



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**Sheila Matias
President**

**Dr. Vidya Kora
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski
Member**

**LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19, 2020 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 6:00 p.m.
via ALCO and Zoom**

President Sheila Matias called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Considered the agenda. Commissioner Kora motioned to add 1 item under New Business '11 g'- Consider permission for Highway Department to clean up fallen tree at county owned cemetery. **Commissioner Kora motioned to accept the added request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora motioned to adopt the amended agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered approval of August 5, 2020 minutes. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales read the claims with Payroll ending 8/14/2020 - \$1,200,614.15 and Miscellaneous claims in the amount of \$986,116.44. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Randall Veatch – 4177 W. Schultz Road La Porte - stated, "I noticed on the agenda under new business it is going to cover MS4 review up to and including public comment. My first dealings with MS4 started during the 2012 zoning cycle. In our meetings in early summer of 2015, beginning of our association, he was very friendly. Once I investigated the 2012 ordinance and started questioning procedures and line items and the code, I found that MS4 office became very defensive. At the time I was just an average citizen looking for help from my elected and appointed officials. I continued looking to MS4 for help through emails and correspondence for a while then I quit asking for any information from them - nothing was ever answered. Spring forward, just under 5 years, again I'm asking MS4 for information and I am told I needed to ask with a 'FOIA' (Freedom of Information Act) request. I fill out the proper forms, I send them in. With this style of request time constraints are within the FOIA. These were not met. After I received the requested information I noticed I was missing many items that are covered in the newer 2016 zoning ordinance article 20. Article 20 covers storm water management. Is this because I asked the wrong question? Used the wrong word? Where does the average citizen turn? The public needs opportunities to know what and when to expect from all branches of our local government. My experience is that the citizens are expected to hunt them down. Thank you very much for your time."

Joe Haney – 2695 W. Joliet Road La Porte – said, "Couple items on the agenda here, I'll try and look through these quickly. I'm glad to see item 'c' on the agenda – support the victims of senior fraud. Prosecutor Lake did a good job of laying that out so I won't beleaguer it but it's great to see that again. I'll also...the south county

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coalition meeting I was at the other night, there were a couple of groups down there discussing voting locations for the south county area. They laid out some really great information and data and hopefully that will be something you will consider supporting moving forward here. The last – well, there’s a couple of items but I’m just going to stick to one last item here, and that’s item ‘f’ in regards to a ah...streaming internet tax here in La Porte County. I oppose this - supporting this for several reasons, the first of which is that it’s a frivolous lawsuit, it’s ignorant of the intent of the law and ignorant of the technology itself. The largest service Netflix, for example has been operating in the state of Indiana since 2007. Does anyone here actually believe that now being here in August of 2020, just now, someone realized that you know, for 13 years they’ve been skirting the law as it stands? I don’t think it is but in the interim of the past two days when I’ve seen this agenda come out, I’ve spoken with some state lawmakers including one sitting on the appropriate committee and if the legislature wanted to address this they would and of course the Indiana state legislature who has the authority over this is not invested in this in any way, shape or form as of this morning. Now those wanting to treat internet companies, streaming like cable companies simply just don’t understand the law or the technology. It reminds me of the commercial where we see the elderly lady in her living room putting up pictures, taping them to her wall and saying that she’s ‘posting things to her wall.’ It’s not how this works. It’s a kin to Comca- to let’s say DirectTV launching satellites into orbit then asking Comcast to pay a fee for them launching satellites into orbit. It simply doesn’t make sense. So they aren’t laying laws - wires here in Indiana and they are not interfering with public right-of-ways. They are operating over broadband which is clearly not a cable system as is referenced by both appropriate federal agencies who oversee this for other laws that have already been struck down in the past. In addition to that all of the appropriate fees and taxes for broadband and internet services are already being paid and those fees and taxes are being borne by the taxpayers here in La Porte County and of course obviously the rest of the state. You know what - another way to look at it would be where are we going to stop, you know Hulu and Disney+ and... Netflix let’s say, are we going to start charging franchise fees for YouTube, for Facebook, Instagram? They all provide internet service - video services. The list is endless and in the unlikely event this suit were to actually succeed, a simple letter of demand to the companies to pay any alleged fees that were left would take up maybe an hours work of billing time from an attorney as opposed to joining onto a suit that’s just specifically designed to fatten the wallets of some ambulance chasers out of Indianapolis and Chicago. It financially makes no sense for the county to join this even though as – what I’m reading here on the agenda it would be contingent upon fees based and recovered, why would we join it? Is it possibly going to hit a class action lawsuit we can obviously opt out? *If* it is found out in fact that they are violating the law and they haven’t paid, which I don’t believe they have, but if they did, we can simply send a demand letter after the first case and they are not going to want to go to court and face another suit in which they’re guaranteed to lose based on precedent. So even if it is found that way, it’s financially not viable for the county to waste money that they would have collected in back pay when they could just send a simple letter of demand with an hour’s worth of attorney billing time. In the end, you know the final reason why I oppose it is it raises taxes on the residents of La Porte County. Every fee that you see, and you can look at it whether you open your phone bill, your cable bill, your – and god forbid you ever look at all the fees that are associated with your mobile phone bill, you know with your cell phone, all those fees, all those surcharges, all those taxes are passed directly on to the consumers. So when somebody’s sitting at home saying ‘well who cares if a conglomerate like Disney+ has to pay 5%?’ Disney is not going to pay it. They are going to turn around and tack this on to your bill and every single streaming service you subscribe to then from there moving forward you’re going to be paying a 5% tax on. I think this is yet another *back door* way to increase taxes on people. This is - streaming services is no longer a guilty pleasure, you know it’s one of the few things where we can sit at home and enjoy ourselves with our family and in a – basically a risk free environment, right? We’re not going out to movie theaters, we’re not doing other things. This isn’t – you know you can even be in a position some sort of sin tax at this point given the nature of what’s going on in the country right now. It was barely a month ago when I was up here speaking before the commission and I spoke out against – the commission wanting to come in to our homes and mess with us, you know...a month ago the commission decided they have the authority to come into our house, into our living rooms and tell us what we can and cannot wear. And now here we are again a month later with – whoever added this onto the agenda and I do not know at this point but...you know coming back into our homes and literally into our living rooms where we are watching TV,

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trying to steal money out of our pocketbooks and wallets. It's not fair, it's not right. Just stay – get out of our wallets, get out of our homes, leave us alone, please.”

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Barb Mossman – Human Resources – via Zoom. Reported on the method for allowing employees returning to work after testing positive for Covid-19. *Test Based method* currently being used but *Symptom Based method* will be used after recent recommendations from the CDC were reviewed. The Symptom Based method will be 10 days after a positive Covid-19 test and 24 hours free of a fever without any fever reducing medication. Requested support for the Symptom Based method so an email can be sent out to employees notifying them that the method will change for returning to work after testing positive for Covid-19. Commissioner Kora stated this is an evolving situation, something new is learned every week with this virus. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. Barb Mossman** also addressed the ‘after vacation’ return to work policy in regards to the virus. Highly encouraged to follow proper protocol according to the CDC - the four pillars – and then upon returning to work to ask themselves screening questions such as have they been around anyone that tested positive? Any symptoms? Please stay home and notify supervisor immediately. Commissioner Kora said we should not interfere with employees going on vacation as long as they follow the CDC guidelines. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Darlene Hale – IT Director – Informed the Commission that Barb Mossman, Larry Levendowski and herself all met Commissioner Kora at Franciscan Alliance to view temperatures taken using a device that you stand in front of for an accurate reading. Commissioner Kora said having personnel sitting at the entrances of the county buildings to get temperatures of the public as they enter the buildings comes with a cost that is higher than using the device.

Requests

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriation for maintenance contracts outside operating budget – Eric Fenstermaker. **Eric** stated there are two contracts 1) Image Trend (report writing software) \$11,006.18 and 2) Stryker (cardiac monitor service) \$22,950.00 requiring additional appropriation. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered resolution commemorating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment and honoring women’s equality day – League of Women Voters. Sarah Haefner and Barbara Collins attended the meeting. President Sheila Matias read into the record the resolution. Barbara Collins thanked the Commissioners on behalf of the League. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. ***Resolution 2020-19**

Considered joining as signatories on Prosecutor’s letter to congressional leadership in support of ‘Edith’s Law’ - designed to enhance protection for victims of senior fraud by the Crime Victims Fund as part of Covid-19 relief legislation - Prosecutor John Lake. John summarized the bill comes from a woman who lost her life savings to a financial planner in Wisconsin. Although money lost may not ever be recovered this enhanced protection will amend the Crime Victims Act of 1984 or VOCA (Victims of Crime Act of 1984) by allowing crime compensation to go to the victims. **Commissioner Kora motioned to accept. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered out-of-state homicide investigation training in November – Prosecutor John Lake. A two week in-depth homicide training hosted by the Southern Police Institute in Tennessee. Prosecutor Lake will be attending one at a later date in February 2021 in Miami, Florida. **Commissioner Kora motioned to accept. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

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Old Business

Considered 1st/2nd reading ordinance for favorable recommendation for vacated portion of Beach Drive - Attorney Andrew Voeltz and Attorney Anthony Novak (via Zoom). **Attorney Andrew Voeltz** addressed the commission stating, "This is the first reading of the proposed ordinance that has been provided to you, I believe you have it, this is in regards to the petitioners Donald H. Boody and Catherine S. Boody which filed a petition to vacate the undeveloped but plotted roadway adjacent to and in between the property located at 115 Maple Drive, La Porte, Indiana, 46350. This has been on the Plan Commissions agenda since the beginning of this year prior to Covid. January to June and now here we are in August. I believe Mr. Novak is on Zoom at this point, representing parties that are interested in this, they had originally appeared as remonstrators but we have worked out a proposal that and Anthony, if you will weigh in here on this, that would remove that remonstrance and allow this to move forward then." Via Zoom, **Attorney Anthony Novak** said, "As Mr. Voeltz indicated this started back in January and I believe it was at that January hearing I attended I remonstrated on behalf of 4 adjacent neighbors. Ultimately though we've had conversations with Mr. Voeltz who worked out various proposals which have taken time at various times but at this point in time we are on the same page where we are willing to remove our remonstrance so that he can move forward with his petition." **Attorney Voeltz** then said, "So we would ask for first reading of the ordinance 2020 - whatever number is assigned to it - be heard tonight, thank you." President Matias asked if **Attorney Schoetzow** would like to speak. **Attorney Schoetzow** said, "Good Evening, I represent Ms. Stine who is here on Zoom. If you recall the last meeting we had asked you to do the first reading tonight and second reading in September which I think is not correct on your minutes or excuse me your agenda. Based on the fact that she was having a surgery last week, she is at home icing her knee but couldn't be here today unfortunately. I have prepared a handout that I would like to be able to present to you if I may approach and give you a copy of some things we have prepared in regards to where this is headed so that you can have a real idea of what Ms. Stine's objection and her remonstrance is to this, um because it's not, we think, clear on what's really happening." **Attorney Andrew Voeltz**, "Point of order, please. This had an opportunity to be heard in front of the Plan Commission on two occasions, back in January number 1 but then also in June. And as a remonstrator Ms. Stine had the opportunity to appear at both hearings and she failed to do so. We received a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission in the June hearing to come before you today and it was unanimous. Any opportunity to present any of this evidence should have been presented to the Plan Commission. This is not the proper body to be presenting trial briefs to at this point. This ship has sailed, the remonstrance ship has sailed and I would object to this being introduced into the evidence." **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski**, "Madame President, I sit on the Plan Commission. I witnessed the meetings and as Mr. Voeltz and Mr. Novak stated at the first meeting there was a lot of commotion because there was a lot of remonstrators and we said we are not going to hear it, you have to go back home and figure this out. When they came to the next meeting, both attorneys had agreed on how it was going to be, the remonstrators had a spokesman that said 'we are good with everything' and so the Plan Commission did give a favorable recommendation which that is their job, that's what they do, that's why all of this (referring to the handouts) takes place at the Plan Commission and not with us. They give us their recommendation and we act on it, yay or nay, and after the fact, as Mr. Voeltz presented, then somebody came back up who didn't show up at the two meetings and now they want to protest it, it's not proper. Why have a Plan Commission if they don't do all the work and make the recommendation to us. On that basis I would **make a motion to accept** the recommendation of the Plan Commission on first reading." **Attorney Lisa Schoetzow**, "If I may just interject - I don't know if I'm allowed to interject at this point but we are not hearing the same petition that was in front of the Plan Commission. What we're hearing now is 'we're going to do *an easement* instead of a *deed held in an LLC*' so if you will I will briefly discuss with you what the Boody petition has started and where we are today and I'll make it real fast...is that we started in January 28th, 2020 with a petition to vacate Beach Drive, the full 7, orally amended - top 7 - so only that top strip of Beach Drive was going to be vacated. My client was okay with it at that point, she speaks with Ashley - okay. Next thing we know there's another meeting, the remonstrators have met with their respective council, now we've changed it, it's no longer just the portion of Beach Drive at the top - the lake side - now we're doing the whole strip of Beach Drive again so that has again changed. Okay, so we get a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commissioner based on that - well, I find out *today*, because we've raised the issue that you cannot have a ten foot lot in Bea-, on Beach Dr- you just can't have that ten foot lot there, it doesn't abide by your own zoning

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ordinance, your own subdivision ordinance. You just can't have 10 feet of a deed...deeded property on a lake, it doesn't fit. We find out today 'oh, you're right, we're now going to do an easement' so everything is changing, if anything it should go back to the Plan Commission and let's hear what *really* is going on. And I will happily present my evidence and it's – we do have a lot because I think that we need to look at what is really happening versus what was originally started with and has changed numerous times along the way, including today at 11:15 when I get an email that we are no longer doing a deed to an LLC, now we are doing an easement to *who knows what* – I still don't know what the easement will look like...we have corresponded with counsel for the Boody's and said, "Where is the easement going to be?" and we asked for something – I was told that's not going to happen but Mr. Boody is going to gain a large, large, large tract of land and wants to put the burden on Ms. Stine and her property...and if you were able to look at this you would see how close it is to her property. So yes, she appeared at one of the Plan Commission meetings based on what was happening then, we didn't appear at the next one because we didn't know there was another side agreement – there are a lot of side agreements happening so we would like the chance to be heard on the *actual* petition, not on 'this' petition, 'that' petition, I'll tell ya, today I spent all day preparing for this to find out it's changed – pulled my whole packet apart from last time and redid it. We spent a lot of time and money to be here, we want to be heard on the actual petition. Thank you." "I'd like to respond," Attorney Voeltz said. "Just one minute Mr. Voeltz." said **President Matias**. Then asked Attorney Friedman for his input. **Attorney Friedman** said, "You certainly do have a couple of options, you can either accept on first reading, this is proposed but it sounds like there have been some significant changes here or you do have the option of remanding it back to the Plan Commission for further proceedings so if in fact there has been a change, a substantial change in the petition, if there have in fact been last minute changes at this point then it may be prudent to consider referring it back to the Plan Commission for some sort of final disposition of recommendation to you on the changed agreement. I mean, this appears to be the result of negotiations and an agreement and that's great but let's get the Plan Commission to opine on it perhaps at this point so you can make a final decision. Again, that's two options." **Attorney Andrew Voeltz**, "I'd like to respond to both of those things, first of all let's keep in mind what the jurisdiction is, the Plan Commission has no jurisdiction over an easement, an easement is an agreement between property owners so the fact that she is bringing up an easement as the lynch pin here that has her client all flurried is irrelevant because anyone can execute an easement *in favor of or for favor of* an adjacent land owner or what have you to ingress and egress over your property. That's not something that goes before the Plan Commission. That's not the way that this works. Nor is it something that comes before *this* board." **Attorney Friedman**, "But these are all interwoven." "I understand that", replied **Attorney Voeltz**. **Attorney Friedman** said, "I'll tell you what I'm not going to do Andrew, is walk the Commission into a suit between these competing land owners if there's a way to work this out at the Plan Commission, okay? **Attorney Voeltz**, "Mr. Friedman..." **Attorney Friedman**, "Because what you've got now is counsel inserting that there were last minute changes made and we cannot have the Commission proceed on that basis." "If I may refute that, said **Attorney Voeltz**, there have been **no** changes made to the petition, the petition has remained the same the entire time and for her to allege that it *has* changed is inaccurate. There may be a deal between adjacent land owners with regards to an easement or what have you but that has nothing to do with the original petition. And again, I echo what Commissioner Mrozinski says here that the opportunity, the window for this remonstrance has passed and I understand that one of the options is to remand this but now we are going on eight months here that we have been dealing with this and I have frustrated clients. And I know that Mr. Novak has frustrated clients." **Commissioner Kora**, "Here's my question, when does Planning Commission meet again?" **Attorney Voeltz**, "This month. It would be the 4th Tuesday of the month but we are well passed opportunity to be on the agenda." "Yes, **Commissioner Mrozinski** stated, "it would be in September now." During discussion it is said that the notice must be published. **President Matias** said, "I'm not comfortable continuing this until we have made sure that Ms. Stine has had her issues addressed and your comment about no remonstrations at this stage of the process, I disagree with that, there's always a place for public comment and public remonstrations. That's why we have public meetings so – **Attorney Voeltz**, "May I go on record..." "Excuse me Mr. Voeltz, you keep interrupting me, please don't do that – there is a time for us to address the concerns if there is a remaining concern that was not addressed by the Plan Commission and you're (directed to Attorney Schoetzow) saying there were changes that were made today - since the original agreements were cast then I believe we should send it back to the Plan Commission. Dr. Kora?" **Commissioner Kora** motioned to get the ordinance back to

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the Plan Commission, expedite it if possible and get it on the next agenda if possible.” **Commissioner Mrozinski** stated the ordinance had not changed and he motioned to accept it on the first reading. No second was heard on his motion. **Sharon Stine**, via Zoom, asked if she there was public comment. **President Matias** said yes. **Sharon Stine** said, “Yes, my name is Sharon Stine. I am the adjacent home owner. I reside at 22686 Remington Court in Elkhart. The home that we own in La Porte is 127 Maple Drive – I’m sorry, I’m in a bit of pain right now but I’ll get through it, it’s all good. Ice is good. I’ve called prior to the June 23rd meeting and talked to Ashley in the Planning Board and she had expressed...” **Attorney Shaw Friedman** asked Attorney Schoetzow if this was her client. “She is out of order,” **Attorney Friedman** said. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, “She is represented by Counsel.” **President Matias**, “So we should not allow this?” “She is represented by Counsel here, I thought she was another member of the public,” stated **Attorney Friedman**. **President Matias**, “Ms. Stine, our attorney is saying your attorney is here to speak for you so we are going to cut your comment and we’ve got a motion on the floor that we want to act on up or down. We have a motion, do we have a second? So without a second the motion dies for a lack of second.” **Commissioner Kora** motioned to send it back to the Plan Commission for a possible expedite. **Attorney Friedman** suggested adding mediation if possible. **Commissioner Kora** stated when he saw the attorneys here he thought this was going to get done and there would be celebration afterwards, he did not realize this had still been going back and forth so he **motioned** to send it back to the Plan Commission, expedite action on it as quickly as possible and preferably get it mediated then brought back to the Commissioners. **Commissioner Mrozinski** said this had been in front of the Plan Commission 3 times already, he doesn’t see them changing their minds after it had been passed unanimously with all remonstrators agreeing. **President Matias** stepped down then seconded it. **Vote taken with 2 ayes (Matias & Kora) and 1 nay (Mrozinski) so motioned carried to send back to the Plan Commission.**

New Business

Considered 1st/2nd ordinance reading for favorable recommendation for vacated portion of Lakeside Drive in Walkerton. Representing Michael P. Kelly and Elsa G. Marrufo De Las Fuentes as petitioners, Attorney Andrew Voeltz stated, “With regards to their property at 130 Lakeside Drive in Walkerton, Indiana, 46574. Plan Commission voted 8-1 in favor of vacating the plotted but undeveloped public way or unimproved public way in between their property. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve on 1st reading. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve on 2nd reading. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. ***Ordinance 2020-4**

Considered potential conveyance of property on which Solid Waste District is situated to the District - Director Clay Turner and Solid Waste District Attorney Doug Biege. Attorney Doug Biege stated Solid Waste is located on approximately 20 acres. Request is for the County to deed the property to Solid Waste. On the map were two circled areas, one being a cell tower with the income from that going to FMEC currently and the ‘trees’ area being used by the highway department. Doug said they would like to get a survey done without the cell tower and trees area. Attorney Friedman suggested using Alex Bruggenschmidt to review for any property transfers. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered ratifying Baker Tilly role on continuing reporting responsibilities arising from August 13, 2020 bond sale in connection with Michigan City Courthouse construction. Commissioner Kora requested Auditor Joie Winski to report the interest rate for the project. Auditor Winski stated 1.52% interest which is almost unheard of so it is a fantastic rate. Attorney Friedman stated for the record the county received an A+ rating from Standard & Poor’s which is posted on the county website. Council/Auditor with fiscal prudence and Commission with solid management which assisted in getting the interest rate at 1.52%. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered proposed lease of former Brown Mackie offices on U.S. 20/Woodland Avenue as temporary offices/courts for Michigan City Courthouse during construction. **Attorney Friedman** stated this would be for approximately 18 months during construction. **Director of Facilities Larry Levendowski** said it has been a

group effort to get everything ready for the move to this building for all departments. Tonn and Blank has made two key points: one being construction will bring approximately 80-100 more bodies within the courthouse for construction therefore this will reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission among workers, employees and the general public and then two is a reduced functioning HVAC system will be running during construction. By having the employees out of the courthouse, into Brown Mackie building and having it closed during construction shortens the time frame 6-8 months. **Attorney Friedman** reported for the record that the square footage price was negotiated from \$750,000 to \$675,000 in year one and \$625,000 in year two. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered MS4 Board to provide a full review/summary of its current stormwater permit process including any opportunity for public comment/public notice and required consultation with other agencies such as Soil & Water District. **Attorney Friedman** said the Commission raised concern for review of the permitting process in regards to Ordinance 2007-07 specifically required before a storm water permit is issued that there be a concurrence/conference with Soil & Water District and the Joint Zoning ordinance, specifically section 20 which talks about consultation with other agencies as well. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered engaging Cohen & Malad, Indianapolis and County Attorney's office as counsel on contingency fee basis in suit designed to recover franchise fees owed to county government from Netflix, Hulu and other streaming services. **Attorney Shaw Friedman** stated, "The cities of Fishers, Evansville, Indianapolis and Valparaiso filed suit in Marion County Superior Court on this issue. Potentially having La Porte County join as a party in that particular proceeding. These are not small amounts we're talking about that would be owed to tax payers from these lucrative streaming services. As an example Comcast paid the county \$440,000 in 2019 and \$441,000 in 2018. ALCO (Access La Porte County) is paid \$98,000 from that amount every year and the remainder of those fees go into the general fund." **Commissioner Kora motioned to table the request in order for him to review the information. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried to table this item.**

Considered authorizing permission for Highway Department to clean up fallen tree in county owned Miriam Benedict cemetery after land consent from property owner next door. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Comments

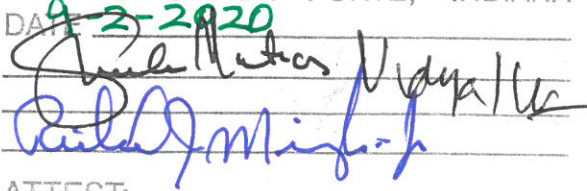
Commissioner Rich Mrozinski said his sister is visiting from Georgia.

Commissioner Vidya Kora congratulated the Economic Development team for landing Corsicana and bringing the business to our county. Second comment is on the Resolution for 100 years of Women Voting – many have asked how to vote absentee. If a voter is over the age of 65 they may request a ballot by mail. IT Director Darlene Hale demonstrated the link on our website for requesting an application to vote by mail, address to mail it to and deadline to get it to the Clerk's office. Third comment is on the Covid page on our website with daily updates on numbers.

Commissioner Sheila Matias stated the Economic Development is tough at times – you must keep politics out of it and remain extremely confidential. Businesses look for the best place to operate with a good work force and community support. A grand slam for La Porte County which will bring 350 jobs for residents.

President Sheila Matias adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE: 9-2-2020

ATTEST: _____