



# 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, October 2, 2019 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

**President Vidya Kora** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales** called the roll: Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Matias - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Absent. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

**Considered** the agenda. Commissioner Matias motioned to accept the agenda. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** approval of September 18, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

**Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales** read the claims with Payroll ending 9/27/2019 - \$1,225,792.19 and Miscellaneous claims of \$2,267,400.72. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

### Public Comment:

**Julie Sinclair - 1402 Roberts Street La Porte** – Requested assistance with enforcing the opinion of the Public Access Counselor on a formal complaint made against the Purdue Extension Office of La Porte County regarding 4-H Horse and Pony. Julie gave a hand out to the Commissioners which included a copy of the written opinion of the Indiana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt; a copy of the formal complaint submitted by Julie; a copy of a Facebook snapshot (meeting denial); copy of Case for Transparency in the Policies of LPCO Purdue Cooperative Extension and its appointed committees; 990 Denial; Statement from the Concerned Parent Group to the La Porte 4-H Council and copy of a response from Purdue University's Office of Legal Counsel. Motion made by Commissioner Matias to authorize Attorney Shaw Friedman to send correspondence to Purdue Extension supporting the Indiana Public Access Counselor's opinion for transparency. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

**Phyllis Marks – 118 Sagamore Pkwy La Porte** – Thanked Commissioners, Building Maintenance and Highway Department for a successful Indiana Barn Foundation tour. Approximately 180 people participated on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Department Head Comments:

**Tony Mancuso – Health Department Director** – Reported on a recent test completed by Environmental Safety Technologies on the cooling tower on the roof of the Hiler Building. Culture results came back negative. Recommendations from the CDC and the Indiana State Department of Health are to test every two weeks for the next two to three months. Culture samples will be submitted then once a month for three months. Commissioner Kora thanked Tony and Larry Levendowski with Building Maintenance for continuing the testing. Commissioner Kora requested a phone conference to be set up with Tony, CDC and ISDH about Legionella in our county. A few questions are: number of cases reported for the size of our county; is it seasonal and is there anything else we should be doing that we are not?

**Bob Young – Highway Department Superintendent** – Stated advertising twice this month in the newspapers for annual bids for materials, such as culverts, stone and fuel which is used in his department. Bids will be opened first Commissioners' meeting in November. Bob also reported that Severs Road is completed with paving. Commissioner Kora said an incident involving the Franklin Street Bridge was reported to them. Cameras showed a red truck going under

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the gate arm as it was coming down, over \$4,000 damage was caused but the driver did not stop. Sheriff's department will help with the license plate and owner.

**Requests:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Considered Contract with WeTip Hotline proposed by La Porte County Prosecutor John Lake.** Deputy Prosecutor Mary Lake stated a grant will be used to fund this hotline. Attorney Shaw Friedman said the contract is compliant. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered Ordinance to vacate portion of alleyway in Westville – Sandra Joslyn and Gary Davis.** Karen Lomeo appeared on behalf of Gary Davis' office. Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation. Karen stated Sandra Joslyn owns property on both sides of the alley and the septic system is not in compliant where it currently sits therefore she is requesting the septic to be located on the other side of the alley. She must vacate the portion of the alley in order to move the septic. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve on first reading. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried. Second/Final reading will be at the next meeting held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. No public comments were heard after Commissioner Kora asked if anyone wished to speak on the petition to vacate.

**Commissioner Comments:**

**Commissioner Matias** had a few comments. Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Broadband Task Force meeting will be held at Purdue University Northwest at the Westville campus in room 170. There are 25 volunteers that form this group that meets monthly. Guest speaker will be Tony McAhren. Both Comcast and Automated Data representatives met with members of the Task Force in regards to the "unserved" broadband residents in the county. Commissioner Matias also reported on Sera Solutions who was hired to redo the County's webpage. Anyone with photos of any kind from the county are urged to donate them for the website. [lpcountyphotos@serasolutions.com](mailto:lpcountyphotos@serasolutions.com) is the website to access for sharing the photos.

**Commissioner Kora** spoke on Vibrant Communities, led by Jack Arnett (Convention & Visitor's Bureau) and Maggie Sparks (Unity Foundation), whose goal is to bring communities together. Contracted with Planning Next out of Columbus, Ohio. A task force has been set up and will hold 5 "listening sessions" across the county.

Center of La Crosse – South County	October 21 <sup>st</sup> 6-8pm
Civic Auditorium – City of La Porte	October 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6-8pm
Purdue Northwest – West County	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6-8pm
Blue Chip Casino – Michigan City	October 28 <sup>th</sup> 6-8pm
New Prairie High School – East County	October 29 <sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

Commissioner Matias stated planning for the future is essential for our community to define its character and culture. Commissioner Kora said the last time this was done about 20-25 years ago it helped produce our County Planner's position.

Commissioner Kora reported on a picnic held for the employees working in the Hiler Building was great however Commissioner Matias responded other employees in other buildings wanted to participate as well.

**President Kora adjourn at 10:32 a.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE 10-16-2019

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

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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