Government Study Group, to give a proposal. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora then moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 3, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the May 3rd meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 5-5-2017 - \$1,111,429.35 and then Miscellaneous - \$1,275,284.82. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

President Mrozinski recognized 5 students in attendance from La Porte High School. Welcomed them to the Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. Michigan City - inquired how to obtain a copy of the miscellaneous expenses. Auditor Winski stated he could go to her office.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Andrew McGuire - EMS - Proclaimed the week of May 21-27 as EMS week. Commissioner Kora read the Proclamation then made a motion to approve said Proclamation. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. Andrew noted an EMS Awards Ceremony will take place Thursday, May 25th at 11:00 am in the county complex meeting room. Years of Service awards, EMT of the Year, First Responder of the Year and a Citizen award will be given out.

Larry Butcher - EMA - Updated Commissioners on the 800 MHz project. T1 line with AT&T has been a hold up to go live. Completion should be May 23rd for KIP and May 31st for Rolling Prairie. Larry stated he now has a trailer, received through a grant, which will be used as a warming/cooling center for the county.

President Mrozinski announced the county email has been down all day Tuesday (May 16) and half the day Wednesday (May 17) due to an email that should not have been opened. A virus from China caused the issue, FBI is currently involved. Reminded employees DO NOT open any suspicious emails.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Jeremy Sobecki - Parks & Recreation - Requested permission to apply for a DNR Land and Water Grant for Luhr Count Park.

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Gonder. Motion carried by voice vote.

Andrew McGuire - EMS- Requested permission to travel to New Jersey for ambulance inspection. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the travel. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

**** Maggie Spartz - Unity Foundation – Proposal for an Innovated Public/Private Partnership. Requested permission to approach the County Council for \$50,000 for Next Level La Porte County. Commissioner Kora stated the State Board of Accounts will not allow the county to fund the request. Auditor Joie Winski explained it is not a proper use of county money. State Board of Accounts would not support the funding. Attorney Doug Biege followed up with the same statement. Question is: where is the money going? County not allowed to give the group money – they are not a government entity. Auditor Winski said she could not support the county giving the money for this strategic plan. Maggie asked for the Commissioners to approve the concept. Commissioner Kora motioned to allow the group to approach the Council. Commissioner Gonder stated he would like to speak to our county planner, Mitch Bishop, first then he seconded. Does this group’s plan conflict with our county planner’s? Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

John Jones - Michiana Insurance & Garrett Keznor - Gallagher Bassett Services - Considered the 2017-2018 renewal of the County’s Property & Casualty Insurance. John Jones explained the role of Gallagher Bassett for the county. Three entities are used; Travelers, Governmental Interinsurance Exchange and Chubb. Auditor Winski and Attorney Biege said the work done by Gallagher Bassett as a 3rd party administrator has been extremely helpful with their own offices for county work with liability claims. Commissioner Kora motioned to accept the renewal. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora reminded all that our Governor Eric Holcomb will be in Michigan City at 9am at the South Shore Railroad Depot for Double Tracking. Commissioner Gonder wished everyone a great holiday for Memorial Day. President Mrozinski announced Jane Bernard and her employees at the County small animal shelter were nominated and won this year’s Liberty Bell Award. Thursday, May 18th, at 10:00 am in Judge Alevizos circuit court they will be presented with the award. President Mrozinski also reminded everyone that on Saturday, May 20th at 10:00 am at the Michigan City courthouse a rededication ceremony will take place for the monument plaque that is on the flagpole base for the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War - 1861-1865 – in memory of our fathers and the Grand Army of the Republic – dated June 12, 1939. A real life reenactment will take place. Memorial Day will be May 29th, it is to remember the soldiers that have passed and Veterans Day is to honor the living veterans.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.