



**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, July 7, 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 led by Chris Willoughby.

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

Considered the agenda. Commissioner Matias motioned to add 4 items to the agenda: 1.) Resolution recognizing July 8th as World Civility Day; 2.) Support letter for Community Corrections grant proposal; 3.) Letter agreement with SEH requested by Auditor Stabosz regarding budget prep/assistance; and 4.) Authorization to cast vote in support of Purdue Pharma bankruptcy settlement in Opioid case recommended by plaintiff's attorneys. Commissioner Haney seconded by adding a 5th item: 5.) Repairs to clock on top of the Courthouse. President Mrozinski stated a call was put in for the repairs and it would be done today so no motion needed. Motion carried to add 4 items. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.

Considered approval of June 16, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 6/18/2021 - \$1,146,838.60 and ending 7/2/2021 - \$1,148,959.23 and Operating Expense Claims - \$4,911,689.69. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.** Commissioner Haney stated 3 Wednesdays in June so there are 2 payrolls. Expense Claims have about 2.6 million in paving and insurance disbursements which reflect the higher amount.

Public Comment

Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, stated truck traffic has continued on his road again and has been for 6 years now. Road has been damaged. Anthony Hendricks 'penned less than a truthful audit' on the properties surrounding the land. Rick Brown signs the paperwork that 'on face value is less than truthful.' This is to allow the state issued storm water run-off notice of efficiency.' No local permits as required by the County's zoning ordinance. Doug Biege tells the neighbors calling in that they cannot get on the agenda without an attorney. Mike Polan states that he is not going to 'police the codes' and act 'against a business operating in a residential neighborhood.' **Commissioner Matias** requested weight limit signs or load limit signs be displayed. **Attorney Friedman** reminded Mr. Veatch that the Commissioners obtained a 'stop-work order' in 2019 through court action, a 'stay' in 2020 that lasted approximately 6 months and advise on legal remedies for the concerned neighbors. **Randy** said the attorney recommended won't return his phone calls even though the group made a 'down payment.' He stated the law is the zoning ordinance which the Commissioners could tell Mike Polan, Building Commissioner, to enforce. **Attorney Friedman** said the appropriate route/remedy is to challenge the permit in court as a private nuisance action. **Randy** replied it is a financial attack on his wallet. **Commissioner Haney** said he will reach out to the Highway Department and inquire on the weight limit signs.

Tim Stabosz, spoke on agenda item 'proposed EEO recruitment/compliance and investigative officer along with request to Council to appropriate salary for newly created position in Human Resources.' Tim said he has enjoyed the recent 'non-contentious' atmosphere working together. He said he needed to be honest and relay what has been told to him by

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department heads and others. He stated the ‘genesis or origin’ of this idea was from Commissioner Haney for a Whistle Blower protection or a secure process for employees who had issues or concerns. This involved an oversee panel of judges which an administrator appointed by them would be the person the employees could go to with those issues but now it is for a consultant to work in the Human Resources Department which he stated he felt had an influence by the county attorney. He said HR is not trusted by employees/department heads who confided in him and although he didn’t want to say it publicly he felt the need to do so now. Tim said when employees go to HR with an issue HR simply turns around and informs the very person/department head/supervisor what the employee has an issue or concern with which results in a backlash for that employee. He said it is generally known that this happens. Instead of notifying the Commissioners by email he said after seeing it on the agenda he decided to inform them now. Tim said an Ethics Ordinance was put in place several years ago but has since been removed. **President Mrozinski** asked him if he read the job description for this position. **Tim** replied he did not need to hear from the county attorney about this proposed position. He feels the original intent of Commissioner Haney for Whistle Blower Protection is being lost in this current EEO job description. If HR appoints this person the employees need a piece of mind from a 3 judge panel who oversees their complaint versus HR who cannot be trusted. **Commissioner Matias** objected to his statement about HR and how it goes against the policy for Public Comment. **Tim** encouraged the Commissioners to talk to Department Heads about trust with the HR Department. **President Mrozinski** said if employees had issues they can come to the office and see him any day. **Tim** replied employees won’t come to the Commissioners because they feel they are ‘beholden’ to HR. **Attorney Shaw Friedman** said a Joint Executive Session was held for the Commissioners/Council members and Auditor Tim Stabosz did not attend. **Barb Mossman** responded that she does her best and when she conducts an investigation it may not always go in the direction that the employee would like it to go but she does her best to resolve issues by following county policy.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Barb Mossman, HR, reported on the UMR Care Search rewards program. It is a cash rewards program for employees and spouses who are covered under the county’s health insurance plan.

Steve Eyrick, Adult Probation, announced a Proclamation for the week of July 18-24, 2021 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. Commissioner Matias read the Proclamation into the record. **Commissioner Haney motioned to accept the Proclamation. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried. ***Proclamation attached to minutes**

Kaelynn Deckard, Scipio Township Trustee, requested renaming the road in front of Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Station #2 after Richard Rutz who was a Scipio Township Board Member for over 25 years. He was also a member of the La Porte County Fair Board for over 50 years. From the intersection of 150 West and 250 South going west to the dead end of the road. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve renaming the road Richard Rutz Lane. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Randy Novak, President County Council, spoke on 2 issues: Suggested overlapping the Highway Department’s work schedule from Monday-Thursday 10 hour days to Monday-Thursday for some and then Tuesday-Friday for others. That way the department is open Monday through Friday. Randy requested as Chairman of the Redevelopment Commission and Chairman of the Fire Chief’s Association he would like to have City of La Porte’s Department of Waterworks Tim Werner’s letter read in to the record. Randy stated he is 110% for the development on Highway 39 which is a proposed 47-unit townhome north of Briar Leaf Golf Course but the access to water needs to be addressed.

Tony Rodriguez, Office of Community and Economic Development, introduced Mark O’Neill with Greenstreet, Ltd. who gave a presentation on La Porte County countywide housing market analysis summary and report. **Mark** said the study began in December with the support of the county and Unity Foundation. Guided by Tony Rodriguez and Maggie Sparks and stakeholders from Michigan City, La Porte and Realtors. Five major tasks were identified for a schedule: Project Start; Housing Supply Baseline; Housing demand, Gap and Socioeconomic/Racial Impacts Stakeholders; Opportunities for Growth and Summary/Action Agenda. What does the next ten years hold for La Porte County?

Tim Stabosz, Auditor, reported the property Tax Sale was completed roughly 2 weeks ago which means that monies the Treasurer’s office received the funds were distributed to all of the different tax entities. He thanked his Chief Deputy Vaughn Galloway and Brandy Mason in his office for the work they did to accomplish the task. July 8th is the deadline for forms 144s and Budgets to be turned in to his office. Budget Hearings will be July 27-28, 2021. Tim cleared up the

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record that his invitation to the Executive Session would only be as his capacity of Auditor and not be allowed to give any input.

Requests

Considered permission to close Voter Registration office during the week of the fair - Gail Cains and Christen Zabel, Co-Directors. **Christen** stated the hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Attorney Friedman** reported the mobile voting van might be available during the week of the fair. The County Election Board members, Nelson Pichardo, Chuck Watterson and Clerk Heather Stevens have been working hard to complete the process for the van to be at the fair and festivals this year. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered permission to approach the Council to seek bids for vehicle replacement. **Larry Levendowski**, Director of Facilities, said 2 trucks, a mini-van and a car have been taken out of service from his department and he would like to replace them with 2 trucks and an SUV. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.** Discussion was then held for the roof on the Museum. Larry stated repairs have been needed for a while now and patching will not be enough, there are skylights and a bannister across the front that needs repaired. Lowest estimate came in at \$148,700. The Museum may have a certain amount of funds that would go towards the new roof. Larry reported that the Council knows about both the need for replacement vehicles and a new roof at the Museum. **President Mrozinski** said displays are getting wet from the leaks in the roof and the Museum offer for contributing funds will be for a new roof and not patching repairs. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered permission to approach the Council to spend funds for sinks at Community Corrections that have been damaged or have come loose by participants standing on them. **Director Rochelle Brown** said 12 sinks will cost \$36,000 and will come from the Building Fund. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.** **Considered** permission to approach the Council to spend funds for security system. Rochelle said the Advisory Board has approved her request to approach both Commissioners and Council for updating the system with a cost of \$109,500. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered permission for **Coroner Lynn Swanson** to approach the Council to spend non-reverting funds for training in the amount of \$1175. Five Deputies will attend the Phil Chalmers Training at the fairgrounds August 13, 2021 and will cost \$625 then Lynn requested permission to have 2 Deputies attend LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) training at Ball State University July 27-28, 2021 and the cost for that is \$550. Lynn stated the suicide rate in our county has doubled from this same time last year. Seventeen families have lost loved ones to suicides so far this year and she feels her Deputies will benefit from this training. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered Community Crossings commitment letters - Mitch Bishop, Planner. **President Mrozinski** said he spoke to Mitch Bishop and projects are already lined up for next year for paving. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Old Business

Considered 2nd/final reading on Ordinance to vacate undeveloped roadway on E. Belmont Drive in New Carlisle - Andrew Voeltz, Attorney. **President Mrozinski** received an email from Plan Commission Attorney Doug Biege on June 29th stating there was a change in the Indiana Code which no longer necessitates the County Commissioners approving the vacation of a plat that includes a vacation for a roadway. Indiana Code now renders the Plan Commission's decision in the vacation of a plat or roadway as final. He asked Commissioner Haney if he knew anything about the change in the Indiana Code due to his seat on the Plan Commission. **Commissioner Haney** said it was not mentioned at the last Plan Commission meeting. He asked if there was an I.C. code referenced. **President Mrozinski** replied I.C. 36-7-3-10 is referenced on the paperwork. **Commissioner Matias** suggested 'tabling' this item until our next meeting so more information can be gathered. **Commissioner Haney** said there are a few vacates on the agenda so perhaps either act on them now for approval or just table them. **Attorney Friedman** said it could be continued until more information is gathered. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to 'hold over' the 3 vacates on the agenda until our next meeting. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to Table each one individually. **Commissioner Matias motioned to Table vacate on E. Belmont Drive in New Carlisle. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

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Considered 2nd/final reading on Ordinance to vacate undeveloped roadway on E. Saugana Trail/E. Miami Trail in Rolling Prairie - Andrew Voeltz, Attorney. **Commissioner Matias motioned to Table. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

New Business

Considered 1st reading on Ordinance for proposed 47-unit townhome development north of Briar Leaf Golf Course – Chris Willoughby, Attorney. Chris stated the PUD Ordinance is part of the required process. Commissioner Haney asked for additional documents to be provided which a letter was submitted by the City of La Porte’s water department. Chris said the last sentence in the letter is that the City cannot guarantee there will be sufficient water flow to suppress a fire if one occurs at the townhome complex. There is however sufficient water supply for regular and customary use for the townhouse plan. **President Mrozinski** asked Attorney Shaw Friedman if he reviewed the Ordinance. **Attorney Friedman** replied yes, he did and recommends first reading today. Attorney Friedman received an email from 39 North District’s engineer indicating while Jerry Jackson did notify the board several months ago that the project might be happening to his knowledge no contact has been made by the developer with the 39 North District or VS Engineering in regards to the connection, development fees, capacities or any aspect of the project. Attorney Friedman suggested before the 2nd reading take place that the developer reach out to VS Engineering. **Commissioner Haney** said when this came before the Plan Commission there was representation made that an ‘approval letter’ existed from the City of La Porte and he was assuming the letter the Commissioners had in their packet today was the same letter. Attorney Willoughby said yes, this is the letter Commissioner Haney requested a few days ago. Joe said although it is not an actual denial letter he stated it is not an approval letter either. The letter refers more to the agreement between 39 North Conservancy District and the City’s maximum flow of 1,500 gallons per minute. Basically a statement of fact. **Attorney Willoughby** apologized on behalf of his Client and said they are committed to full disclosure. **Attorney Friedman** said there are a few options: Approve on first reading or send back to the Plan Commission for additional fact findings. **Commissioner Sheila Matias** read into the record a few lines from the letter. “By choosing to build the 12-inch option without the tank, industrial/commercial levels of fire protection are not available to businesses and residents of 39NCD. Essentially, the water flow available in the 39NCD at any one time is equivalent to the flow from one (1) open fire hydrant. It is understood there will not be a fire suppression system in the townhomes, but there will be fire hydrants provided to the development. Due to the design, as discussed above, there is sufficient water supply for the regular and customary use of your proposed townhome plan. However, the City cannot guarantee there will be sufficient water flow to suppress a fire at your townhome complex.” Commissioner Matias stated 47 units will be built and the county is excited for this development to take place however she understands the concern for fire suppression and fire protection. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve on first reading. Commissioner Matias seconded if only more details will be brought to the next Commissioners’ meeting. Motion carried.**

Considered 1st reading on Ordinance to vacate unimproved roadway E. Poppy Lane in Hudson Township - David Ambers, Attorney. **Commissioner Haney motioned to Table. Commissioner Matias seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered proposal of Attorney Jeffrey Hahn to undertake collection cases for La Porte County Community Corrections per Advisory Board recommendation. **Attorney Friedman** said RFPs were taken and the recommendation from the Advisory Board is Attorney Jeffrey Hahn. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered NIPSCO one-time settlement payment of \$9,213.95 for lighting ballast damage claim on property at 1001 E. US 20. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered job description for proposed EEO Recruitment/Compliance and Investigative Officer along with request to Council to appropriate salary for such newly created position in H.R. Department - Barb Mossman, H.R. Director. **President Mrozinski** reported the Job Evaluation Committee met and went over the job description in great length. **Commissioner Matias** asked Attorney Friedman to explain the State EEO investigative process to the public. She said if an employee has an EEO complaint, what is the due process from the State. **Attorney Shaw Friedman** replied that both state and federal law provide that an employee exhaust internal remedies which means taking the complaint first to a supervisor. If that is not successful or is ineffective then it would go to the HR department. The Whistle Blower function is somewhat separate from the EEO complaints but this is designed to be an individual, an investigator that would be in the HR department which is traditionally where the investigators are at, who would then have the ability to investigate EEO complaints, Whistle Blower complaints, but would also be involved in recruiting from unrepresented communities in

our county. Human Resources has analyzed current data and know the areas that need to be focused on to broaden the diversity of the County. Recruitment, compliance and investigation are features of the job description. Our HR department was compared to other counties and we only have 2 full time employees for approximately 800 employees, 650 full time and 150 part time, to do the interviewing, hiring, insurance, benefits, and posting of the positions so this would be a separate function that would be assigned to this particular individual. Job description was designed with that in mind and hopefully funding will be available. Attorney Friedman said an exhaustion of remedies would then go to the Commissioners and then to the Courts. Wording was revised in the Resolution to keep the identity of the employee confidential but often that may need to be shared with the Supervisor during the investigation. **Commissioner Matias** moved to approve. **Commissioner Haney** said he was encouraged to hear President Mrozinski say we need this position but he also thinks it is very important that we don't muddy the waters between EEOC complaints and Whistle Blower protection. Several months ago he came to the Commissioners with a draft for Whistle Blower Protection for county employees. First couple of months were fairly contentious among the Commissioners as well as in the County. He had his fellow Commissioners say to him 'I never heard such things' or 'such complaints.' 'I'm unaware of these things.' 'That's not happening here.' Commissioner Haney stated he would be purposely vague with his comments due to an Executive Session that was held privately about personnel issues which are internal matters. He would not touch on specifics but his point was what his fellow Commissioners and County Attorney were turning a complete blind eye to the issues and problems in our county and with our county government and of course numerous things that he had said have been proven out to be true over the past couple of months. Several of these issues were discussed in the private meeting. Commissioner Haney said it is not 'high drama' as referred to a few months ago but are proving out to be true. The County is facing significant issues with deficiencies in the process that we have now and this will lead us to possible lawsuits. We have to have a process that our County employees/department heads feel for Whistle Blower protection specifically that is independent of our current HR. This is absolutely crucial and it was gone over during the Executive Session. To sit here at the meeting and pretend that there is not a significant issue when it comes to this sort of transparency with our HR is insane. Joe said he doesn't understand why his fellow Commissioners don't take responsibility for what's happening yet he does understand, he stated President Mrozinski has been on the Commission for 5 years and Commissioner Matias is going on her 3rd year, he understands it may be difficult to say yes, under 'their watch' these things happened, were allowed to happen and continue to happen and nothing was done. Joe said that is not going to be him, he will not sit as a Commissioner only to have new Commissioners come on board and say, 'why didn't you do anything?' He said he is trying to do something by putting protections in place despite the muddy waters and pretend to take an individual who will investigate the issues but will report to or be under HR is absurd and his fellow Commissioners know it. **Attorney Friedman** offered legal advice to Commissioner Haney after his statements. Since January 1st he has told them if they or any elected official have evidence of any kind of wrong doing brought to the Commissioners whether it be misuse of resources, double dipping, theft of resources then they are **duty bound** to go forward with it, not just to a board but to either the Prosecutor, State Police, State Board of Accounts or the F.B.I.'s Public Integrity Unit. Attorney Friedman said without actionable evidence they should not cast general aspersions. He emphasized again that they are **duty bound** to investigate fully any claims reported. **Commissioner Haney** said he appreciated Attorney Friedman's work in other areas with ethics but he does find it curious that when he was appointed County Attorney one of his first actions was to encourage the Commissioners to completely repeal and abolish the Ethics Ordinance Committee in 2013 and to not replace it with anything. Commissioner Haney stated we need something like that in place right now with an independent person who is apolitical, appointed by a board, preferably of the judiciary for our employees to go to and feel secure that they will be protected, their anonymity to any extent possible will be protected and that they can have a legitimate recourse. Joe said EEO complaints escalate then go the State level but he talked about other issues that are terminated 'in house' or are not necessarily on the state or federal level for them to appeal to on some of the things that have been discussed. He said three different issues are here which two can be rolled up in to one. The need for HR to have extra help and the need to expand community outreach. These should be completely separate from the investigative duties. It should be a separate person board which is independent from HR so the employees can feel good about it. We know what has happened with the information or complaints employees have filed with HR. It is completely inappropriate and HR has failed our employees in this regard, we know it and to put an employee underneath, reporting to her (HR) after this is negligent at best. Joe directed his comment to Attorney Friedman and said he (Attorney Friedman) talked about mitigating lawsuits and other issues down the road knowingly putting this position back under HR after what we know now is insane. It is going to open us up to liability. He then stated as for Attorney Friedman's legal advice he has numerous times this year misled him, lied to him and given him false information. **President Mrozinski** said that was enough. **Commissioner Haney** said he had contacted the State Board of Accounts, the Attorney General's office and the Secretary of State's office. The Public Information Officer as well and at least 4 times it was said that our attorney was wrong. Commissioner Haney said he had stacks of emails for President Mrozinski when he requested the

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removal of our county attorney due to his incompetence. **Attorney Friedman** said for 3 months we have all managed to work together. **Commissioner Haney** said he felt the County Attorney has conspired to work against him and the County. He said he has tried to work with everyone on this issue but to have this position put under HR is wrong. **Commissioner Matias** asked for a point of order and said this is not how this Commission conducts itself. **President Mrozinski** said Commissioner Haney admitted himself in the first month he was on the board that sometimes he blacks out and rambles on then Rich stated this is not the platform for this type of talk. **Commissioner Haney** replied he doesn't know what President Mrozinski is talking about. **Auditor Tim Stabosz** commented that sounded like a defamatory statement. **President Mrozinski asked for a second. Commissioner Haney said he would not so President Mrozinski stepped down and seconded as Commissioner. Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

Considered Resolution recognizing July 8th as World Civility Day. Commissioner Matias read the Resolution in to the record. She said civility is extremely important in government and she reflected on her days on the Michigan City City Council Board, how fellow Councilmembers would fight tooth and nail but always with respect then at the end of the meetings would go have a beer together. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried. ***Resolution 2021-11**

Considered letter agreement with SEH requested by Auditor Stabosz regarding budget prep/assistance. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Considered authorization to cast vote in support of Purdue Pharma bankruptcy settlement in Opioid case recommended by plaintiff's attorneys. **Attorney Friedman** briefed the Commission that Attorney Doug Biege, on behalf of the County, would like to cast a vote in support of a settlement. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Comments

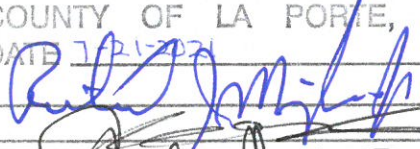

Commissioner Haney said it has been a busy 3 weeks since our last meeting. He attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at NorthPoint in Westville. A meeting took place with Homeland Security in which he attended at Valparaiso University. Joe visited several county offices including the Highway Department, Building Commission, Courts and the Vaccine Clinic. He saw several great parades in Michigan City and La Porte. Covid cases are down to about 1 per day. He reported the sirens are being tested so they can be in working order throughout the County. Please visit the County Fair next week. FMEC is working hard to use the fairgrounds year round with concerts and other events. As for World Civility Day, there may be differences of opinions or disagreements when it comes to certain projects or issues that the county may face but when it comes to issues that deal with our county employees or citizens in the county, dealing with their day to day lives or jobs, he does get upset and tries to keep it as civil as possible. He stated he has tried to put the issues to a third party that is appointed independently so politics can truly be removed from it and have that separate entity deal with the complaints or issues so the Commissioners can be 'washed' of that responsibility to the point that they can truly be independent for the employees. Standing up for people who either can't stand up for themselves or who fear losing their job, their benefits, is not something he takes lightly. He does get riled up about it and he will not apologize. He is absolutely livid by what has been allowed to happen in the County. Commitment isn't just talking, it's an act. Not standing up for yourself makes you a victim but not standing up for others makes you an accomplice. Sophie Scholl said that you have to stand up for what you believe in even if you're standing alone. It is vile and reprehensible to turn a blind eye to what's been happening in the County. It's not right and if you want to call that 'uncivil behavior' and what's happened to our employees is what's been uncivil. His calling this out is not uncivil, he is just putting it out on the table to let people know of what's going on, so it's not swept under the rug and we need to stop pretending that issues that exist actually do exist.

Commissioner Matias said for Sheriff Boyd to bring World Civility Day to us today was time well spent. Thinking about and discussing civility, and talking about the culture of our County. Long before Commissioner Haney came on the Board this County has run pretty darn well. Barb Huston was a Commissioner and under her watch the County ran well. There have been problems in this County just like any other organization that is 850 people and multiple responsibilities, some of them are life and death responsibilities, E-911, Sheriff's Department, Probation, Community Corrections. Those are all life and death operations that really effect every child, woman, elder, veteran in our County. To not think that all of this has been going on and then now it's vile and reprehensible, she just don't buy it. Sheila said she has been in government since she was 26 years old and has seen both not good things and exceptional things but what she does know is that all 850 employees that work for the County know the Commissioners will talk to them. If there is something so

vile and reprehensible in the last 2 and a half years, with all of her management experience and experience of the sitting Commissioners, she has not heard a lot about it. Yes, there may be operational problems especially among 850 employees and that is why Human Resources is needed to help work through issues that may arise in work environments. The County has many employees who have dedicated their lives to public service and do it every day with respect, integrity, hard work and a sense of humor which is needed right now. HR does need more work force to handle the numbers of employees and Barb does a good job, coming to work every day and doing her best. Every complex organization has problems. Commissioner Matias stated she is proud to be a La Porte County resident and proud to work for the County. We have an amazing team and if there are problems let's work together to solve them.

Commissioner Mrozinski stated before he entered politics he worked for Nipsco where he retired after 37 ½ years and 30 of those years he was a representative for the United Steel Workers and represented 3,000 union members. He worked for the people. He was elected twice to the County Council as a Democrat then elected twice for County Commissioner as a Republican. He is beholden to the 75 % of voters that voted for him. For the past 6 months a brand new Commissioner and brand new Auditor who have no prior experience in County government and both want to be important but don't know how to go about it the right way. They don't know what they don't know then to sit on the Board and take shots at HR, the County Attorney, fellow Commissioners and even our secretary a few months ago. It is not acceptable. **Commissioner Haney** said the secretary was just doing her job. **Commissioner Mrozinski** said we need to be civil and we need to start today. Stay in your lane. Learn the job first and personal attacks should be done outside, not in a Commissioners' meeting. There is no place for it in County government and business needs to be conducted. We are the 2nd largest County in the State and we take it seriously. We are beholden to the people of La Porte County.

President Mrozinski adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 7/21/2021


ATTEST: _____ Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, probation is an essential part of the justice system; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals uphold the law with dignity, while recognizing the right of the public to be safe-guarded from criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals are responsible for supervising offenders in the community; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals are trained professionals who provide services and referrals for offenders; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals work in partnership with community agencies and groups; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals promote prevention, intervention and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals provide services, support, and protection for victims; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals advocate community and restorative justice; and

WHEREAS, probation professionals are a true Force for Positive Change in their communities;

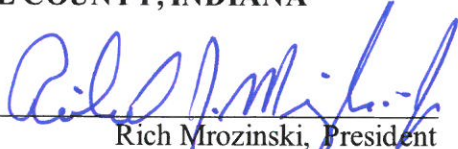
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim July 18-24, 2021 as:

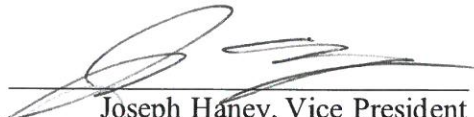
Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week

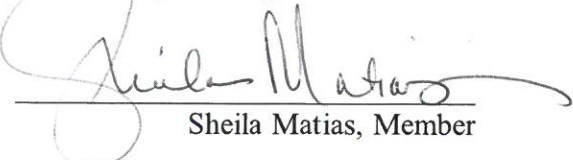
and encourage all citizens to honor these probation professionals and to recognize their achievements.

All of which is resolved this 7th day of July 2021

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rich Mrozinski, President


Joseph Haney, Vice President


Sheila Matias, Member

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