



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Richard Mrozinski
President

Joseph Haney
Vice President

Sheila Matias
Member

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 10:00 a.m.

President Rich Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by John Jones, Michiana Insurance agent.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to accept the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Considered approval of April 21, 2021 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 4/23/2021 - \$1,130,197.70 and Operating Expense Claims - \$1,585,369.15. **Auditor Stabosz** stated there was a correction made to the amount that was previously advertised on the agenda and this was due to an invoice error. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Randy Novak, Council President, said he would like to see 3 Councilman and the Auditor included on the ARP Working Group. He also said he is not opposed to rezoning for the Briar Ridge Subdivision but a water tower is needed in that area.

Mike Polan, Building Commissioner, said it is rezoning only right now for Briar Ridge, no construction is taking place yet.

Earl Cunningham, Councilman, said he would like to see the County Auditor on the ARP Working Group as well.

Tim Stabosz, Auditor, stated he would appreciate being considered as part of this group with his accounting background.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Rick Brown, MS4, commented on HB 389 pertaining to wetlands.

Larry Levendowski, Director of Facilities, reported he is moving forward with the EMS engineering for the building on Highway 20.

Tony Rodriguez, Office of Community & Economic Development, reminded everyone listening to take the Broadband Survey online. Goal is to get 1,000 surveys completed and currently there are 870 surveys.

Amanda Lahners, Health Department Director, updated the Commissioners on COVID. County is currently in orange color. Continue to wear masks, social distance and wash your hands. Vaccinations at ourshotlpc.com, county has given 22,493 vaccinations with 29% of our county being vaccinated. One myth is if you've had Covid you won't get it again - not true. Health Order for mask mandate has been extended through the month of May.

Requests

Considered permission to approach the Council to repay Surcharge Account - Barb Huston, E-911 Director. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Considered payment of 60 unused sick days for Sylvia Papineau who is retiring from Superior Court 1 after 32 years of service. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.**

ORIGINAL

Considered permission to approach the Council to spend from the Commissary Fund for Guard1 equipment - Rochelle Brown, Community Corrections Director. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Old Business

Considered recommendation of bids for police vehicles. John Boyd, Sheriff, stated he will trade in 16 vehicles for 9 - 2021 Ford Interceptors and 3 - Dodge Rams vehicles. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered appointments to American Rescue Plan (ARP) Working Group. **Commissioner Matias motioned to Table. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried. ***Tabled**

New Business

Considered Proclamation for Correctional Officers and Employees week - John Boyd, Sheriff. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered CLEAR contract for Sheriff's Department - John Boyd, Sheriff. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered Proclamation for Emergency Medical Services week. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered Property and Casualty Insurance renewal. John Jones, Michiana Insurance agent. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Matias motioned to add a drone to the policy for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered Ordinance amending zoning map to rezone property owned by Briar Ridge Subdivision R1B to R2A – Chris Willoughby, Attorney for petitioners. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve on 1st reading. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve on 2nd reading. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried. ***Ordinance 2021-3**

Consider motion to permit both Auditor and Treasurer to serve as Co-Administrators of Low Financial system with any disputes to be resolved by County Data Board. **President Mrozinski** stated a meeting took place where an agreement was made. **Auditor Tim Stabosz** thanked President Mrozinski for calling the meeting and said it was productive. Commissioner Matias asked if this should be pulled off the agenda to which President Mrozinski said no further action needs to be taken. **Attorney Shaw Friedman** said the Commission could move to table it or at least place on the record that the Auditor and Treasurer would be Co-Administrators but **Auditor Stabosz** said not necessarily true and he wouldn't get in to all of what took place at the meeting but he felt an agreement had been made. **Attorney Friedman** suggested move to table the item in case it needs to be made of public record or remove it from the agenda. **Commissioner Haney moved to remove from the agenda. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried to remove from the agenda.**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haney reported on numerous visits to the vaccine clinic; he had a meeting with the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Andrew Forrester and a colleague; he attended a meeting with INDOT on the US 20 two way left turn project; he also attended a trustees meeting. Commissioner Haney commented on the Solar Ordinance, and the State failed to take up leaving it at the County level. Commissioner Haney said he attended a Council meeting where the flooding issue in the Nowak subdivision was discussed; he took a tour of the jail and thanked those that showed him around. His daughters told him to watch out for but he did not encounter any 'Dementors' on the tour. He attended a Parks and Rec meeting. He quoted Jean-Paul Sartre, 'Commitment is an act, not a word.' As May 9th is the birthday of Sophie Scholl, Commissioner Haney wanted to remember her. She was executed at the age of 21 by guillotine by the Nazis in Germany. Sophie's quote, 'Stand up for what you believe in even if you are standing alone.'

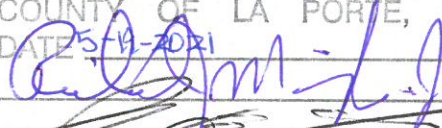
Commissioner Matias stated in the daily email from the Health Department this morning there were 49 cases of Covid reported, 55 the day before and 47 day before that; currently at a 10% positivity rate and urged getting vaccinated. Continue to wear masks when in crowded places. Positive meeting today with honoring our corrections staff, EMS staff and nurses.

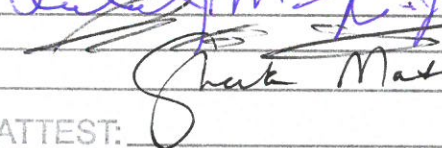
Commissioner Mrozinski spoke about small businesses that have gone out of business due to Covid; continued discussions about the Franklin Street draw Bridge in Michigan City; continued discussions with Mayor Dermody and Lochmueller on the North/South Connector. Paving projects will be getting under way.


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President Mrozinski adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 5-19-2021





ATTEST:  _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL

County of La Porte
Board of Commissioners

Executive Order
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

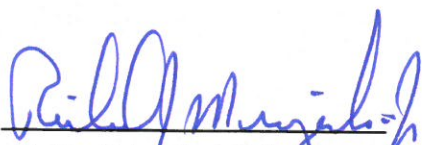
- WHEREAS, Correctional facilities across the U.S. are run by highly qualified and experienced individuals with a deep understanding of the challenges within the profession; and
- WHEREAS, Correctional officers and employees are resourceful, capable, committed, patient and persistent professionals in criminal justice and our nation; and
- WHEREAS, Correctional officers and employees serve admirably in many different capacities, including jail administrators, wardens, chaplains, nurses, supervisors, social workers, teachers, managers and directors; and
- WHEREAS, The career of correctional officers and employees is often very challenging and stressful, the dedicated individuals who work in the La Porte County Jail every day perform their duties well and with great pride; and
- WHEREAS, La Porte County Jail correctional officers and employees are brave, courageous and tenacious individuals who put their lives and health at risk every day to keep the public safe and serve this honorable profession nobly and admirably;


NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Commissioners of La Porte County, do hereby proclaim
May 2-8, 2021 as


CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

in the County of La Porte, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.




President Richard Mrozinski, Commissioner


Vice President Joe Haney, Commissioner


Sheila Matias, Commissioner

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PROCLAMATION

TO DESIGNATE THE WEEK OF MAY 16 – 22, 2021 AS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Whereas, emergency medical service is a vital public service; and

Whereas, members of the LaPorte County Emergency Medical Service team are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival rate and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, emergency medical service providers have traditionally served as the safety net of America's health care system; and

Whereas, the LaPorte County Emergency Medical Services team consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, and others; and

Whereas, the members of the LaPorte County Emergency Medical Services team, whether a career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, LaPorte County residents benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of our LaPorte County Emergency Medical Service provider by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Now, therefore, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaPorte, State of Indiana, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 16 – 22, 2021 as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

and encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.


Richard Mrozinski, President


Joe Haney, Vice President


Sheila Matias, Member

ATTEST:


Tim Stabosz, Auditor

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