



**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, November 6, 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.

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 October 16, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Auditor Joie Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 10/25/2019 - \$1,221,859.85 and Miscellaneous claims of \$1,612,208.91. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Presentation by Linda Woloshansky – Center of Workforce Innovations. Linda stated she covers 7 counties in Indiana: La Porte, Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, Starke and Pulaski. Seven Commissioners sit on the Governing Board with a total of 25 people, majority of them are from the private sector. Currently La Porte County is at 3.6% unemployment. Due to the Michigan City Courthouse being renovated which will include the offices currently on 8th Street, in December the Work One office will be moving to 301 E. 8th Street, IBEW-NECA building in Michigan City.

Public Comment:

Lisa Pierzakowski – Center Township Trustee – Requested permission to use millings from the site on 400 West and Johnson Road for the new Center Township Fire Department asphalt driveway, along the sides. Lisa said the fire department would haul it and do the work themselves. Approximately 6 inches on each side would be the volume or amount requested. Commissioner Matias motioned to allow the Fire Department to get the millings after checking with Highway Superintendent Bob Young. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Department Head Comments:

Tony Rodriguez – Office of Community & Economic Development – Reported on his trip to Washington, DC. Stated “Broadband Connectivity” has been a heavy lift but 7 months later progress has been made. Mapping has been done to reflect areas in the county without broadband service.

Bob Young – Highway Department – Updated the Commissioners on paving, chip seal and ditch cleaning.

Joe Golec – Veterans Service Officer – Marine Corp’s 244th birthday on November 10th and Veterans Day on November 11th. Joe announced 4 upcoming events:

11-8: Veterans Day at South Central School 8:30 am.

11-9: La Porte County Patriotic Service Medal at the County Complex Room #3 at 10:00 am

Marine Corp Birthday dinner at American Legion Post 37 on highway 20 in Michigan City

ORIGINAL

11-11: Veterans Day Ceremony in La Porte at the Civic Auditorium on at 9:30 am. Guest speaker will be Joe Donnelly.
Michigan City High School at 1:30 pm with Jr. ROTC and Guest Speaker Pat Boy.

11-16: First dinner with Gold Star Families 4-7pm at the First Church of Nazarene - 2141 Ash St. La Porte

Requests:

Considered permission to approach Council for new vehicle – Mike Quinn, Weights & Measures. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Considered issuing public notice regarding hearing on disposition of county property - the La Porte County Home and adjacent five acres excluding the County Barn. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered recommendation of Sheriff's Department for food vendor service – John Boyd, Sheriff. Sheriff Boyd stated Tiger Correctional is the vendor they will be using for the Jail, Community Corrections and Juvenile Service Center. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Considered Child Support enforcement contract with Eagle Accounts Group- Prosecutor's Office. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered giving opened material bids to Bob Young, Highway Superintendent for review. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered 2020 Holiday calendar - Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered easement for NIPSCO – Jerry (Jay) Sullivan, County Engineer. Jay stated this is for an easement under the bridge which is the employee parking lot. Input given by County Surveyor Tony Hendricks has directed this back to Jay and Nipsco for further review. Commissioner Matias motioned for this easement contract to be refined then brought back. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Updated on Cougar Road by Engineer Jay Sullivan and INDOT representative Mike Yacullo. INDOT had a few requests from the County. Modifications are being done at highway 20 and Cougar Road. One request is from Cougar Road to State Road 2 going south a one-way street then going north with a right/left turn only lane. Jay requested permission from the Commissioners to approach the Council for funding to complete this task. Amount requested is not known yet. Jay will come back to the next Commissioners' meeting with the figures. Easements will need to be purchased with about 350-400 feet of roadway will be needed for the right turning lane. Mike corrected the direction with a one-way going northbound from state road 2 going towards the school. Safety has been the greatest concern in this area for years. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve permission to approach the Council but only after Jay comes back to the Commissioners with a dollar amount. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered Resolution authorizing eminent domain proceedings to acquire easement in KIP to permit right of way to connect KIP rail with CN mainline. County Attorney Shaw Friedman stated this is only the first step in acquiring easement rights of a particular property that is needed for connection to the CN rail connection which is on the north side of the Kingsbury Industrial Park. The Redevelopment Commission cannot exercise the power of eminent domain however the Board of Commissioners can do so on behalf of the RDC. Under this process Commissioners must first conduct an appraisal to establish a proposed purchase price. A title search to determine all parties who possess an interest in this particular property. Identify the names of owners. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. *****Resolution 2019-16**

Considered Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant agreement – Mitch Bishop, County Planner Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered Memorandum of Understanding with M. A. Dilts & Associates – John Boyd, Sheriff. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

Provided Notice to Proceed with Construction of Michigan City Courthouse Renovations - Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments:

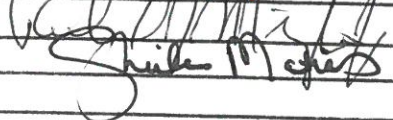
Commissioner Sheila Matias reported on the final phase for the new county website. Launch date is November 25, 2019. Vibrant Communities added two additional meetings. Blue Chip on 11-18 and at the Civic Auditorium in La Porte on 12-4. Broadband Task Force had GIS department map out all areas in the county with no broadband connection.

Commissioner Rich Mrozinski reminded everyone to thank a Veteran for their service.

Commissioner Kora thanked Linda for her update. Stated Vibrant Communities had 300-400 participants. Commissioner Kora thanked Clerk Kathy Chroback for running a smooth election.

President Kora adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 11-20-2019



ATTEST: _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL