



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LA PORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

La Porte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Richard Mrozinski,  
President

Michael Gonder,  
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Member

### MEETING MINUTES LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked Mark Devine to lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the Florida school shooting.

#### ROLL CALL

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

#### APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2018 MINUTES

Commissioner Gonder motioned to approve the minutes from the February 7th meeting. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

#### CLAIMS

Auditor Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 2-9-2018 - \$1,162,708.63 and Miscellaneous - \$2,852,784.29. Commissioner Gonder motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

President Mrozinski stated New Business will take place next due to the speaker having to travel back to Indianapolis.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Toops - Cohen & Malad - Considered filing Opioid litigation. Shaw Friedman introduced co-counsel Lynn Toops. A suit is being filed for the Opioid epidemic in our county. Certain opioid manufactures and distributors that have played a role in worsening this epidemic. No cost to the counties that file. Lynn stated her firm, out of Indianapolis, decided to join the litigation two years ago when it saw the impact of the opioid crisis on their own community. Ten lawsuits have been filed in Indiana counties so far - St. Joe, Marshall, Marion, Lake, Monroe, Jennings and Fayette counties have joined this suit. All cases have been consolidated into one that will go in front of one judge in Cleveland, Ohio. Over 150 people per day die of opioid overdoses. In 2012 there were 128 prescriptions written per 100 people in La Porte County. It has gone down to only 108 per 100 people. Commissioner Kora motioned to move forward with this suit. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

**UPDATES**

**President Mrozinski** introduced the firm Lochmueller Group who was hired by the previous administration to do an environmental study. Steve Fleming and David Goffinet gave an overview of public meetings held for the North-South corridor connector, an alternant route for traffic going through the city of La Porte. Commissioner Kora stated his press release was to inform those that reached out and emailed him. A grant from NIRPC and federal highway funding has allowed this study to be done. This is just a study right now. Minimal impact on subdivisions and the environment as well as the cost are his three items he has asked to be considered. Those attending were asked to provide email addresses so Lochmueller could update them as the study is being done.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Allen M. asked a question pertaining to the Opioid litigation. Will the manufactures producing opioids as well as other drugs pass on the cost to the consumers to offset the loss from the lawsuit? Commissioner Kora responded the manufacture in question only produces opioids.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

**Larry Butcher - EMA** - Updated Commissioners on road conditions with the flooding. Our county was not declared a State of Emergency due to mostly farm land was effected with the high waters not commercial or residential.

**REQUESTS**

**John Boyd - Sheriff** - Requested approval to trade and replace vehicles. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Sheriff Boyd requested approval for a grant contract from Indiana Department of Natural Resources for law enforcement patrol on lakes in La Porte County. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Permission to approach the Council to pay Janice Grinston, who is retiring, for unused sick days. Commissioner Gonder motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

**LPCCVB - Door Village Harvest Festival, La Porte County Draft Horse Association and Hanna Fest** requested \$500 each for their events during the 2018 year. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the requests. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Jim Jessup** requested road closures for Hanna during their festival August 10-11. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Appointment of John Dudeck as Director** was motioned by Commissioner Kora. Seconded by Commissioner Gonder. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Kora motioned to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE 3-7-18

[Signature]  
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[Signature]  
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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL