



**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, December 16, 2020 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 6:00 p.m.
via Zoom Only

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 Matias - Present; Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to add 'Consider designating Joie Winski as the representative of the county regarding CARES Act funds.' **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.** **Commissioner Kora** then motioned to accept the amended agenda. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.** **President Matias** stated this will go under **New Business** as the last item.

Considered approval of December 2, 2020 minutes. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales read the Claims with Payroll ending 12/4/2020 - \$1,173,973.28 and Miscellaneous claims - \$1,554,824.88. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Prior to Public Comment **President Sheila Matias** reminded everyone about civility, no discussion about personnel matters or attacks on employees will be allowed.

Public Comment

Mike Mollenhauer – Councilman – Stated his appreciation for Dr. Kora's leadership over the years. He recognized Auditor Joie Winski for the tremendous job over the past 8 years then commented on two agenda items: D – credit card ordinance and F – improvements to treasurer's office – against both items.

Joe Haney – Commissioner elect – Thanked Commissioner Kora for his service and wished him the best of luck. He spoke on the rollover of vacation days for employees due to the pandemic.

Rodney McCormick – 617 Union Street Michigan City – Commented on items C and D under New Business.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Larry Butcher – EMA Director – PPE supply is good right now. The building storing the PPE may need to be looked at due to no moisture control. Another building option may need to be considered. **Larry Levendowski** stated the hand sanitizer has been moved to a temperature controlled building but only temporary until another location is found.

ORIGINAL

Peggy Rose – Health Department – On behalf of Tony Mancuso Peggy addressed Covid; testing compliance, the vaccination clinic, weekly metrics and public information. On the weekly metrics which was updated today shows the county has 119 deaths to date; 11,058 positive cases and 58,586 have been tested. County is still in the Orange metric at 2.5 however the positivity rate has decreased a bit around 11%. Hospitalization has decreased slightly. Testing is still being done at the Optum location in La Porte at the Civic Auditorium through January 2021. Michigan City location at the Michigan Township Trustees office on Michigan Blvd has been testing about 100 people a day. State changed the courier service that was being used for the samples and no problems with that at all. Compliance with the ‘Mask Mandate’ and the ‘closing at midnight’ rule has prompted many calls to the Health Department. Verbal warning is given to the business first followed by a written warning. To date 7 written notices have been or will be issued. Franciscan Health Hospital in Michigan City will begin their vaccinations for healthcare workers in both La Porte and Starke Counties this Friday, December 18th. A site for La Porte County is close to being secured and once that is done then public information will be broadcasted. No set date or amount of the vaccine is known however it can be expected by January 4, 2021 and the maximum amount of doses that the county could receive is 100,000. The county will be getting the Moderna vaccine and not the Pfizer. Moderna requires two doses separated by 28 days. In terms of the individuals that will be vaccinated has yet to be determined by the CDC, the State Health Department then down to the county level. First responders, individuals that are medically fragile and those that are older than 65 years will most likely be the first to receive the vaccine. A unified message that is consistent with the information will then be made public. **Commissioner Kora** asked if the amount of doses will come in phases to which Peggy replied that is not known yet. He stated although the Moderna vaccine has not been formally approved once it arrives must be kept at -20 versus -70 which is required for the Pfizer vaccine. Peggy replied that the county will not be getting the Pfizer vaccine therefore no need for subzero, extreme cold storage with dry ice. Commissioners Kora said the amount of tests that were done may be individuals who have had several tests done so it is over 50,000 tests administered. Commissioner Kora stated he received his confirmation that next week he will get his vaccine for the virus and will keep us posted.

Linda Woloshansky, Center of Workforce Innovations

Linda Woloshansky was introduced by Commissioner Kora who has worked with her the past 8 years. Recapped the last program year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

Old Business

None

New Business

Considered contract agreement between Sheriff’s Dept and Dilts - John Boyd, Sheriff.

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered favorable recommendation by Plan Commission for re-zoning R4 to B2 in Springfield Township - Whitney Pizzala. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried. ***1st Reading only for Dollar General**

Considered authorizing Auditor Joie Winski (soon to be county Treasurer) to continue in the role as key ‘owner’s representative’ for re-construction/renovation of Michigan City Courthouse.

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

Considered authorizing Auditor Joie Winski (soon to be county Treasurer) to continue in 2021 as ‘designated holder’ of county’s credit cards per county ordinance. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve.**

Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

Considered authorizing use of commercial building at Fairgrounds and associated parking for Health Department Covid vaccine site. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered request to add security improvements recommended by marshal's study to Treasurer's office. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered approval of INDOT Community Crossings Grant in the amount of \$996,974.99 to pave Fail and Severs roads and to seek permission to attend County Council for matching funds in same amount - Mitch Bishop, Planner. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered amending Covid 19 employee and operations policy to allow one-time-only rollover of unused vacation days to 2021 – Barb Mossman, Human Resources. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried. Case-by-case basis for approval.**

Considered Interlocal Government Agreement with Pottawattomie Park for building inspections – Doug Biege, Attorney. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. ***Resolution not numbered until Council approves.**

Considered CARES Act fund to stay with the Auditor Joie Winski (soon to be county Treasurer). Commissioners are in control of the fund with President's signature. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Comments



Commissioner Rich Mrozinski stated it has been a tough year. We will miss Dr. Vidya Kora as fellow Commissioner. Welcome newly elected Commissioner Joe Haney. Also commented on the beautiful light display at the La Porte Courthouse.

Commissioner Vidya Kora said it has been a pleasure serving with the other Commissioners. He has served proudly for the past 8 years and has seen progress with Economic Development; KIP and RDC with connection to a 2 Class Carrier; Housing Study; NICTD and Double Tracking; Michigan City Courthouse and A+ rating; Testing sites for Covid-19; Thanked Council President Randy Novak for hosting weekly meetings with officials in the County; OCRA grants for Small Business Relief; and Stipend for Employees. All of this was done with the assistance of fellow Commissioners, Council members and Employees.

Commissioner Sheila Matias thanked Commissioner Kora for his statesmanship.

President Sheila Matias adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 1/16/2021

ATTEST:
Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL