



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229**

**Dr. Vidya Kora,
President**

**Sheila Matias,
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski,
Member**

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Wednesday, September 18, 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. followed by 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 accept the agenda. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered approval of September 4, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Auditor Joie Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 9/13/2019 - \$1,226,682.10 and Miscellaneous claims of \$1,463,075.33. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Moved Request from Clerk Kathy Chroback:

Considered approval for 2019 Municipal General Election Polling Locations – Kathy Chroback, Clerk.

Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

No polling locations will be moved for the upcoming 2019 Mayoral General Election.

Board of Commissioners presented Darlene Hale, IT Director, with an award from Senator Mike Bohacek pertaining to the Ransomware attack on our county in July.

President Kora read into the record as a reminder to all the policy to encourage effective, efficient use of public comment/input to aid the Commission.

“# 5 – The Presiding Officer may prohibit comments which are deemed frivolous, repetitive or harassing. The Presiding Officer may interrupt, warn or terminate a person’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant and may request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the meeting.”

“#6 – No person may present orally or discuss at any meeting of the Board any charges or complaints against individual employees of the county, department heads, professional advisors or elected officials without first presenting such charges or complaints to the Board, through the Presiding Officer, in writing, signed and verified by the group or person making the charge or complaint.”

“#7 – Remarks by any persons addressing the Board which reflect adversely upon the character and motives of any person or group are out of order. Also, attacks in the form of inferences, insinuations and innuendoes against the character or motives of any person are out of order.”

Public Comment:

Louie Spear – 6434 S. 3rd Line Road La Porte – Handed out a letter to the Commissioners with a request on the Schurz Ditch. Commissioner Mrozinski said he was in Washington, DC during the last Drainage Board meeting therefore he doesn’t know what transpired at the meeting. Louis stated he brought maps if anyone wanted to look at them.

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President Kora told Louie he would have Attorneys Shaw Friedman and Brad Adamsky to reach out to him with information. Attorney Shaw Friedman gave Mr. Spear a copy of an email he sent on September 8th to the County Drainage Board. **Attorney Friedman read into the record**, “City Engineer Nick Minich confirmed in his September 6th email that on Wednesday, August 28th, the contractor switched the temporary construction dewatering discharge from the low point adjacent to the La Porte County Conservation Trust Property to the constructed basin. He further noted that at that time, construction dewatering was no longer going into Schurz Ditch.” At that time Attorney Friedman advised the Drainage Board if there was no threat to the public health, safety or welfare, or violates rules or regulations of the state or county, then he respectfully suggested a motion to reconsider their injunction. Attorney Friedman said Surveyor Tony Hendricks stated there was a motion made at the last Drainage Board meeting to suspend the injunction until they could look at it to make sure the outflow was off and going west into the La Porte storm water system which eventually goes into the Travis Ditch. Attorney Friedman stated for the record it would be helpful if particular homeowners would retain counsel to assist with an issue. There are certain things the County can and cannot do. Mr. Spear has a forty year dispute with the City of La Porte.

Department Head Comments:

Tony Rodriguez – Office of Community and Economic Development – Reported on five Broadband Task Force meetings held so far this year. A mission and vision were established. Four subcommittees were formed: Influencers; Mapping & Statistics; Communications and Digital Inclusion. A Grant was applied for to help residents that live in areas “unserved” by cable/internet providers.

Steve Alt – 911 Director – Requested permission to approach the Council for additional appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 for new chairs for the 911 Center. Too late to be on the Council’s September 23rd meeting but October meeting will be good. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Requests:

Considered permission for travel to Washington, DC October 30-31 – Tony Rodriguez, OCED. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered permission request to approach Council for additional appropriations for replacement computers/printers – Andrew McGuire, Director. Total cost will be \$13,837. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered permission to use old Superior Court 3 courtroom in Complex – John Lake, Prosecuting Attorney. Prosecutor Lake understands the room is available as long as Superior Court 2 Judge Rich Stalbrink is not using it when the Michigan City courthouse is being renovated. Prosecutor Lake also requested “WeTip” for anonymous tips on crime. He gave a copy of the proposal for review to Attorney Shaw Friedman for the next agenda. Program offers 1-800 numbers for crimes, drugs, arson, fraud and bullying. Commissioner Matias thanked John for being proactive. Commissioner Mrozinski stated as long as the room is available for Superior 2 when they need it he has no problem with it. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Considered Service agreement between Michigan City, City of La Porte, Purdue University Northwest and the County with Transit Triangle. This is a revised service agreement only until the end of May of 2020. At that time it will be reassessed as to continue the service. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Considered permission to approach the Council for Laserfiche to scan Clerk documents. Commissioner Matias asked Darlene to explain how the money will be spent. Darlene stated all court records held in the Clerk’s office in La Porte will be scanned by a company and saved to microfilm. Clerk’s office in the Michigan City courthouse will be done at a later date. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered Review Participation Agreement in FireEye Election Security Pilot Project by Secretary of State’s Office – Darlene Hale, IT Director. Darlene stated this is an extra layer of protection for the “sandbox” program within the SVRS system used by Voter Registration and Clerk’s office. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered interlocal cooperation agreement between the Town of Trail Creek and the County regarding building code inspection – Doug Biege, Attorney. Attorney Doug Biege stated Trail Creek approached the Plan Commission to work together with the County on electrical inspections. Attorney Friedman stated he is comfortable with the agreement.

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Stated this is a testament to the Building Department working with the Towns on inspections. Commissioner Matias asked if it will be a flat \$50 fee. Attorney Biege replied yes, this is for basic electrical work completed. Commissioner Matias asked if the Commissioners' budget for mileage would be used when the Building Inspectors have to travel to Trail Creek to do the inspections. Auditor Joie Winski said the Plan Commission has their own mileage budget. Commissioner Matias asked Auditor Winski if she felt the \$50 fee was a fair amount. Auditor Winski replied yes, for now. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Matias reported on Smart 911 which is a program of law enforcement and agencies across the county working together during a crisis or a situation. Commissioner Matias stated both she and Commissioner Mrozinski attended a ceremony in La Crosse where the volunteer fire department was awarded \$99,000 in breathing apparatus equipment (6) from the Gary Sinise Foundation's First Responders Outreach program. President Kora requested a "congratulations" card be sent to Fire Chief Aaron Rust in La Crosse. Commissioner Matias also said a meeting was held for redesigning the county website.

Commissioner Mrozinski said Happy 72nd Birthday to the United States Air Force. Commissioner Mrozinski reported on his trip to Washington, DC for veterans. He read a proclamation into the record from Governor Eric Holcomb proclaiming September 20, 2019 as POW/MIA Recognition Day. ***Proclamation attached to minutes.

Commissioner Kora attended a health insurance meeting and reported that the expenses are \$83,000 under budget so far this year. Commissioner Kora sits on the Board of Northwest Indiana Workforce Development in which he attended a meeting with former La Porte Mayor Blair Milo as the guest speaker. Commissioner Kora stated the first meeting in December, scheduled for the 4th has now been moved to the 11th at 10:00 a.m.

President Kora adjourn at 6:59 p.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 10-2-2019

Shirley Maters

ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, 1,589 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War, as well as 7,663 unaccounted for from the Korean War and 72,707 from WWII, though thousands from WWII are assessed as unrecoverable deep-sea losses; and

WHEREAS, the families and friends of unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veterans, as well as countless fellow veterans and other Americans, still await recovery and identification of their remains; and

WHEREAS, successive administrations have reinforced commitment to accounting for our nation's POW/MIAs as a high priority of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the state of Indiana commends, supports and shares our nation's commitment to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing and unaccounted for from our nation's past wars and conflicts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2019 as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done at the
City of Indianapolis, this 1st
day of August the year of our
Lord 2019 and of the Independence
of the United States 244.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

Eric Holcomb

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