

Resolution No. 2020 - 11

**LaPorte County Commission resolution critical of latest Coronavirus deal which eliminated "Covid-19 3.5 package" that would have provided immediate, direct cash relief to Indiana counties**

**WHEREAS**, counties like LaPorte County are losing significant tax revenues, whether it be through delayed or reduced property tax revenues, much reduced local income taxes due to layoffs and furloughs and dramatically reduced gaming revenues at a time when there is an extraordinary demand for emergency public health and safety expenditures during the Covid-19 crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Counties has estimated county budget losses around the country at \$144 billion through fiscal year 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Covid-19 3.5 Plan offered by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer was the only plan on the table during negotiations this past weekend that provided support for local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the bi-partisan National Association of Counties (NACO) and the bi-partisan Indiana Association of Counties both came out this past weekend in full support of the Schumer/Pelosi Covid-19 3.5 Plan which would have provided an immediate, direct allocation to counties across the U.S. of \$29.5 billion and which would have meant over \$596 million of that amount coming to Indiana counties, of which \$9,743,450.00 was earmarked for LaPorte County,

**WHEREAS**, the LaPorte County Council and other governmental bodies across the country adopted resolutions in support of the "Covid-19 3.5 Plan" on Monday evening only to see Republican Senate negotiators insist Tuesday morning on removing relief for local government in the final Senate bill and unfortunately Democratic negotiators relented as well. As a result, the final \$484 billion Senate package approved Tuesday afternoon, while providing \$310 billion for the paycheck protection program, \$60 billion for a separate small business emergency grant and loan program, \$75 billion for hospitals and \$25 billion for testing provided not one dime for cash-starved county governments that are on the front lines of the fight against this virus, and

**WHEREAS**, none of the prior Covid-19 related packages guarantees relief for governmental entities of under 500,000 population and while negotiators vaguely pledged a fifth aid package would be forthcoming that would assist hard-pressed local government entities, once again county governments across America are being asked to take on the bulk of the emergency response to the Covid-19 crisis, and yet still wait for badly needed assistance from the federal government.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSION THAT:**

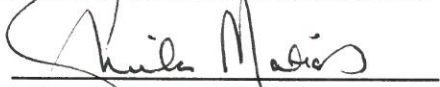
1. We express our disappointment at the elimination of the local government aid package known as "the Covid-19 3.5 Plan" which would have provided an immediate, direct cash infusion of \$9,743,450.00 to LaPorte County. We strongly urge Indiana's congressional delegation to take this issue up with their respective leaderships in both parties and both chambers of Congress so that this Plan is included in the next supplemental package.

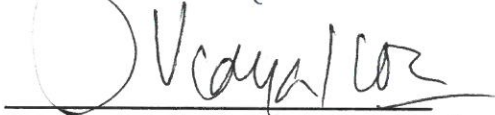
2. Such a Plan recognizes that county departments and our employees are on the front line of the battle against Covid-19 including our county health department, EMS, E-911, EMA, Sheriff's Department and Coroner – all of whom are expending considerable time, effort and taxpayer resources to protect public health and safety.

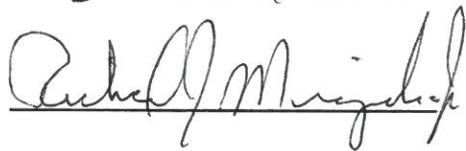
3. We support the Indiana Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties in their ongoing efforts to ensure that any approved Covid-19 relief packages contain the \$29.5 billion originally slated for America's county governments and we strongly will urge the Indiana delegation in Congress – both House members and our two U.S. Senators by providing them with copies of this resolution - to pledge to oppose any future supplemental packages that do not contain the Covid-19 3.5 Plan for county governments.

All of which is resolved this 22nd day of April, 2020.

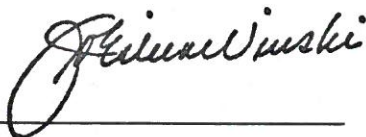
**LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSION**

  
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Attest:

  
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Auditor