

LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350-3490

MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL/COMMISSIONERS
JULY 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

The Special Joint Meeting of the La Porte County Council and La Porte County Commissioners was called to order by President Yagelski, who began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Auditor Winski proceeded with the Roll Call. Council Members present included: Councilwoman Lois Sosinski, Councilmen Rich Mrozinski, Matt Bernacchi, Mark Yagelski, Earl Cunningham, Terry Garner, and Jeff Santana. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Willie Milsap, Dave Decker and Vidya Kora. A quorum was present for the Joint Meeting to proceed.

Commissioner Milsap stated that there was an emergency situation that required funding. The intersection of Johnson and Pahs Road washed out during the big thunderstorms and rain last week.

Commissioner Decker stated that water came up over the guardrail and washed out 1/3 of one lane. Underneath the entire lane, there was damage due to the wetness. There was a NIPSCO pole that was held up and changed on Saturday the 29th so everything is out of the way. There are two pipes almost all of the way in and the other two pipes were going to be started on the 2nd.

Highway Engineer Mike Yacullo stated that work has been done with Reith-Reilly and D&M Excavating. The proposal from Hendricks Engineering stated that it was not to exceed \$10,800.00. This includes design efforts as well as the field surveying to set the grades on the site. Reith-Reilly's cost is not to exceed \$370,000.00 for all of the pipe work, excavating, backfill, and establishing the new raised level of the road. It will be raised 2 feet in the intersection.

Councilman Mrozinski asked if there was any grant money left and if it would be available for this project.

Mr. Yacullo responded it was available, but could not be used for the emergency repair. They have been speaking with NIRPC about this. Before this happened, the plan was to fix the pipes, to widen Pahs road to allow for a left turn lane and a right turn lane, and to widen Johnson Road to allow for a passing lane. The project costs a little over \$1,000,000, with the County's 20% match being a little over \$200,000. The benefit of funding this emergency repair is that the scope and cost of the project, which will be around 2 years from now, would be greatly reduced.

Commissioner Decker stated that the turning lane and passing lane would not be done now because it entails too much time and money. That is what the federal funds are needed for because there will still

be land acquisition and tree removal. The two hills will not be shaved yet either. The road will just be raised.

Councilman Mrozinski clarified that they would fix what needs to be fixed now and that the federal funding would just improve it at a later date.

Councilman Yagelski pointed out that under existing emergency rules, they can only utilize the existing foundations and cannot expand it.

Councilman Garner asked if there was a design bill previous to that.

Councilman Yagelski said that there was one, but it was around nine years ago. That money was lost because the project took too long.

Mr. Yacullo stated that DLZ was hired to do an environmental document through County funds. They are about 90% percent complete on that. The federal money available for this location is strictly construction dollars. He said that the design would have to be done by them on their own. He said that the design could be completed about the same time as the land acquisition.

Councilman Mrozinski asked Attorney Biege if the Cumulative Bridge Fund could be used for this.

Attorney Biege stated that it could.

Councilman Mrozinski asked Auditor Winski for the current balance on that account.

Auditor Winski stated that the balance is \$1,674,873.60

Councilman Mrozinski clarified that this would not exceed \$370,000.

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion that they allocate an amount not to exceed \$370,000 from Cumulative Bridge to repair the road. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski.

Attorney Friedman asked that the Council also consider an appropriation for the Hendricks account as well.

Councilman Yagelski asked if the equipment currently being used out there is something that they are being charged for.

It was answered that the equipment is charged by the hour of usage.

Councilman Santana asked if raising the road was acceptable under the emergency rules.

Councilman Yagelski responded that in a meeting over the phone, it was decided that the pipes need to be changed to handle the water so it is covered under emergency.

The Motion carried 7-0.

Approval is recommended for the Hendricks amount as well.

Councilman Mrozinski asked if there is a conflict of interest because the Surveyor is a County employee.

Surveyor Tony Hendricks stated that he is just a representative of his father's company and does have a Conflict of Interest Form on file with the County.

There was no bidding because it was an emergency. The emergency statute allows the council to skip the public bid step.

Councilman Cunningham clarified that the amount proposal was signed by the brother and not the Surveyor.

Councilwoman Sosinski made a Motion to approve \$10,800 out of Cumulative Bridge Fund. The Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Mrozinski voting nay.

Councilman Yagelski wanted to thank everyone who took such quick action to fix the road and calling the emergency meeting.

Commissioner Milsap thanked Reith-Reilly for responding so quickly and doing such a good job.

Commissioner Kora wanted to thank the Council Members for their quick response to resolve this.

Commissioner Decker thanked everyone as well and Reith-Reilly for getting the piping so quickly. If nothing else happens, it may be done by the weekend.

Councilman Cunningham asked Bob Young about the signage blocking off the road.

Mr. Young answered that the sign on Route 20 has been moved past the last business.

Councilman Mrozinski talked about the emergency in Union Mills and the County's need to look at what is going on out there. The people are upset and don't know who to turn to.

Councilman Santana made a Motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL, dated this 22 day of July, 2013.



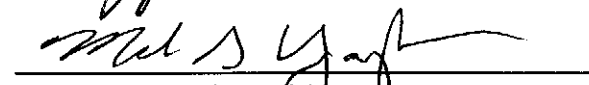
Councilman Matt Bernaschi



Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman Mark Yagelski



Councilman Earl Cunningham



Councilman Rich Mrozinski

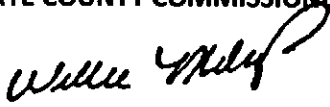


Councilwoman Lois Sosinski

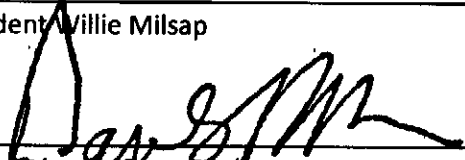
ATTEST: 

Joie Winski, Auditor La Porte County

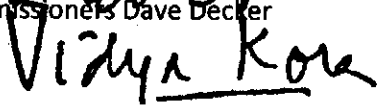
LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



President Willie Milsap



Commissioner's Dave Decker



Commissioner Vidya Kora



LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350-3490

June 26, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

On June 25, 2013 and June 26, 2013 La Porte County experienced severe weather, including heavy storms that caused flooding and damage to various highways, streets, and roads in La Porte County.

The storms and flooding have caused an imminent threat of severe damage and injury to property and persons and the County Commissioners and County Council have issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency. (See Attachment "A.")

There is no prohibition on travel at this time, however those driving within La Porte County are advised to be cautious and aware of their surroundings.

LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, LaPorte County has experienced severe weather, including heavy storms that have caused flooding and damage to various highways, streets, and roads within LaPorte County; and

WHEREAS, these storms and flooding have caused an imminent threat of severe damage and injury to property and persons; and

WHEREAS, this imminent threat constitutes a disaster pursuant to Ind. Code §10-14-3-1,

IT IS NOW DECLARED that LaPorte County is currently under a Local Disaster Emergency. This Local Disaster Emergency shall continue in effect for seven (7) days unless further extended by the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners. There is no prohibition on travel at this time, but those driving within LaPorte County are advised to be cautious.

LaPorte County personnel are authorized to hire any contractors necessary and conduct any road repairs necessary to ensure the safety of the citizens of LaPorte County. until further notice.

Signed by following on this 26th day of June, 2013.



Willie Milsap, President
LaPorte County Board of Commissioners



Mark Yagelski, President
LaPorte County Council

Agreement by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Decker", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Decker, Vice-President
LaPorte County Board of Commissioners