



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LA PORTE COUNTY

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La Porte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Richard Mrozinski,
President

Connie Gramarossa,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked Leann Van Schoyck to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the agenda by adding under New Business "approaching the Council for additional appropriations in the amount of \$3,000 for the part-time VSO in Michigan City for two days a week for the rest of the year." Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora then motioned to approve the agenda with the added item followed by a seconded from Commissioner Gramarossa. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 1st, 2018 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the August 1st meeting. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Joie Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 8-10-2018 - \$1,153,057.67 and Miscellaneous - \$2,523,911.47. Auditor Winski pointed out the amount in Miscellaneous includes a bit over 1.1 million dollars which was used to pave roads. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephan Raymond - 173 Regency Pkwy La Porte - Stated the need for "off street parking" in downtown La Porte.
David Ambers - Attorney - 609 Michigan Avenue - La Porte - Two hand-outs given to Commissioners pertaining to possible locations for the EMS building.
Renee Scherer - Ward 1, Roger Galloway - Ward 4, Tim Stabosz - At-Large - La Porte City Council - Statements made against new location for the EMS building at 712 Madison Street in La Porte.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Matt Reardon - Economic Development - Reported on the Southwest corner of Hwy 421 in Michigan City.

ORIGINAL

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Barb Mossman - HR - Considered Approval for Drug Screen Policy revision. Commissioner Kora motioned to remove from being tabled. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried. Barb Mossman stated the new drug policy matches the wording of both La Porte and Michigan City. The new Policy is more detailed. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Barb Mossman - HR - Considered Approval for a revision to the Family and Medical Leave Policy (FMLA). Barb reported FMLA affords county employees the opportunity to take 12 weeks of protected job leave as long as they meet the requirements stipulated by the FMLA leave act. She also stated the change being made is the order in which the substituted accrued leave time is paid. Currently vacation time is taken first but the revision will have sick time used first then vacation time. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the new revision. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

Considered the La Porte Hospital land exchange and purchase of EMS station. Ashley Dickinson, CEO of La Porte Hospital, spoke on the purchase of the EMS station at 508 Tyler Street and land swap at 712 Madison Street in La Porte. Ashley stated a new hospital is being built and that is the need for the area where the current EMS is located on Tyler Street. The proposal is to exchange the location from Tyler Street to 712 Madison Street which is twice the size of area then the current parcel. Proposed timeline is to purchase the parcel on Tyler Street but allow usage of it for the county until the third quarter of 2019. Over a year to make the move complete. Ashley stated construction would be going on around the area but EMS would still be allowed to use the current location. Attorney Doug Biege reported the land exchange is twice the area then we have now. Doug stated the vote tonight would only be for the land exchange. If agreed the hospital would pay the county one million, fifty five thousand dollars to build a new facility. If agreed upon the transaction would be a closing would take place, land exchanged then the money would be paid. A license would be executed to allow EMS to use that area during the period of construction. Commissioner Kora stated he is in agreeance with the transaction but another location other than 712 Tyler Street needs to be looked at first. Attorney Biege reminded the Commissioners any delay sets the timeline back for the hospital. Commissioner Kora proposed moving forward with the transaction but form a committee made of members from the Commissioners, La Porte City Council, La Porte Mayor, Andrew McGuire from EMS and La Porte Hospital. Commissioner Gramarossa suggested tabling both the land exchange and purchase until the next meeting. Commissioner Kora then withdrew his proposal. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to table both the exchange and purchase for the EMS station in La Porte. Commissioner Kora seconded while stating the next meeting is September 5th. Motion carried.

Considered the Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month during September. Commissioner Kora read the Proclamation then motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

Considered the Appointment of Lydia Post to the Redevelopment Commission replacing Jeff Johnson who resigned. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

Considered the Agreement for License to conduct Firearms Training between La Porte County and City of Michigan City, Indiana. Commissioner Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Considered the additional appropriation from the Council of funds in the amount of \$3,000 to pay the part-time Veterans Service Officer in Michigan City for two days a week for the remainder of the year. Auditor Joie Winski requested Commissioner Kora to amend his motion from \$3,000 to \$2,800 due to advertised amount already submitted for the Council meeting August 27th. Commissioner Kora motioned to correct the dollar amount from \$3,000 to \$2,800 in order to pay George Watkins for two days a week at the Michigan City courthouse location for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora stated he had a phone conference with Chairman Danny Lopez, the Governor's representative to Workforce Development, spoke about how to change some of the curriculum in schools to improve career and technical education. Commissioner Kora stated he would be participating and giving more feedback in the future. Commissioner Gramarossa stated being the Liaison for EMS she would like to be on the committee for the new location of the EMS building in La Porte.

President Mrozinski reported on the Stand Down for veterans last week at the armory. Great event! Edgewood Dental, 3008 Franklin Street in Michigan City will be offering free dental work for active duty and veterans Thursday, October 11th. Please call #219-898-4545 to make an appointment.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora motioned to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 9-5-2018

[Signature]
[Signature]

ATTEST: _____ Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL