



**LA PORTE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**Dr. Vidya Kora,  
President**

**Sheila Matias,  
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski,  
Member**

**LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.**

**President Vidya Kora** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Considered** the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the agenda by adding travel request to Washington, DC for Adult Probation under Requests. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Mrozinski then motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** approval of June 5, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Auditor Joie Winski** read the claims with Payroll ending 6/6/2019 - \$1,267,197.86 and miscellaneous claims of \$1,030,106.04. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Department Head Comments:**

**Jeremy Sobecki**, Parks Department Superintendent, told the Commissioners Spring has been rough on his department with all the recent rain. Mowing has slowed down. Jeremy stated the Healthcare Foundation awarded the Parks Department a \$77,000 Grant for Exercise equipment and Bike Repair/Water Stations which will be located at Luhr, Red Mill, Creek Ridge and Bluhm parks. Bike stations will not be at Creek Ridge due to traffic on 400 North. President Kora thanked Jeremy for all his work. Commissioner Matias thanked him for the Grant work.

**Bob Young** – Highway Department – Reported Joliet Road paving project is completed.

**Joe Golec** – VSO – Gave the latest figures for La Porte County Veterans in 2018. Expenditures moved to 36.3 million which is up from 34 million from last year. Although the veteran population is shrinking in the county the benefits paid out to them went up 2.3 million dollars. Commissioner Matias asked Joe to explain this to the general public. Joe said pensions, death benefits to survivors, widows and children, education, and health care benefits are paid out.

President Kora asked Joe how many veterans are in La Porte County. Joe stated just under 7,900. Commissioner Mrozinski spoke on the Blue Water Navy Act that recently passed.

**Steve Eyrick** – Adult Probation – Reported on a grant his office received from the Healthcare Foundation as well. President Kora requested that a “Thank you” card be sent to Healthcare Foundation. Steve also said Mary Beth Lebo and students will be in the Complex Thursday to begin painting in the tunnel between the Courthouse and Complex.

**Requests:**

**Considered travel permission for Adult Probation to San Diego** – Steve Eyrick. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. **Considered travel permission to Washington, DC** which was added at the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. Both trips will be funded through Probation User Fees.

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**Considered permission to pay Superior Court 4 employee unused sick days – Barb Mossman.** Judge Greta Friedman provided a statement to HR saying a 26 year County employee resigned her position. She has 40 unused sick days that Superior Court 4 will pay out to her at \$75 per day. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered road closures for Healthcare Foundation Tour de La Porte run/walk August 24<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered Zigler Road closure during week of the Fair.** Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve Zigler Road closed for fair traffic the week of July 7-13. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Considered Agency Service Agreement between Recorder and PayGOV.US, LLC – Lois Sosinski.** Commissioner Matias stated this will be a great service to the public and no cost to the County. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Considered permission to approach the Council to trade in vehicles – Ron Heeg.** Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve 11 vehicles. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. Ron asked that the software agreement be brought up from the bottom of the agenda.

**Considered software agreement between La Porte County and CorEMR.** President Kora asked Attorney Shaw Friedman if the agreement was acceptable. Shaw stated both Attorney Guy DiMartino and himself approved of the agreement. The software will be used in the Sheriff's medical office for records storage and charting within the department. Software is in conjunction with QCC. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered Tax Sale Services support addendum with SRI.** Auditor Joie Winski stated a Tax Sale will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> of this year. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered John Emery Railroad crossing project MOU between INDOT, NICTD and La Porte County and Seek permission to approach Council for seed money to be reimbursed to County – Mitch Bishop.** Mitch told the Commissioners this is a unique grant. Attorney Friedman said this is a 3 party agreement. INDOT will be supplying the funding. NICTD will be getting new railroad infrastructure with gates and lights. The County will be getting a realignment of the John Emery Road in Hudson Lake. Currently it is at a 30 degree skew – possibly will be tied in to a 90 degree angle for a better line of sight. Hold Harmless was reviewed in the original MOU. Mitch stated 100% reimbursed plus 5% added but it requires seed money. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve both requests. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried for both MOU and permission to approach the Council for seed money.

**Consideration of County Commissioners' appointment to Kankakee River Basin Commission per House Enrolled Act 1270.** Commissioner Matias motioned to approve John Coulter, Sr. to the Commission. President Kora stepped down and seconded the motion. Commissioner Mrozinski said he thought the appointment would be Tony Hendricks therefore he voted No. Motion carried with 2 Yes votes and 1 No vote.

**Considered possible change to Rieth-Riley contract regarding Joliet Road project.** Bob Young, Highway Superintendent, reported on the completion of Joliet Road paving done by Rieth-Riley. After 4 ½ lane miles were paved it was discovered the wrong liquid asphalt was used. The contract approved was using Class C mix design but Class B was used instead – test results are pending. All correct ingredients were used except the oil was different. INDOT has approved the road "as is" and is not requiring it to be redone. Bob reported when looking at the road there is no difference in the look of it, cannot tell where Class B was used. Bob stated a formula was given to him to figure out the amount of tons of liquid asphalt that would have been used in this mix. They knew the square yards and tonnage that had been used in the affected area. Dollar amount is a little over \$6,000 difference in the prices of the oil. There will also be an adjustment on the underrun, the job was bid at 120,000 ton but 116,000 ton was used so a difference of \$28,000 plus the \$6,000 should be coming back from Rieth-Riley. Bob said he would like to negotiate with Rieth-Riley on the shoulder

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stone which the county would be responsible for laying, 300 tons of shoulder stone was figured in to the original bid. More stone will be needed due to the job changing in the fill. Went from a 2 inch mill and fill to a 2 inch mill and a 2 inch intermediate course to prevent cracking. Now a 2 inch surface has been done on top. Possible cost would be \$100,000 but Bob hopes he can negotiate with Rieth-Riley. President Kora asked Bob if he will report back after the negotiations. Bob said he will wait for the test results first then report back. Commissioner Matias said liquid asphalt is the most expensive ingredient in the mix. She appreciates keeping a better eye on the projects, better for the citizens.

**Commissioner Comments:**

**Commissioner Matias** thanked the County Council for investing in infrastructure improvements on the fairgrounds based around public health and safety issues. Electrical, sewer and water upgrades have been made. She commended the former and current Commission and Council. A \$250,000 debt was forgiven by the County. In 2017 \$125,000 was invested, in 2018 \$125,000 was invested and in 2019 another \$125,000 was invested for the upgrades. That is \$375,000 in 3 years of new money for the electrical, sewer and water systems at the fairgrounds. IBEW donated time, thanks goes to them.

**Commissioner Mrozinski** spoke on the meaning of "Juneteenth." It is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865 it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that Union soldiers, led by General Gordon Granger rode in to Galveston, Texas, and announced that slaves were now free. This was 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Since then, June 19 has been celebrated across the nation.

**Commissioner Kora** stated the Board of Commissioners all support the improvements at the Fair. He also reported on the informational gathering with the Township Trustees. La Porte County has 21 Townships, 12 Trustees attended the meeting. The Commissioners heard concerns and will continue to work with the Trustees. Commissioner Kora reminded everyone that the next Commissioners' meeting will be July 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all!

**Commissioner Kora adjourn at 6:34 p.m.**

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

DATE 7-1-2019

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTEST [Signature]

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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