



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229**

**Sheila Matias
President**

**Dr. Vidya Kora
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski
Member**

**LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 10:00 a.m.
via Zoom Only**

President Sheila Matias called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Auditor Joie Winski called the roll: Commissioner Matias - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present; Commissioner Kora - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to accept the agenda. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Considered approval of November 24, 2020 minutes. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Auditor Joie Winski read the Miscellaneous claims in the amount of \$419,748.41. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

None

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Tony Rodriguez - OCED – Reported 40 applications were approved for the Life Line Grant through OCRA. Two thirds of the checks have been distributed with the rest of them mailed through the USPS.

President Sheila Matias thanked Director of Facilities Larry Levendowski for the beautiful Christmas Lights displayed on the La Porte Courthouse lawn. Larry stated he is working on the Brown Mackie building next with decorations.

Requests

None

Old Business

Considered resolution supporting across-the-board Covid service appreciation stipends for county employees. Resolution will go to the Council for approval. **Commissioner Kora** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried. ***Resolution 2020-28.**

ORIGINAL

New Business

Considered contract agreement between Sheriff’s Department and the Town of Wanatah – John Boyd, Sheriff. Sheriff Boyd stated this is a contract renewal that has been in existence since 1978 for law enforcement services for the Town of Wanatah. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered resolution urging support for local food pantries as food insecurity issues increase in La Porte County as a result of the pandemic. Those attending via Zoom were: Maria Fruth - Healthcare Foundation; Dave Sisk - United Way; Marijo Martinec - Food Bank of Northern Indiana - stated 9.6 million pounds of food have been distributed throughout the year to October across 6 counties. La Porte County mobile distribution began in April. Chris Karlin with the Salvation Army in Michigan City reported since March over 40,000 meals have been served, 187,000 pounds of food have been distributed from their building. Nate Loucks – Pax Center in La Porte; Lisa Pierzakowski – Center Township Trustees office. **Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried. ***Resolution 2020-29**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rich Mrozinski thanked everyone that has sent him ‘well wishes’ and thanked Dr. Kora and the VA for helping him during his time with the virus. Commissioner Mrozinski stated he is currently going through the Boards and Commissions list, reaching out to those appointed whose terms expire.

Commissioner Vidya Kora made a few comments pertaining to the Covid virus. Approximately 200 are tested in La Porte per day and 100 in Michigan City. The number of deaths are rising nationwide. Currently 70 patients in the hospitals with Covid in our county. Franciscan hospital in Michigan City will be getting the vaccine. Are there side effects to getting the vaccine? Possible pain at the site of the injection; fatigue for a few days; and significant muscle aches usually with the second shot which is given 3 weeks after the first injection. Only 10-15% of the people who have taken the vaccine show signs of side effects. Is one dose enough? No, it is recommended to get both injections. One question is can a person have one dose of the Pfizer vaccine and one dose of the Moderna vaccine? Experts say get both vaccines from the same manufacturer. If a person had Covid should they still get the vaccine? Evidence shows a person could get the virus again after having it so yes, individuals should get the vaccine even after having the virus. Commissioner Kora suggested a resolution be sent to Indiana’s Congressional Delegation to act on the Covid relief legislation.

Commissioner Sheila Matias thanked the Health Department for getting a vaccine distribution plan in order which will be at the fairgrounds. Reminded everyone to continue the 4 pillars to fight the virus.

President Sheila Matias adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 12-16-2020
Sheila Matias
Vidya Kora
ATTEST: Richard Mrozinski
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL