



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
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President

Joseph Haney
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Member

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 6:00 p.m.

President Rich Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Chief Deputy Auditor Vaughn Galloway.

Auditor Tim Stabosz called the roll: Commissioner Matias - Present; Commissioner Haney – Present; Commissioner Mrozinski – Present via Zoom. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Matias** stated she would like to add to the agenda a few items, each voted on individually. Consider permission to approach the Council for additional funds for relocation of a siren in Westville with a proposal amount of \$11,903 - EMA Director Larry Butcher under New Business. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried to add;** Discussion of the Whistleblower policy for employees. Commissioner Haney asked if this information was sent out in an email. Commissioner Matias replied it is currently on page 24 in the County Employee Handbook. Commissioner Haney asked if this is the existing one and not an updated version. Commissioner Matias said yes, it is the existing policy. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried to add;** Reopening of the Museum under Old Business. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried to add.** **Commissioner Matias motioned to accept the agenda with the 3 added items. Seconded by Commissioner Haney. Motion carried.**

Considered approval of March 3, 2021 minutes. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 3/12/2021 - \$1,155,078.19 and Operating Expense Claims - \$1,531,772.27. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded then stated for the Public's edification the claims are higher than normal due to a few items with larger amounts, for example the Jail had an automation and an elevator updated. Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Pat Meaney - 4078 W. Schultz Road, La Porte. "All of you Commissioners, including our President over there has been out to the house and I've enjoyed having all of you there. I - last, the 3rd of March, that meeting, there was a question about a bill that we received, you received and paid I'm sure, that Mr. Friedman had hired co-counsel down in Indianapolis to represent the County with a matter that has been on-going for about 6 years. I don't even have to say it, most of you know what is going on. I want to say, 1 – that I fully support what Mr. Friedman did, I fully support it. 2 – I'm glad that he stepped up along with Commissioner Mathias - sorry – and actually try to help the citizenry of that area. Now whether or not we're going to go another round with this yet, yet remains to be seen but I personally and probably speaking for the vast majority of the people that I deal with out there, we're glad he's (pointing to Attorney Friedman) here and the last 6 years - the first time I met him he told me to go get a lawyer and we were arguing this particular subject but he changed his mind and I think he saw - I had to say it, I'm sorry, but I think he saw an injustice being done and these two people wanted to correct it. Mr. Haney, I am in support of a lot of things that you're trying to do; okay? I am in support of a lot of the things, I was in support of the 3 minutes of Public Comment; First Amendment Right - I'm for it, you want to do the Whistleblower Act, I'm for that too. What I wasn't for was what I witnessed at home on March the 3rd watching your comments; okay? I think a lot of that should be handled behind closed doors and when the time comes if

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you guys decide that you're going to 'can this man' well, then that can be public knowledge. Mr. Mrozinski and I don't see eye-to-eye on a lot of things however I happen to believe that Mr. Mrozinski has **every right** as a President of the Commissioners to change his bloody mind about who he wants to hire or not hire and it takes a quorum, two people got to decide out of the 3 of you. And if Commissioner Mathias decides and Richard decides, leave it alone. I mean, you're stuck, you're right - we don't need all the blow and drama, you're just stuck right where you're at so I would suggest that we're doing him (Attorney Friedman) an injustice. It's almost like if I was a boss this would be considered a hostile work environment. We're not jiving here on all six engines, you know, or six cylinders. We're, we're not a great body working for the public's good so I just want it clearly understood that I would feel remised if this man (Attorney Friedman) is discharged. Now if you Mr. Stabosz, or you (Commissioner Haney) or you (Commissioner Matias) or Mr. Mrozinski, wherever you are, if you can find charge that sticks or you have a - something that is reportable to the proper authorities and I've said this to Mr. Friedman, charge him, go give it to the state police, give it to the Ethics Board, give it to somebody. In the meantime get off his back, you know, it isn't helping anybody so that's all I really have to say, whether this issue, whether this issue that we're dealing with out in my community continues or not, I hope this board will be supportive, I'm not trying to inflame anybody, I'm just saying people change their minds, this is the way the games played. I've learned how a lot of its played, I don't like some of it but I've learned so that's all I wanted to say. That's about where I stand in his (Attorney Friedman) corner and your (Commissioner Matias) corner and Mr. Mrozinski, I might stand in your corner if you change your mind. Have a good one, thank you." **President Mrozinski**, "Thank you, anybody else present there that would like to speak under public comment?" **Pat Meaney**, "Can I say one more thing? Wait, I forgot." **Commissioner Matias**, "Mr. Meaney has one more thing to say." **Pat Meaney**, "One more comment, okay? My wife of 43 years, her birthday is today. I'm going to leave and take her to dinner." **Auditor Stabosz**, "Happy Birthday." **Commissioner Haney**, "Happy Birthday." **Commissioner Matias**, "Happy Birthday Mrs. Meaney." **President Mrozinski**, "Anybody else have a birthday or a public comment they would like to talk about?"

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Tim Stabosz, Auditor - "Good Evening everyone, as your County Auditor I wanted to take a brief moment to update you on the important work my office has been carrying out. Besides fulfilling the critical function of maintaining the payroll for an 800 some-odd employee organization, and being the centralized pay agent for the County's bills there are two critical items my office has done in the last few weeks. One is the completion of the annual report which was submitted to the state of Indiana on time and is a key document that State Board of Accounts will use when it comes to audit us and ensure proper compliance with the County and other standards. Secondly and very importantly, late last week my office submitted and received approval from the DL- Department of Local Government Finance, of our tax abstract. This approval is critical to ensuring that our tax bills go out on time in a few weeks and that all of our citizens are charged the proper amount of taxes. There were a number of preliminary steps that needed to occur to get to this point but I'm happy to say that the abstract has now been passed down to our County Treasurer who per state statute will oversee the distribution of tax bills. As an elected official in a position of high responsibility I do not appreciate the efforts of an outside contractor in a county commission attorney to undermine my efforts and dignity of my office by denigrating the professionalism of me and by extension my staff. I want to reassure this Commission, La Porte County Officials and employees and the citizens generally, the work of my office goes on unhampered and unfettered. I love my staff and appreciate their dedication, their expertise, their commitment, their hard work and their loyalty to La Porte County and I will take bullets for them any day of the week. Thank you." **Commissioner Haney**, "Thank you Mr. Stabosz."

Larry Butcher, EMA - "Good afternoon, good evening, Director Butcher La Porte County Emergency Management. I just wanted to touch basis about the siren, they sold the building that the siren is on. It is now a residential place that the siren is located next to, we do have a spot that's further south that would better serve the community since we have one north. Andy, Marquiss Electric, is my go-to vendor for that and I do appreciate the opportunity to go before the Council to get this taken care of. The siren is operable, just have to get it re-hooked up and put in a different location. And as far as Covid goes, my office continues to maintain and hold adequate PPE for county employees so please before you purchase or anything please contact my office and I'll be glad to give you what you need. Thanks guys and have a great evening."

Heather Stevens, Clerk - "I just wanted to give a quick update. The work has begun in our office, the maintenance crew came in last Monday and said 'let's go, we're moving today,' they had us out of there in two days which put Darlene and her team in a little bit of a pickle because we're kind of scattered throughout the first floor and the phone lines were kind of tricky but I just wanted to say thank you, everyone's done a great job, everyone pulled together, we - the work is going really smoothly and if you haven't been in to see the Clerk's office, please come in. You can see the original floor, you

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can see where the old fire place was, you can see the old chimney, it's amazing so just wanted to give a quick update as to what's going on. Thank you." **Commissioner Haney**, "Thank you Heather, appreciate that and I, I would say..." **President Mrozinski**, "Any other department heads?" **Commissioner Haney**, "...I would say just a follow up on Heather's - the work that's being done over there, the stuff that they dug out, getting that old safe fixed up, it is really cool over there if you haven't, you know, any had a chance to check it out or forward some pictures on, I took some the other day, it looks really cool over there and the staff, I visited some of the staff that are spread out on the first - and they are, they're taking it like a champ they are and I don't think they missed a beat so kudos to your department for that and for facilities, getting everything moved in and out quick."

Ela Bilderback, Recorder - "I'd like to say that the first 2 ½ months have been going great. The transition was smooth, I'm very happy with my staff. Being in - new to the government I'm learning things as I go and I wish there was a user's manual. I'm here because I don't really know too many things and I found out a little too late that I need to ask your permission or consideration to speak to the County Council so I hope you will consider this, my department has computers that desperately need to be updated. They last were replaced in 2010 so they're 11 years old and the programs we run are quite sophisticated and take up a lot of memory so we've been getting more and more of the error messages lately and it's time. We have the funds, we just now need the permission to replace them so that we don't go down at some point. Just to give you an idea last year alone we processed or recorded 17,196 documents. So far this year 4,037 and as the weather is getting nicer, more people will be shopping for homes and things like that, we'll see more and more traffic and so it's crucial that our equipment is up to snuff to handle all of this, I actually had IT check my computer that I use and it's only 4 gigs, I'm almost at the 4 and I was told that I really need 16 to run smoothly and so that gives you an idea just how far behind we are so this is about it, I hope you will consider it so I can approach the Council on Monday and move the things along." **Commissioner Matias**, "Thank you." **Darlene Hale**, "I just want to add to Ela's or the Recorder's statement, this was brought up last year to replace these computers and I believe at that time the Commissioners were aware and also the Council and I'm almost positive we had approval last year to do it we just with Covid and then other people getting sick it never got done so we're just finishing that up." **Commissioner Matias**, "Thank you, so Mr. Mrozinski should we add that to the agenda, should we amend the agenda again or can we allow because it's not on and I think they need to get this done really quickly so the Council meets on Monday evening?" **President Mrozinski**, "Yeah, that's fine. Do I have a second on that?" **Commissioner Haney**, "I'd second that."

Tony Rodriguez, OCED - "Just want to give a very quick shout-out to the County Planner Mitch Bishop, Bailey McGrath for a very fine thorough job on completing the Phase 3 Covid LCAF Grant application and I've reached out to the Regional Director Mr. Gerry White who've certified to us that all necessary attachments and the grant application is in 100 complete percent receipt form by their office. They've been struggling with some computer challenges of their own so it was not reporting correctly to Mitch so we've manually been communicating with their office but I wanted to just give a shout-out very quickly, he - I know Mitch does the man of - does the job of many and I wanted to thank him for all, all that he's done to meet a very tight timeframe. The, I believe that our chairwoman of the broad, La Porte County Broadband Task Force may have some exciting news to announce about the survey committee this evening and the great work of - but the, I wanted to acknowledge Fonda Owens for stepping up as the, as the, to, to chair that survey committee as the Director of the La Porte County's libraries, she and as well as all of our smaller towns, will serve a very valuable role in receiving the handwritten surveys and most excitingly that's all going to be geospatial so it will be very useful data." **Commissioner Matias**, "So Tony, I'm not going to interrupt you but I - would you just go ahead and talk about the survey, I don't need to do that so please do that on behalf of our task force." **Tony**, "Oh sure..." **Commissioner Matias**, "It's an exciting thing and people need to realize how important that data is for the entire county to get a really good and detailed snapshot of the data needed for broadband connectivity's so if you could just share a little bit more and then we can perhaps send out the press release tomorrow or the next day." **Tony**, "...absolutely so this evening was, the exciting news was that we were going to announce the completion of the survey that has been, that effort as I mentioned, the survey committee chairwoman Fon, Miss Fonda Owens, Director of the Libraries, has led a group of five individuals on preparing a geospatial based speed survey that will help us identify exactly where the holes are in La Porte County, we know that the holes are many however the communication with all of our existing incumbent internet service providers has never been at a higher level. We are really pleased with the communication, we will be reporting to the community in the month - the plan at this point is in the month June, a very detailed and significant report is being prepared to present to the community on behalf of the La Porte County Rural Broadband Task Force so we're excited about that work. The, so that press release will be issued this evening, I noticed that I was - when I went to print that to bring over this evening and I was having a little technical difficulties with the version, it was not allowing me to print the unedited version so but it will be sent this evening electronically to all of the media outlets on the Task Force's behalf. The - on March 26th the

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La Porte Countywide Housing Market Analysis steering committee will receive an update from the contractor which is Green Street and I applaud the work being done by this very comprehensive across-the-border effort, the amount of the volunteerism and cross communication between all the communities is simply exciting, it's to be applauded as well. This is a new and exciting undertaking and the efforts are, quite frankly that's why I'm mentioning this evening, the sheer number and the fact that the La Porte County Association of Realtors is really stepped up to the plate in conjunction with all of the builders, the - those that are involved in the real estate transaction market are all participating so that that study is going to help be transformative in the way housing is developed in La Porte County so we could not be more excited. Lead and deal flow at this particular point, in particular at the Kingsbury Industrial Park, has never been higher. We are literally burning the midnight oil these days to meet some of the requests for proposal deadlines and I would just give a quick compliment to Matt Reardon with... believe we left the office at a late hour last night, we'll be working late through Friday to assure we have a world class proposal on the table to meet the state's requested - they issued a proposal to La Porte County at that particular location and we are making sure we have uncovered every potential opportunity to present to this particular prospect and lastly and very notably both the communities of La Porte and Michigan City have come together to work jointly on a hiring event that will be held on April 13th from 1-4 p.m. a Blue Chip Casino. We are highly recommending that those that would choose to attend come in their best business attire, there will be hiring taking place that evening, that afternoon, and I just wanted to compliment Katy Eaton, Mike Rhiele, Clarence Hulse and of course Bert Cook. Bailey McGrath for breaking down all the barriers, instead of doing it individually as communities, everyone coming together and working jointly to show the world that we have a world class human resource talent pool in La Porte county so that concludes my report." **Commissioner Matias**, "Question about that Tony, will we be blasting that information out across social media, our website, every opportunity?" **Tony**, "All of these strategic partners will be, will be, as I mentioned I believe we have some time yet before that event and it will be circulated very aggressively but we're very pleased with Lippert Components which was an announcement made in December which was simply La Porte County, Bailey McGrath and the company really set the bar about as high as it could be and they could not be more pleased with the performance but we learned a few things in that experience and we're going to be doing just really kicking it up, I use that term 'gorilla marketing,' this will be gorilla marketing on steroids." **Commissioner Matias**, "There are a lot of people who need work and we want to be sure that we get the word out that we have opportunities."

Requests

Considered permission to approach the council for additional appropriation for office furniture - Heather Stevens, Clerk. "Feel like I'm going to be here a lot this year. I am requesting permission to go to the Council, I am asking for additional appropriations not to exceed \$5,000 and that is for some new desks for the staff members. We, I did go out to the fairgrounds, Larry Levendowski has, he has quite a few desks out there that I believe he got from a hospital somewhere and I did find a few of those that we can use but when you're looking in to the Clerk's office from that counter, we really, it would be nice to have a nice uniformed look and something very functional. Again, the staff members had gotten their desks, *used*, from a mental hospital before I was born, they have had them for 45 years even though I tell people I'm 29." **Commissioner Matias**, "And they look it too, those desks are worn." **Heather**, "They're worn so anything that we can use from the fairgrounds we're happy to but for that main area we're definitely going for something a little bit more professional, a little newer. I do have, I have somewhat of an estimate, we found something that I think is going to look great, work great, I've shown it to the staff so I think this is definitely, again, a step in the right direction so that Clerk's office, those people are the heart of the courthouse, they should feel like it so." **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered road closure on June 5th for the La Porte County Family YMCA 41st Annual Triathlon in Soldier's Memorial Park. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered permission for Adult Protective Services to purchase two leased vehicles - John Lake, Prosecutor. "Good evening and Happy Birthday to Mrs. Meaney but also Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone that's Irish and I'm here requesting, we have - and I know Sheila's got Irish decent so especially Commissioner Matias." **Commissioner Matias**, "Thank you." **John Lake**, "We have two vehicles that are coming off lease, as you know the Adult Protective Services, we have a budget that's approved by the state with FSSA and we have two lease vehicles, 2017 Ford Fusions that have approximately 38,000 miles on them and they're coming off lease and we have the opportunity to buy them through the end of March for \$1,822.00 per vehicle for a total of \$3,644.34. We have the money in our budget so we just need permission to purchase these vehicles going forward so I think it's a pretty good deal so I'm asking for permission on that." **President Mrozinski**, "I'll entertain a motion." **Commissioner Matias**, "I don't have any questions, does anyone? Mr. President, I move to approve the request for Prosecutor John Lake to approach the Council to purchase the

two leased vehicles.” **Commissioner Haney**, “And I’ll second that.” **John**, “We already have the money in our budget so really it’s - we just needed permission of the Commissioners because we already have the money appropriated through their budget from the state so…” **Commissioner Matias**, “Oh, I see.” **John**, “...we don’t have to go to the Council because we already have the money in our budget, I think, would that be correct Mr. Friedman?” **Attorney Friedman**, “That’s correct, if it’s already then they’re simply seeking your approval tonight.” **Commissioner Matias**, “Okay.” **John**, “Because we’re not asking for an additional appropriation from the Council, we just need the permission of the Commissioners to buy the equipment, the vehicles.” **Commissioner Matias**, “**So moved.**” **John**, “Thank you.” **Commissioner Haney**, “**I’ll second.**” **Motion carried.**

Considered permission to approach the Council to spend funds for repairs at Community Corrections - Rochelle Brown, Director. “Hi, this is **Director Brown**, good evening to you all. I am here with a estimate which you all received in - via email from NewTech for some electrical work along with some lighting work and drywall suspension drop ceiling. The total amount is \$45,000. We are requesting to approach Council to spend that out of the Building Fund which they agreed to allot us that amount of money to cover this work.” **President Mrozinski**, “Commissioner Matias, you’re on that Board, are you aware of all of the repairs and construction that’s going on?” **Commissioner Matias**, “Yes, thank you Mr. President. The Advisory Board has discussed this at length, there are a few of the issues Director Brown mentioned that are actually safety and security issues that need to be corrected as quickly as possible and as thoroughly as possible, they’ve been kind of pushed down the road a few times and we really need to get these done so the Board, Advisory Board, has inspected all of these things, we’ve had Larry Levendowski out to give us his review of it and we agree that, with Director Brown that we need to get this done quickly and we ask that she be allowed to approach the Council to spend those funds on repairs.” **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered permission to travel to French Lick, Indiana for 2021 Spring Conference - Rochelle Brown, Director. **Director Brown**, “Yes, requesting permission to travel to the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act County, call it IACCAC, they have a Spring Conference, all the new directors that will be there along with the assistant directors. They are focusing on leadership this year. We would like to have permission to travel and also approach the Council to pay for registration out of our commissary account and the then for hotel out of our grant account. And this was approved by the Advisory Board at our last meeting.” **President Mrozinski**, “Any questions from the Commissioners?” **Commissioner Matias**, “I have a concern, both the assistant and the director have requested to attend this conference together and it would be my preference that we allow the director to go and bring back materials for the assistant director so that one of the leaders of the center are at - present and continuing to make sure our operations are top-notch. We also have some other leadership training that’s coming forward for both the director and assistant director which should supplement anything that the director would learn at the Spring Conference so that would be my comment.” **President Mrozinski**, “I know we have some special leadership training that is either started or is about to start. I don’t know if this would, conference would be redundant information.” **Commissioner Matias**, “So, I would just weigh in that I think Director Brown, it would be beneficial to her because they’re talking about state-of-the-art correctional procedures and leadership within the correctional system so I think that that would be advantageous for her and I think we should encourage that professional development, my concern is that we need - we should have one of our leaders on site and I think that we’d be remised to send both of them and then they will both get leadership training from the special leadership trainer that’s coming in to work with both of them. I believe Director At - Brown will be trained first and then Director Atwater will, Assistant Director will be - her training will come behind, once that first session is finished.” **President Mrozinski**, “Will that be your motion, ma’am?” **Commissioner Matias**, “I would move that we allow Director Brown to approach the Council for travel for one person, herself, to go to the conference in French Lick.” **President Mrozinski**, “Do I have a second? **President Mrozinski stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered 34 unused sick days for Wendy Perkins in E-911 who resigned her position as Assistant Director. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Old Business

Considered reopening of the County Museum. **President Mrozinski** stated as long as social distancing and wearing a mask is practiced then he would like to see the Museum open back up. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered bids for bituminous and paving - Duane Werner, Highway Superintendent.

Class 11: Bituminous Materials (more common terms liquid asphalt used for patching and chip sealing):

2 Bidders - Asphalt Materials and Bit-Mat Products of Indiana. Both bids accepted. Alternate bids by Central Paving for application and Bit-Mat Products of Indiana. Both bids accepted.

Class 12: Hot Asphalt Concrete - 2 Bidders - Rieth-Riley Construction and Milestone Contractors North (formerly known as Walsh & Kelly). Rieth-Riley Construction was the low bidder so they will be Primary with Milestone as secondary.

Lowest bidder is used first – Department has given a discretion to use the lowest and best at a given level depending on need and availability at that time. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded.**

Motion carried.

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriation to relocate siren in the Town of Westville.

Larry Butcher, EMA Director. Originally siren was on a pole at the Westville Police Station, Police Station moved to a different location but the siren remained on the pole. New owners of the said property requested the siren to be removed. Westville Town Council member James Bechinske requested the siren to be relocated at the Prairie Meadow Park in town.

Commissioner Haney motioned to grant EMA Director Larry Butcher permission to approach the Council for the amount of \$11,903.00 to relocate the siren. Marquiss Electric proposed to do the work. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered Whistle Blower protection for employees. **Commissioner Matias**, “I really wanted to make sure that the public and the county employees are reassured and assured that whistle blower protection is in place in this county. On June 2020, the county government working with Barb Mossman, had gone through for a couple of months had gone through our manual to analyze our language and add any corrections that could strengthen the language to protect our employees. Our lawyer Mr. Friedman, has been an employment lawyer so we kind of got the benefit of his expertise in employment law because he was able to use, you know, the knowledge he has to make sure that we had the tightest and most complete employee protection so on page 24 of our manual of which every employee receives when they are hired by La Porte County and they, many employees I know they have copies of it in their desks, page 24 lists that each employee, we have a zero tolerance for any action or retaliation taken against any employee and it talks about how La Porte County is firm in it’s commitment to maintain an environment free of discrimination and inappropriate behavior and Darlene put up on the screen and I actually made posters of it. This (holds poster up to the camera) is our policy, it’s in our handbook and it says, ‘If you believe you or any other employee is being subjected to behavior that violates the County’s EEO or Anti-harassment policies, you are encouraged to and have a responsibility to immediately report these matters to your supervisor. If, for any reason, you do not feel comfortable reporting your concerns to your supervisor, you may report your concerns to the Human Resources Director Barb Mossman. Supervisors who become aware of any potential violations of this County’s EEO or Anti-harassment policies, **must** report the potential violation to Human Resources Director. Failure to report potential violations may result in appropriate discipline up to and including termination. No action will be taken against any employee merely because he or she reports behavior believed to violate the County’s EEO or Anti-harassment policies. La Porte County Government has a zero tolerance level for any action of retaliation taken against any employee. Any individual found violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. We assure all employees we will take action to investigate and resolve complaints. La Porte County Government is firm in its commitment to maintaining an environment free of discrimination and inappropriate conduct. Violations of these policies will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.’ So the last Commission, Commissioner Mrozinski, former Commissioner Kora and I, went through and made sure that our employees had every protection that we can give them as well as the Indiana Department of Labor (holds posted up for display) has Whistle Blower protection so there are several parts of our state code and maybe our lawyer can go through the code much better than I can but that protects our employees so that we have two layers of protection and I want to assure our employers - employees, that the Commission intends to make sure that this is maintained. That we do not have any tolerance for misconduct, harassment or retaliation in any way, shape or form or manner. My concern about this is that it’s been raised as a public issue by my fellow Commissioner Haney. I heard about it on Facebook of all places, I was not and I don’t know if Mr. Mrozinski you’ve got some information but I was not contacted to talk about it because if I had been contacted I would have said, ‘hey, if you can think of anything else we need that’s great but make sure that you know that we have a policy in place’ so my point today to discuss this is to ensure that our employees know that there is a specific protocol and procedure in place. You go to your supervisor if you have any concerns about what’s happening in the work place, your supervisor is there to protect you. If for some reason the supervisor’s the problem or you are uncomfortable with that then the policy and protocol in this County is not to come to the Commissioners, it’s to go to the HR Director who has the training in place to protect you and to know what the laws

are so when people come to me and say, 'hey, I have a complaint about my boss,' my first reaction is follow the chain of command. The chain of command is in the military, the chain of command is in all well-run organizations. You don't jump two people ahead and talk to the CEO if you don't like your work hours or you don't like the way your boss is treating you. There's a protocol and a policy that I assure our employees that we will protect them and make sure that everything to the letter of the law is followed so I don't know if any of my Commissioners have any comments or if our lawyer does but Mr. Friedman, is there anything else that I should talk about in this or suggest?" **Attorney Friedman**, "I think you covered it well, I think you recapped the fact that all three of you Commissioners, yourself, Dr. Kora and Commissioner Mrozinski were intent on having good strong anti-retaliation language you adopted this in June of 2020 and what we've done is provide, my office has provided additional information on Whistle Blower protection that exists, for instance with the Department of Labor 'any complaints for discrimination or adverse health employment action as a result of raising workplace safety and health related concerns' also covered under IOSHA. There's also the Federal False Claims Act that provides protection for any employee that complains about waste, fraud or abuse and so we're more than happy to field questions from any employees or elected officials as these issues arise but I think the Commissioners took strong action last summer to assure that all employees full protection and a remedy if anyone has a complaint and to route that up the chain and I think you made an important point too which is that it's important that folks follow the chain of command. Having a county employee skip reporting to his or her supervisor and HR could jeopardize their complaint and lose them the protection of the anti-retaliation provisions of county, state and federal laws so that's a bad idea, you do want to follow chain of command but if you follow chain of command then your interests are protected and this county will endeavor to protect any employee that reports any kind of waste, fraud or abuse." **President Mrozinski**, "Yeah, I can say that I was kind of concerned when I get a call from the radio station asking me about our policy towards harassment and that it seen something on Mr. Haney's Facebook page that seem to indicate that we don't have something like that and that we need something like that and I'm wondering well, maybe 75 days ago when he became Commissioner maybe he didn't get a handbook or maybe he hadn't taken the time to look in the handbook but we certainly have an ironclad policy and procedure here for that, I don't know what else would possibly that we could add to that, I think it pretty well explains the entire situation there so I'm glad that you did the research and brought this all up Commissioner Matias."

Commissioner Matias, "I'm concerned Commissioner Mrozinski that our employees are getting an impression that they are unprotected and you know our goal, in fact my goal coming to the Commission a couple years back is to continue to drive La Porte County Government forward. We're a forty-five million dollar business organization and we have and the County Council is, is - we're partnering, we have a leadership team now that works together, we are really trying to make sure that the professional employees who work for the County are working in a safe and healthy work environment so they can do the good work that they do serving the community so our goal is to continue to drive forward and modernize our organization, make sure that all of the proper laws are followed, procedures are followed and that we're running a really solid and healthy organization so part of our work in 2020 where we concluded in June with this - the passage of this amendment to the ordinance - to the handbook was to make sure that the employees knew that they had that extra level of protection, not only from the state law but also from our local personnel policies so that was where my concern was, I just wanted to be sure that our employees are getting the straight message about the protection that we believe that they deserve." **President Mrozinski**, "Thank you, I hope that that calms a few of the nerves of some of our employees." **Commissioner Haney**, "So Mr. Mrozinski, Commissioner, President Mrozinski, I appreciate you including in there you're not sure what else we could do I'm glad you mentioned that because I do have a number of different things that we could do to hopefully not just enforce that but actually have a Whistle Blower protection policy, if you'll notice in that page 24 of that handbook which I think it's interesting - there was a gentleman up earlier during public comment and was talking about why does some of these things happen and come up during public meetings versus why aren't they being handled in private and I noticed that we have poster boards printed out here today highlighted. I see our Commission Attorney has the same exact documents that Commissioner Matias has highlighted in the exact same spots but yet no one bothered to take the time to loop me in to that email chain. The Whistle Blower protection policy I'm working on that I did not ask to be added to the agenda because it's not, wasn't quite ready yet and in addition to that I didn't want to just dump something right in your laps on 1 or 2 days before the meeting, I wanted to have, let you guys have it for at least several days so you could look over it and respond to any questions but back to my point about this we could have addressed these issues and maybe perhaps it wouldn't look, you all wouldn't look quite foolish right now because we don't have a Whistle Blower protection policy, we do have a policy here for..., I see you've highlighted Whistle Blower but when you look at everything that's in there on page 24 of the handbook we're talking about harassment, discrimination based on race and things like that, the things that I'm looking at and trying to deal with are not just what's going to happen for example with scheduling, you know, you mentioned the scheduling issue with an employee or something like that, not things like that but other things, we need to have a comprehensive policy that has things in place for when employees or department heads feel intimidated or they may be retaliated against by elected

officials, by contracted employees, by professional advisors. Talk about other things like OSHA for example, so certain things that OSHA deal with are related to very specific policies when you look at the office of Attorney General for example, you've got the Federal OIG deals with federal issues, the State OIG deals with state issues. Some of these state protections when it comes down to municipalities and counties are not exactly as tightened stringent as you may seem when you start looking at some of the different things and protections that are involved for example for federal employees so I think it's being disingenuous to try and attempt to, you know, kind of ambush me here with this tonight without including me in on the email chain that was obviously occurring and I could have obviously laid out some of these concerns with you and the reasons why we need these things because I am hearing concerns from employees and county officials where they are scared of retaliation not necessarily from an immediate supervisor but from either an elected official or professional advisor and these are things we have to get a handle on and yeah, I've only been here 75 days and I'm not going to tolerate the same-o, same-o what's going on, there was a comment last time that went on 'well, you know we, we adopted, they - the other policy for public comment,' you know, because I made the comment it was outdated and you know, the only thing you could do to say that it wasn't outdated was that you guys had voted on it like, you know, what, like 24 months ago, 18, 24 months ago, just because you did something a year ago doesn't mean it's not already outdated now or wasn't even outdated at the time when you did it. The idea that, you know, because it was done in a year or two years ago still be outdated and my concerns are not, I want to see employees that are covered continue to be covered under some of these different EEOC claims which can be remedied in that regard but there needs to be a specific policy at the county level that addresses these other concerns that are being brought forth that I mentioned last week and that I briefly touched on here again I don't want to get back in all of them again just for the sake of brevity but these things need to be addressed and to just try and blow it off as 'oh well, you know, we did it last year' well, yeah, I mean, it doesn't make sense to me at all." **Attorney Friedman**, "And let me just suggest to you Mr. Haney, I think the concern that the Commissioners have and my office has, you talk about ambush is that the proper procedure, the suggested procedure isn't go on Facebook and announce this or issue a press release but give your fellow Commissioners and my office the courtesy of inquiring because you know I've got the benefit of 37 years doing employment law, I'm more than happy to share information with you. I think what we were all concerned about was that you went up on Facebook insisting on a policy without even inquiring about what existed currently and the same thing about issuing a press release. You also went to the Association of County Commissioners to ask about policies in other counties. Feel free to call your colleagues or my office, I am more than happy as you know, in fact you just come in to me a few days ago for something we gave you heads up on which you thought was the appropriate way, I want you to know we are available to you. All you have to do is email us, I mean you talk about ambush, going up on Facebook to announce the policy or the need for a policy without running it past your colleagues or my office that puts everybody in a difficult spot. I think what the Commissioners wanted to do, the instruction I got from Commissioner Matias was let's clear up on the record what all ready exists, what policies are adopted but absolutely, if there are suggestions or anything else email us, email my office, I'm more than happy to correspond with you and get back to you. If you think the existing policy needs to be improved more than happy to propose any amendments or suggestions to it, happy to do it." **Commissioner Haney**, "I'll be getting with you either later this week or very beginning of next week for what I've come up with..." **Attorney Friedman**, "Fair enough, okay, thank you." **President Mrozinski**, "I was equally surprised when I got an email from the Association of Indiana County Commissioners saying that Commissioner Haney was asking about this policy that we've already had in place for a year and I was surprised to since the Association of Indiana County Commissioners I am the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Northwest District, that's the first that I hear of it is that it was on Facebook, that they're going to change the policy that is already pretty well ironclad so we need to follow procedure so moving along under New business."

New Business

Considered employee health care plan coverage agreements/authorizations - Barb Mossman, H.R. Director. A renewal schedule, client services agreement and pharmacy drug coverage authorization were approved. Telehealth benefits were extended through the month of June. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered Resolution requesting state and federal officials oppose change in La Porte-Michigan City MSA designation - Matt Reardon. Resolution opposes changing the Metropolitan Statistical Area data collections system. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried. ***Resolution 2021-5**

Considered appointment of E-911 Director Barb Huston. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered contract between SEH and County Auditor. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered agreement between La Porte County Coroner's office and HealthLinc to help maintain the La Porte County Opioid Fatality Review Team. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haney, "We've got, had some updates for our Covid vaccine clinic. We are down of course to 45 years of age which is a great thing and teachers and support staff have been opened up as well. One thing I did want to comment on out there there was some comments that had floated around as far as you know if possibly some - there's been some reports of some 20 or 30 year olds that's gotten some vaccinations that didn't fall into some other categories. I just wanted to reassure the public and everyone else that our vaccination team here at the county and the county fairgrounds has stayed 100% on level with only vaccinating, including for our emergency call-ins so no doses are wasted, 100% on level. Everyone - every vaccine has gone into an arm, it hasn't been wasted. Everyone has been in the, in an eligible tier, there's been no one who - at the county anyway, who's been vaccinated that did not fall into that tier. Now outside of the county understand there are other places, HealthLinc, the hospitals for example, are doing some vaccinations as well, some of the local you know, Meijer - type deal, the county doesn't have control over that and if they wind up coming down to the end of the day and they have an extra dose and they simply cannot call anyone in or you know, their list - for whatever reason they just can't get someone in that's eligible, rather than waste it, you know they will obviously give that injection rather than waste it so but I just wanted to reassure everyone that on the county level, the county has every - no doses wasted and everything has gone into an eligible arm so I just wanted to be clear on that because we've heard that several times, at least I have in the office this week. The state's been extremely happy with what we're doing, we're still going four days a week out there 8am-6pm, doing about 548 doses a day roughly and of course we'll ramp that up as soon as we get more doses. We're, you know, running right at the level of what they give us so we're there. These past two weeks have been fairly busy, I've been out on site visiting a number of different facilities again and some new ones as well, spent some time out at the Juvenile Services Center, wonderful group of folks out there, great team out there, Director Stallworth is doing a great job out there, I was able to welcome Doug as well out who just started last week so we wish him well on his new endeavors out there. I've went out and visited a couple of onsite complaints from a couple of residents in the county and we're getting some of those addressed with some of the ordinances that we already have in place here, able to take care of those as well. Just this week I went out and visited the Mobile Vote mobile if you will, that Porter County has - Clerk Stevens went with me as well as some folks from the Better, La Porte County Better Government group, study group, anyway, Jim Jessup and Duane Miller and those folks in Porter County was very accommodating in letting us tour their vehicle. What they have set-up there to do mobile voting is really cool and I'm looking forward to the Clerk's office to move forward to that in the future, that was really cool. We've got some stuff coming up as far as a potential quote unquote wind fall for about roughly 21 million dollars the county's going to be coming in to if you will, some of those funds you know, there's a pretty broad range where we'll be able to spend some of that, some of the things I'd like to see you know, kind of a wish list if you will for that, is to really work on improving our buildings and working environments for our employees. Things like chairs for example, when I was out at the Juvenile Services Center the 3rd in command out there while I was speaking with her her chair was kind of off in the back ground of this room, I was looking at the top and try to figure out what's on the top of her chair, and I kind of moved to the side and walked a little closer because she was in the back part of the office and I couldn't help myself I just said, 'What's up with your chair?' and all of the leather or pleather on the chair had just been worn off on the top and she stood up and when she stood up after I adjusted my position there in the room, she pushed her chair back, she' sitting, there's a beach towel on the bottom of her chair and you know, I asked her to remove the thing and I took a picture of it and you know, I'll forward it on to all of you here if you'd like and she's sitting on a beach towel because the padding - not only has the texture worn off of the chair but the padding is basically down to where she's almost sitting on metal. I asked if she had reported any of this and she said they did, I asked - Director Stallworth was there with me, and she said they did last year, it was the summertime last year, I guess that somehow just fell through the cracks so some other issues you know, other issues not just in that facility but other buildings that I've been at in these past 75 days, if you're not getting out onsite and visiting these folks in their offices, where they work, seeing some of the conditions they're forced to work in, chairs that are absolutely unacceptable, holes worn down completely through the carpet down to bare concrete

underneath people's desks and the walkways in some of our buildings and facilities including the Juvenile Services Center, I mean these are things that in some cases are health issues, trip hazards, and just they really led to a bad morale situation for a lot of employees. And those, that's something that we really need to address, it is getting the working conditions for our employees back up to speed. We've seen the Clerk obviously doing massive remodel, well, not massive remodeling but repainting and fixing a lot of the problems in the courthouse which is good, obviously we'll work on Michigan City Courthouse so when those folks get moved back in there that will be taken care of but a lot of these other conditions we need to really double down and focus on getting these things addressed and taken care of. Some other wish list for the money I think we can really jump ahead and move full speed here on Rolling Prairie EMS Base and Highway Base out there as well as one of the things I really think we need is another ambulance. Now for folks watching the previous meetings we had some replacement ambulances come up recently but we do need another ambulance that we can put another ambulance out there in that area, going through and talking with Director McGuire from EMS about the need for our call volume, looking at the calls, looking at the data, going through these, the call maps and then of course obviously we hear, you know we're hearing rumblings out of the City of La Porte that they want to start their own EMS service. I don't think that that will be as conducive to what they want as I, as they think it is once they get down into that but they do, they do make a valid point that we do need another ambulance in this county in addition to the base to make sure we have full staffing and cut down if nothing else cut down on those response times from further out and leave, you know have another ambulance spend a little more time here in La Porte in addition to what we have and with that I do want to say we are, we are covering what we need to cover, services are not, are not negatively being affected for who we're servicing right now but we're running right up to that ragged edge and we want to make sure that we stay ahead of this and I think that's a great way to spend some of this money and overall really addressing a lot of these concerns that I mentioned. Otherwise I am looking forward to continue working on expanded Whistle Blower Protection, an actual Whistle Blower Protection, not just things you know, if you have a bad work environment let's say you know, which not necessarily saying we are but just as an example, OSHA for example, handles some different you know, health and work concerns as far as in the work place but health related so having something comprehensive when I reached out to the Association of Indiana County Commissioners, for those who aren't aware of that it's a group that all County Commissioners belong to, it's a closed forum that only County Commissioners have access to that I posted that message, that that message got posted out on because I wanted to look for some best practices done through counties throughout the state. When coming up with something like this you want to do your homework, you want to do your research, have something well thought out and put together rather than just throw out some, some blanket ideas you know before something gets introduced here, have something well thought out and reasoned and have some different input from other ordinances and things from around the county. I found certain things that you would, I think, majority of the public would be shocked to find out probably at least half the counties in Indiana don't even have any sort of Whistle Blower Protection Policy and in some, some instances some are like our own most of these anti-harassment policies and things like that are more focused on work conditions or sexual harassment, other types of things and so not necessarily so much and so far as being scared to necessarily do their job for fear of political repercussions let's say and that's where I'm coming from with this and as far as you know, what I post on Facebook that's between me and the people who follow my page, you know it's a private page, has nothing to do with the government, it's just my name on there 'Joe Haney,' that's it. If you don't like what you're seeing there then feel free to 'unfollow' it, you don't have to, you know if you have an issue with it, I mean, you know tough, if - I promise transparency and Mr. Meaney made a comment earlier as far as you know, take some things behind closed doors, I think as I pointed out earlier it's not necessarily happening, you know when I send out an internal email that originally is going out to the Commissioners, Council, and then attorneys and then that gets forwarded on out of chain and of course you know, it winds up going from there and of course I've still never received any sort of response to that email from either of you so sometimes these things do have to be taken up then in a public manner and you know what? I, one of the things that I promised was transparency and I think as we're seeing, you know transparency isn't always pretty, you know, if you go to see how the sausage gets made at a sausage factory you may not like to see it and you know there's a difference between, you know, political wrangling and things for policy based, right, that happens behind the scenes? You know, that's, those things are, whatever the political stuff is that's different, the things that I'm talking about are relating more and more to transparency, truth, putting things out there that need to be put out there, correcting things that are said in a public meeting that aren't accurate. Those are the things that I'm trying to deal with and work through so that's where I am there, that's my thoughts with that, you know, I think - you know, Joe Biden, I don't always quote Joe Biden but he said something pretty good back a few years ago, he said, "Fighting corruption is not just good governance, it's self-defense, it's patriotism." Being as this is, we're still in women's history month here, Rosa Parks said, "You have to stand for something or you'll fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground." And that's what I'm going to do, I'm going to stand for the people of La Porte

County, I'm going to stand up for our employees, I'm going to stand up for truth and transparency and I'm not going to back down on that. Thank you."

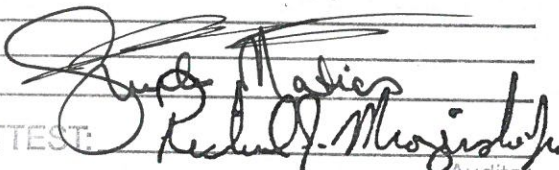
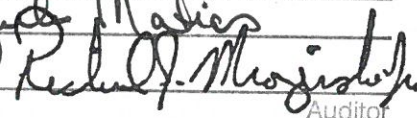
Commissioner Matias, "So, I'll address Mr. Haney's comment very quickly. We all welcome improvements to county government. We're all here because we care about our community but when your colleagues have the media calling us and we don't know what they're talking about, yeah, we're going to find out on Facebook because there was nowhere else to find out, we didn't know that that was something that you're working on and that perhaps we should have had a work group about that with the County Council so we could see how we can improve any policies so we're glad we're pass that and we're on to you chatting with the attorney and seeing how we can make sure our employees have the very best that we can give them. Moving on...the county website is one year old this month. You may remember what our old website looked like, it had been built in the early 90's and it was cumbersome at best and annoying, you know God love the people that was updating it because it was an old system and they were trying their best to keep it moving but this new website built by our own county, La Porte County's small business Sera Solutions, they just moved here to La Porte, they were previously in Michigan City, they helped us build the website and they've continued to work with us on updates but we have over 1 million users in our first year which I think is remarkable, we have, we've looked at the logistics and the data from monthly users and most months we have 350 unique visitors and then that rolls up to the one million when they keep coming back for more so people out in the public, if you have ideas for how we can improve the website, how we can make it, bring you the more materials that you need please send an email to us, send a note, give a call. We're happy to continue to make it a place where you look forward to going for your information. The 21 million dollar wind fall passed by President Biden and Congress is certainly a boon for La Porte County and probably a once in a lifetime boon, I would suggest that we ask our Auditor and our Treasurer to give us a really good financial picture, probably would take a while to do that and I don't know if you can do that yourself or if we need to bring someone in to look at that so that we know the status of each one of our funds and then have someone or maybe you give us a projection, what will those funds look like with tax collection in this current year, over in 3 years, in 5 years so we have a kind of really good snapshot of our financial health as a county and what our financial health will look like moving forward. Obviously it's not going to be, it's a judgement, it's a best guess scenario but it would be at least something that we could look at as county government, as county officials and then I would suggest that we work with those who - the Auditor and the Treasurer who are our financial specialists and perhaps hold a visionary session with the County Council, Department Heads, make sure the public has a way to put their ideas forward so we can really gather ideas on what our priorities should be so some of the members of the County Council have been on the Council for a really long time, they've worked on projects long term from the Franklin Street Bridge to the Rolling Prairie base, there's some projects we know are of critical need, they're dire. There's other things that we know that should be done that you know really would be important to be done and then there's the nice things that would be nice to have, you know I can think of some many things that would be lovely to have, if we could jump start the fairgrounds for example with building a community center there that could instantly genius enough to making that beautiful property usable by all of the families and the people in La Porte County for family events, for reunions, for shows and all of those kind of things. But for 21 million dollars is a lot of money but it's not a lot of money and it could trickle away into...and we wouldn't get the biggest bang for our buck so I guess I'm challenging us as a leadership team to say, 'County Council, Department Heads, our fiscal leaders and our elected officials to pull together and really analyze the best use for that money and to get the most out of it for our community, not only for county government but for the community at large.' I think it's a one-time opportunity that we have and we want to make sure we use it well. And I want to be sure to include the public on that, getting input from the public so they have a seat at the table and a voice to be heard as well. And then again, you know today is St. Patrick's Day and most of you know that I, that my parents came here in 1950, my dad came in 1948. He was in the Royal Air Force and when he went back to Ireland there were no jobs and he was one of 13 kids so he immigrated - he was supposed to go to Canada and at the last minute they had an opening to go to America and that's how we became Americans but you know in the Royal Air Force and in our family there was a chain of command and I'm looking back at, there's a couple of Sheriff's deputies in the room and I know how important in paramilitary organizations the chain of command is and so I encourage our employees, you are our most valuable asset, that chain of command isn't just a word, it's not just a phrase, it's really good business protocol as you build an organization. Our leaders have experience, our supervisors have experience and we need to value them so please use that chain of command to try to get remedies within your own department. And then if you need help certainly the Commissioners are here but that's not the next place to go, the next place to go is the HR staff who are trained, who understand the laws, and if it is a problem that cannot be fixed through HR, Barb picks up the phone and she calls us and she usually calls our legal team as well because we want to be sure that we're protecting our employees, they really are the most valuable asset and the time that I've been here, I've gotten to know a lot of great

people and they have spent their career serving this county and really care a lot about what we do so we want to be sure we take really good care of them. So, Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone and my comments are concluded."

Commissioner Mrozinski, "Since our last meeting, I've had a meeting with Mayor Dermody, Sheriff Boyd, Chief Brettin, Drew Buchanan, Eric Hayes and Julie West. The City has once again inquired about the County helping out taking over their animal control. This has come up in years past, we talked about it but this time I think the Mayor and Julie West actually have some pretty good ideas. Eric Hayes also has some very good ideas. We don't want to make the situation worse for the County. I'm sure that people that knows what goes on in the county will agree our animal control people are the most dedicated employees we have, they're there every day, in the morning cleaning cages and feeding animals in inclement weather, this is what they do and I can understand why they don't want to take on more work but I can also understand why the City would really like to be able to be a part of our team here so Eric and I we kind of kicked it around a bit and we're going to come up with some suggestions and meet with these folks again and see what we can come up with. Also had a meeting with the Musuem Advisory Committee and wit Larry Levendowski, they have some roof leaks at the museum that are pretty bad. They got worse over the winter. We had a lot of snow up there that had drifted up and when it started melting it had no place to go and it found some of the little cracks and holes and it's actually leaking into the museum and ruining some of the stuff, this is museum stuff, not like you can replace it that easily so the other bad thing is you can't really put a roof on a building in the middle of winter but we are taking advantage of a few warm days. Larry's got an excellent plan for it, we've had estimates from a few different organizations for fixing it and we're going to get this noodled down here very soon but we need to get, it's got to be a priority, got to, we've got to take care of this stuff in the museum so we'll continue to work on that. We seem to still have issues with the air quality in the Surveyor's office, I mean we have tried a lot of different solutions here and they still have a problem so I've asked Larry to also make this a priority, he needs more to do; right? But when you have employees that come to work and start suffering consequences for being there, have trouble breathing and stuff like that and headaches we've, we've got to get it figured out so I want to remind everybody, employees as well as the public, we still do have a mask mandate in place, in force at our county buildings and I have relayed to our Department Heads if people come in our buildings without a mask or they come in with a mask and then take it off before they come to your building you're not obligated to wait on them, there's signs everywhere that says you're going to wear a mask when you're dealing with our people. We don't want our people to, you're at high enough risk when you go home or you go where ever, we don't need to put our people at risk in their office. We will be enforcing the mask mandate and the bottom line is wear the mask or you know, it's like 'No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service,' 'No Mask, No Service.' And Commissioner Haney mentioned the Rolling Prairie ambulance base and how important it is, that is why it has been one of my priorities or goals the last 12 years going on 13 years and I'm looking forward to the spring when we get some decent weather to actually get started on that and get it going, it's something the county has needed for a long time and we're going to get this done so with that I have no further comments, I will, this meeting will now be adjourned. Thank you all."

President Mrozinski adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 4-7-2021


ATTEST: 
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL