



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, August 2, 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 Mike Seltz to lead the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Jole Winski called the roll: Commissioner Gonder - Present; Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum therefore meeting commenced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora moved to approve the agenda with the addition of three items: Contract Agreement under Request for Prosecuting Attorney John Espar; Declaration of Emergency Repair for Franklin Street Bridge and 3 new positions on the Community Corrections Advisory Board due to amended Indiana Code 11-12-2-2 that went into effect July 1, 2017. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Gonder motioned to approve the minutes from the July 19th meeting. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Jole Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 8-2-2017-\$1,141,855.06 and Miscellaneous-\$2,036,613.73. Auditor Jole Winski stated the majority amount for miscellaneous claims are due to grant reimbursements. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. MC - Thanked the highway department for paving 450 N. Especially in front of the church. Dennis also inquired about the miscellaneous claims reimbursements. Auditor Winski stated that is how the State Board of Accounts wants it done.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

George Watkins - Veterans Service Officer - Veterans Administration will be in the county complex tomorrow, August 3rd, for health care sign up for veterans.

Jay Sullivan - Engineer - Updated Commissioners on the Franklin Street Bridge. Contractor currently looking at said bridge. Jay stated he has an addendum that requires signatures from the Commissioners. Attorney Biege had not seen the document yet so Commissioner Kora motioned to approve pending Attorney Biege's approval. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Gonder asked how long the bridge will be down for the work to be completed. Jay replied should not be more than 130 days. Two permits are required. One from DNR and the other from Engineer.

Jeremy Sobeki - Parks & Recreation - Stated to Commissioners he has received an \$80,000 grant through the DNR for Creek Ridge. He has also applied for a \$50,000 grant through the Great Lakes Commission. He is requesting signatures once he receives the grant. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the signatures pending legal review. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

David Timmons - South Shore Line - Requested road closure for a mock disaster drill October 7, 2017. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

David Jones - NLKJ - Requested settlement approval for *Looper v. La Porte County*. Commissioner Gonder motioned to approve the \$47,500 settlement. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Ken Purze - Drainage Board - Requested permission to approach the Council for funding for an additional \$34,000. Out of eight counties boarding the Kankakee River, La Porte County is the largest with 22% of the area. Ken stated a new law increased the dollar amount. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

John Espar - Prosecuting Attorney - Requested permission to travel to Dallas, Texas. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. John also requested signatures on a grant agreement between the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Aging and La Porte County Board of Commissioners d/b/a La Porte County Prosecutor. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve said agreement. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Erika Stallworth - Juvenile Services - Requested signatures for Choice CCS contract renewal. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Larry Silvestri - Requested letter of support (expression of opinion) for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to be designated as an International Dark Sky Park. Commissioner Kora had three questions: Any cost? No; what area is affected? Only the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in La Porte County and are residents affected by this at all? Will they have to do anything on their own property? No. Commissioner Gonder stated he was aware of Larry's passion for this issue so he moved to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Darlene Hale - IT - Requested signatures on an agreement for dark fiber connections between NICTD and La Porte County. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Caroline Shook - Hoosier Homestead Initiative - Updated the Commissioners on the program. Out of fifty two properties 34 of them are paying taxes and back on the tax roll for the county.

NEW BUSINESS

Andrew McGuire - EMS - Considered the TriTech Software Agreement. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners appointed Jeffrey Gangloff to the Community Corrections Advisory Board replacing Marty Corley who resigned. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Community Corrections Advisory Board added 3 new members due to amended Indiana Code 11-12-2-2 that went into effect July 1, 2017. Juvenile Correctional Facility – Erik Stallworth; Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative – Mike Callahan and Juvenile Probation Officer – Debra Ackerman. Commissioner Kora moved to approve all three appointments. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Declaration of Emergency Repair requested for the Franklin Street Bridge. Conduit collapsed. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve but not to exceed \$326,000. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora stated he attended the Drug Court graduation last night. Thanked everyone involved.

Commissioner Gonder told everyone to pray for good weather for the Boat Races this weekend in Michigan City.

President Mrozinski spoke on his meeting with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch the night before in Granger. Also stated the VSO office in Michigan City at the courthouse has had foot traffic. Reminded people of paving currently underway in the county – please be courteous to the road crew. Grand Prix Boat Races, First Fridays and a Taste of Michigan City will be this weekend. VFW in Rolling Prairie and the Guardian Riders were given property, 3 buildable lots in Kingsbury off Hupp Road. Rich said any Veteran can have the land as long as they live in the house that is built - no selling it - and ...

Blue Chip is now 20 years old in Michigan City!

ADJOURN

President Mrozinski motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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MINUTES

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EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE _____ 8-16-17

[Handwritten signature]

ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL