



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

MINUTES

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked Tony Hendricks to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for "all the American military men who lost their lives yesterday, 73 years ago on the landing of D-Day"- June 6, 1944.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Diane Gonzales called the roll: President Mrozinski – present, Commissioner Kora – present, Commissioner Gonder – Present. Quorum with all three attending, meeting commenced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Gonder added to the agenda Elizabeth Downs, YMCA, under Requests and the Auctioneer Contract for June 23rd's sale under New Business. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora then moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the May 17th meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Secretary Gonzales read the claims with Payroll ending 5-19-2017 - \$1,109,807.91 and then Miscellaneous - \$1,242,432.70. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Meaney - 4078 W. Schultz Rd. La Porte - Commended Annemarie Polan, Building Commissioner, for always replying to his requests. Noted that there is not a committee but a group of concerned neighbors who share the same common goal that oppose what is happening in their neighborhood. Asked that it be noted for the record that Attorney Keller does not represent the group of neighbors. Mr. Meaney stated last contact with Attorney Keller was June 2016.

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. Michigan City - Stated he attended the County Council workshop - commented on the Ohio Street project with Franciscan Alliance. State Franciscan Alliance is not-for-profit and they do not pay taxes. His question is if the Commissioners give a road to this group are they going to give every not-for-profit a road?

Randy Veatch - 4177 W. Schultz Rd. La Porte - Inquiring how to get on the agenda for the next meeting.

Senator Mike Bohacek - Legislative update: Balanced Budget, Education Highlights, State Police raise, Supporting Indiana Veterans and Helping those in need. Emphasized on the Double Tracking project and the Opioid epidemic.

Terry Ritter - 175 Country Club Dr. La Porte - Stated his disability due to an injury while employed with the county.

Donna Weist - 1922 W. 300 N. La Porte - In support of Code Enforcement for the County especially with noise ordinance.

Lisa Pierzakowski - Center Township Trustee - In support of Code Enforcement for the County, her office receives calls regarding grass that needs mowed in the county not within city limits. Also inquired as to touring the County Home Building with group Homeward Bound Inc.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Darlene Hale - IT - County email down due to moving email to a bigger server. It is a big data base and does require time to get this done. Strongly urged ALL users to complete training classes online. Also supports John Jones' proposal for Cyber Liability Insurance. Lois Sosinski - Recorder - Senate Bill 505 signed into law April 21, 2017 and will take effect July 1, 2017 in reference to modernizing the document recording process for Indiana County Recorder's offices - fee changes. Lois also stated her office will have 2 new programs through the current software they use – Property Fraud Alert and Honor Rewards Program for veterans. Commissioner Kora asked if fees were different throughout the counties and now are being made the same amount? Commissioner Gonder thanked Lois and wished her good luck with the 2 new programs.

Rick Brown - MS4 and Mike Polan - Surveyor's Office – Updated Commissioners on two capital projects currently being worked on, one has started and the other should begin in the next 30 days. Mike Polan then stated on record in reference to the first speaker that the current Commissioners and previous Commissioners as well as other local, state and federal agencies have bent over backwards to accommodate the concerns of the citizens on the Schultz Road issue. No violations found in the sand at site off 400 W. George Watkins - Veterans Service Officer- Announced "Breaking Down Barriers - Salute to our Veterans" event at the Blue Chip Casino June 17th. Lake, Porter and La Pore counties are participating. Also notified the Commissioners and the public of a scam being sent by mail to veterans asking for a pledge or donation. George suggested giving to local veterans' groups/organizations instead of state or national.

Bob Cutler - Coroner - Thanked Senator Bohacek for his efforts in Indianapolis against the opioid epidemic. Thanked the Commissioners for their full support for his office. Stated recently 15 pounds of opiates were found in a house where the resident died of an overdose. Prescriptions were from 6 different doctors. Thanked Commissioners and stated his appreciation for help and support.

Bob Young - Highway Department - Updated Commissioners on the bridge on Range Road west side of Kingsford Heights. Bridge buckled. The cause of this is being investigated. Approx. 2 weeks before the road will be open.

Barb Mossman - HR- Announced required IT training will be added to the county orientation for new employees. Also reminded everyone there will be a Blood Drive for Fallen Officers Friday, June 9, 2017 from 10am to 4pm at the county complex.

Mitch Bishop - County Planner – Updated Commissioners on the Road Asset Management plan, has been approved by LTAP and INDOT for paving which allows the county to apply for the Community Crossing Grant.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Steve Eyrick - Adult Probation - Requested permission for Judge Friedman, Corissa Strader, Eric LaRue and Ashley Zeh to travel to Washington, D.C. July 9-12, 2017. Commissioner Kora moved to approve said request. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

John Espar - Prosecuting Attorney - Requested permission for Mark Roule to travel to Washington, D.C. July 9-12, 2017. Commissioner Kora moved to approve the request. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Erika Stallworth - Juvenile Services - Requested permission to travel to Washington, D.C. July 15-19, 2017 through a scholarship. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Tony Mancuso - Regional Sewer District - Requested permission to approach the County Council for funds to enhance the La Porte County Regional Sewer District's ability to better serve the present and future generations of the La Pore County community. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Barb Mossman - HR - Requested Memorandum of Understanding of the Aspire Program between La Porte County Government and South La Porte County Special Education Cooperative (Co-op). Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Barb also requested permission for the Diabetes Prevention Program for county employees who qualify to participate who are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes to reduce their risk. Elizabeth Downs, La Porte County YMCA Healthy Living Director, was present to tell Commissioners more details of the program. For those who complete the program the county will pay \$429 per year. Commissioner Kora stated that amount is far less than the amount of insurance used throughout the year if employee does not control their diabetes. Commissioner Kora motioned to support the program, reimburse the employees who complete the program and give approval to approach the Council for said reimbursement. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Downs - LPCO YMCA - Requested road closures for the 38th Annual Triathlon in Soldier's Memorial Park on August 5, 2017. Commissioner Kora moved to approve the request. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consider contract with auctioneer Jim Lestinsky for County auction of personal property June 23, 2017 at the County Highway department. Attorney Biege has approved said contract. Commissioner Gonder moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Kora. Motion carried.

John Boyd - Sheriff - Consider Special Detail Agreement between Sheriff's Department and La Porte County Fair Board for week of July 9-15, 2017 during La Porte County Fair week. Major Heath Haferkamp was present for Sheriff Boyd. Attorney Biege has read and approved the agreement. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Andrew McGuire - EMS- Consider Special Detail Agreement between EMS and La Porte County Fair Board for week of July 9-15, 2017 during the week of the La Porte County Fair. Eric Fenstermaker was present for Andrew. Commissioner Kora moved to approve said agreement. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Tony Hendricks - Charles Hendricks & Assoc. - Requiring signatures from Commissioners for Estates of Concord. Plan Commission has approved. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Attorney Biege - Legacy Lane, LLC requiring signatures. Plan Commission has approved. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Gonder. Motion carried.

John Jones - Michiana Insurance - Considered Cyber Liability Proposal. John gave a presentation on cost per year, \$15,000 and what the coverage would be – Commissioner Kora asked whether it was a liability cost vs. a maintenance agreement. John stated it was a liability cost. Commissioner Kora moved to approve John to approach the Council with the proposal. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Biege - County Attorney - Proposed Ordinance Establishing County Code Enforcement and the Position of Code Enforcement Officer for the county with public comment. Steven Kelsey - 1432 W. 300 N. La Porte - Supports the Proposed Ordinance due to neighbor that refuses to mow his grass. Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. Michigan City - Asked if the county is still responsible for issues NOT already in an Ordinance? Questioned whether the 20 page document will be available for public comment on the 2nd reading. Authority for code enforcement to be enforced? Attorney Biege responded that was in the Joint Zoning Code which is different than this ordinance. Noise section on said Ordinance is not a part of the Zoning Code. Dennis asked if this Ordinance will be on the next meeting's agenda. President Mrozinski replied it will be on the next meeting's agenda for second reading with Public Comment. Commissioner Kora moved to approve first reading by title only. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Ordinance 2017-6 will be up for a second reading on the June 21st agenda.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Gonder requested that his statement during the May 17th meeting directed to Maggie Spartz did not say the County Council was "vicious." He was letting her know they can be very tough. Commissioner Gonder stated he will be going on vacation and would not be at the next meeting June 21st.

Commissioner Mrozinski announced Flag Day will be Wednesday, June 14th. The VFW in Rolling Prairie will hold a Flag Day ceremony Saturday, June 10th at 9:00 a.m. Encouraged everyone that owns a flag to raise it. Also announced the Boat Races – Maple City Grand Prix – will be the weekend of June 9-10, 2017.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora moved to adjourn. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.