



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LA PORTE COUNTY

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Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Richard Mrozinski,  
President

Michael Gonder,  
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Member

### LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Gonder called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Gonder asked Clay Turner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Secretary Diane Gonzales called the roll: Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Gonder - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Absent (Washington, DC). Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the agenda by tabling the item of retaining StructurePoint as design firm for the Michigan City courthouse under New Business. He stated more information was needed and it could possibly be back on the next meeting's agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora then motioned to approve the agenda by adding under Requests (New Business was stated) Erika Stallworth, requesting permission to travel. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the February 21st meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Gonder moved Claims to after Department Head Comments.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Dennis Metheny** - 6757 W. 450 N. Michigan City - Questioned county employees traveling. Suggested a document be signed stating employees would be in their position for a year after said travel. Questioned Bob Young's request for two new loaders. Asked if he had previously requested them then realized Bob had not so he corrected himself. Questioned Solid Waste's contract request.

**Dave Sabones** - 9456 E. 525 S. Walkerton - Stated he has had a flooding issue on his road for two weeks now. DNR and INDOT own property around his home and have done nothing to help the issue. They do not maintain their dikes. Dave said 800 E., 1000 E., 500 S., and 525 S. have been flooded and the only way he can get out of the area is a road he made on an old, abandoned railroad track. Miller Ditch, which is on the east side of the road, is owned by St. Joseph County and they have been no help either. He stated he pays \$55,000 per year in property tax. He has no police protection, fire or ambulance service.

ORIGINAL

## DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

**Patty Nocek and Julie Davies - Health Dept** - Requested permission to have a Bake Sale April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with proceeds going to the Worthy Women Recovery Home. Third year for the bake sale. Thirteen hundred dollars raised last year. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Larry Butcher - EMA** - Updated the Commissioners on the flooding issue in our county. Stated there is a "self-reporting" site that residents can go to and report damage due to heavy rain water. Dhs.in.gov has a link to do the report. Jeff Wiatrowski will be monitoring the site. The state will be accessing the damage for the county. Larry gave information of 3 counties that will be having a Disaster Assistance Center set up. Lake County - 2460 Vermillion St. in Lake Station; Jasper County - 112 Carnation St. in Demotte and Elkhart - 608 Oakland Dr. in Elkhart. Tetanus shots would be given. Commissioner Gonder asked Larry to stay after the meeting in case anyone wants more information about the reporting. Commissioner Kora asked Larry if La Porte County had been declared a Disaster Area - if several counties are declared an emergency then does the State ask the Federal government to declare it as well? Larry replied yes. Declaration of Emergency.

**Connie Gramarossa - Shared Ethics** - Reminded Commissioners of the upcoming Shared Ethics Summit March 16, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## CLAIMS

Auditor Joie Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 2-23-2018 - \$1,202,595.38 and Miscellaneous - \$1,424,426.74. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

## REQUESTS

**John Espar - Prosecuting Attorney** - Requesting travel for deputy prosecutor to New Orleans May 14-23 for a conference. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Bob Young - Hwy** - Requesting permission to approach the Council to purchase two new loaders. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Jerry "Jay" Sullivan - Engineer** - Requesting permission to approach the Council for INDOT inspection of Franklin St. Bridge. Electrical work has been completed. INDOT needs to inspect therefore request is for additional appropriations of \$7,784.48. The amount is the counties' 20% match. Jay stated they are addendums to the USI contracts. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve request after Council has approved. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Jay will not have to come back to the Commissioners once the Council has approved the request. The bridge is now operational.

**Bob Cutler - Coroner** - Requesting permission to approach Council to replace a vehicle. Bob stated the current 2007 Suburban being used has reached 187,342 miles. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Erika Stallworth - Juvenile Services** - Requested permission for Christine Moss, Nurse, to travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 23-24 through a scholarship. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Andrew McGuire - EMS** - Opened bids for a replacement ambulance. Attorney Doug Biege requested permission to open three sealed bids. Both Commissioners said yes. Fire Service, Inc - Wheeled Coach bid \$208,208; P. L. Custom Emergency Vehicles bid \$201,689 and North Central Emergency Vehicles - Osage bid \$173,850 (read into minutes but Andrew gave amount of \$176,110 after meeting). Commissioner Kora motioned to give all three bids to Andrew for review. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Andrew stated he would have all three bids available for any vendors that may be in attendance to look at after the meeting with Commissioners' approval. Both Commissioners agreed.

ORIGINAL



## NEW BUSINESS

**Consider lease agreement between Solid Waste District and La Porte County.** Attorney Biege stated he is the attorney for both Solid Waste and Commissioners, he drafted the agreement therefore he is asking under the rules of professional responsibility that each entity waive any conflict of interest. Commissioner Kora motioned to waive. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Clay Turner stated the property on Zigler Road is county owned property. In 2015 the county approached the Solid Waste District asking to enter into an agreement for a better plan for the use of the area - there is a need for the compost site in La Porte County. County had its own compost site in cooperation with Westville Correctional Facility for 20 years. The State has decided to go in a different direction with the property and will not renew the lease. Solid Waste will now move their equipment and presence to the location on Zigler Road, approx. 26.6 acres. The agreement is for 5 years - through June 1, 2023. No charge. Commissioner Kora asked Clay when the deadline to vacate the area in Westville is - June 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the lease agreement with Solid Waste District. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Consider retaining Structurepoint as design firm for Michigan City Courthouse.** Commissioner Kora motioned to table for further information but it would likely be on the next meeting's agenda for approval. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

**Auditor's office - Consider SEH contract.** Auditor Winski stated Cender & Company was previously used to assist with abatements and exemptions. Bryan Schuch worked for Cender & Company but now works for SEH. Auditor Winski stated she would like to continue to work with Bryan therefore the contract with SEH needs to be approved. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

## COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora stated he has received a few more emails pertaining to the North-South Connector since our last meeting. He said input is being collected for the process.

Commissioner Gonder reminded everyone of the weather - spring is not far away but be careful out there.

## ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora motioned to adjourn at 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE 3-25-2018

[Signature]  
[Signature]

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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