



**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, August 4, 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 Sheriff's Chief Deputy Ron Heeg.

**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 approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

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

**Auditor Tim Stabosz** read the Claims with Payroll ending 7/30/2021 - \$1,188,950.65 and Operating Expense Claims - \$3,218,028.61. **Auditor Stabosz** reported a payment to Tonn & Blank for the Michigan City Courthouse project and Reith-Riley for paving is included in this larger amount of Claims. **Commissioner Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried.**

**Prior** to Public Comment President Rich Mrozinski reminded everyone of the Commission's adopted policy, specifically 'No person may present orally or discuss at any meeting of the Board any charges or complaints against individual employees of the county, department heads, professional advisors or elected officials without first presenting such charges or complaints to the Board, through the Presiding Officer, in writing, signed and verified by the group or person making the charge or complaint. Remarks by any persons addressing the Board which reflect adversely upon the character and motives of any other person or group are out of order. Also, attacks in the form of inferences, insinuations and innuendoes against the character or motives of any person are out of order.'

**Public Comment**

**Rodney McCormick**, 617 Union Street, Michigan City, "I come before you guys as a Commissioner on the Oversight Committee of Michigan City. It's myself, Stasi Benning, Pastor Briggs, Alan Briggs, Pastor Carnes, and Mr. Briggs and Brett Kelly. I just want to say under no circumstances have we collaborated with or anything that the Ministerial Alliance is doing. Mr. Ashley or Mr. Scully. We just stand on our own two feet. I supported Mr. Haney, I supported - they supported Dr. Kora. So, I just want to present that evidence and we, we just basically - I voted for Mr. Carnes for Mayor, he - they voted for Mr. Parry and I just want to close that down with that and thank you for giving me the time to speak and thank you for having this at the beginning of

**ORIGINAL**



your meetings, something Michigan City should adopt. Also, I listened to what you (directed to President Mrozinski) just said and I feel like it's an infringement - I **know** it's an infringement on our political speech. We have the right to stand here and publically criticize officials. We don't have the right to be public, I mean be personal, bring up personal individual things about other individuals, that's wrong, that's crossing the line. I agree with you (President Mrozinski) 100% on that but the display I seen at the last, at the County Council meeting was shameful." **President Mrozinski** agreed. **Rodney** continued, "I don't understand when I speak, I hear Mr. Haney speak, I hear Mr. Stabosz speak, I hear all of you guys (the Commission), Ms. Matias, I hear you speak, it's never personal. We talk about the individual's job performance. All of a sudden I hear an individual who's appointed by this Council, by this Board as the County Attorney speak about somebody, it was wrong. You are holding me to a standard that you're not holding yourself to, you're not even holding that person who did what he did to that standard, sir and it hurts and I'm not, I'm not here...I'm just saying it hurts. We are hurt in the Public seeing this and I'm not a person who passed the bar but I do know a little bit about the law. I know when it's - you cross the line when you...let me say it like this, forgive me. Attorney/Client privilege is sacred, we should never cross that line. What I've done, being called a drug dealer and all that stuff and the Indiana Supreme Court overturnin' my case, for somebody that's part of the County to rehash that and then turn around, that same individual turn around and then bring up his representation of Earl Cunningham, it was wrong so I'm glad that you addressed that. Please hold yourself and everybody in here today to that same standard at all times." **President Mrozinski** reminded him that took place at a County Council meeting which he does not preside over. He thanked Rodney for pointing it out and for his support. **Rodney**, "I just hope we do something better." He addressed Commissioner Haney hoping someone would make a motion. "All of our actions, there has to be consequences. If I do something to somebody, I go to jail. I don't do something to somebody, I go to jail so there needs to be consequences and what I'm recommending right now today is that Mr. Haney, put a motion out even if you're not going to win it but put it out there that because of the conduct of the County Attorney he should be suspended for 30 days. Thank you."

**Randy Veatch**, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, said, "Once again, I read the listed agenda items, I did not notice any mention on the task about the overweight signs in the neighborhood. As of today, the signs have not been reinstalled. These are items that are owned by the county citizens. They were illegally removed from our neighborhood on the orders of a department head or a commissioner from my understanding and the paperwork that I have. If they are now missing, they have been stolen. Talking about more signs for all roadways around the county does not diminish what has happened in our area. I believe that I do not need a lawyer to determine this. I believe I need an investigator to discover the truth. Again, I am asking the sitting commissioners when we can expect personnel to be assigned to do internal investigations about the signs being ordered to be removed or if they are now stolen, I would want to know why the Sheriff has not been asked to investigate this. About 1 month ago I was before you and I made several statements about other less than permitted items happening in my neighborhood. The information I used to address this came from my local government. It was provided to me by department heads or appointed personal. I didn't use speculation, I didn't assume. I read items off the county provided paperwork. I even offered to show you copies of this paperwork. I addressed 3 department officials by name and 1 attorney. I believe all 3 department officials were doing a serious mis-justice to the offices they hold, all four people were giving very poor legal advice. I also would expect this to be within an internal audit or investigation as well. I do not think any of us wants a friend's party being operated within our elected personal. But this is what appears to be happening. Our county has an extremely well written Joint Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance is written in a format that is extremely easy to navigate. We cannot have individual entities casting the wish and dreams of business owners over the rights of individual property owners. I would hope we could have a solution to this 6-year dilemma within the next few meetings. I do not expect anyone to discuss a financial burden to me or my neighbors to do this. The codes are quite clear on all these matters and only require investigating. Courts and Lawyers are for trying the case. I would hope to not see this going through another election cycle. It's made it through by 2 of them. Thank you."

**President Mrozinski** thanked him for his comments and said an investigation is taking place with the Highway Department and Sheriff's office about the signs. Rich also said signs would not be exclusive to the roads Randy



is talking about but to all county roads. **Randy** said signs were ordered on his road then 'illegally removed' or 'ordered to be removed by a department head' which is then running a 'friend's party' in the County. He then asked, 'where are the signs from his neighborhood, have they been stolen? It started as a white collar crime.' **President Mrozinski** said it will be looked at for an answer. **Commissioner Matias** asked Commissioner Haney if he had anything to report as the Liaison to the Highway Department. **Commissioner Haney** replied the current Superintendent stated the signs were removed when ordered by a Commissioner, which one though is not known. **Commissioner Matias** said it is not necessary to track down who gave the order but when and if signs will be put back up. **Randy Veatch** approached the podium and stated 22 signs were missing from his neighborhood. The signs belong to the citizens. He is not asking for new signs, where are the original signs that were up then ordered to take down? Were they stolen? Has the Sheriff been asked to investigate? Stolen property of thousands of dollars. **President Mrozinski** said a report will be given at the next meeting. **Randy** then asked who were the 3 sitting Commissioners at the time they were removed? **President Mrozinski** said this is not questions and answers. The Commissioners were talking amongst themselves about the signs. He thanked Randy for his comments.

**Tim Greetham**, Saugany Lake, spoke on the expansion of the sewers in his area. He built a house 3 years ago and heard there could possibly be an exemption for him to get for the septic. **President Mrozinski** instructed Tim to attend the Regional Sewer and Water Board District meeting for information. **Tim** asked if water was included with the sewer. He stated when he built his house he had to have a new well and septic put in and if this was the case that it was known all along then he should have been notified or told then that sewer and water was going to be put in his area. The next Regional Sewer & Water Board meeting was confirmed for August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. He also said if damage is done to the roads then repairs will be needed just like in Rolling Praire. **Tim** stated when the ground was tore up in Rolling Prairie it brought out rats and he doesn't want to see that in his area, especially to the wildlife. **President Mrozinski** said the rats were there and it had nothing to do with the sewer and water being installed. **Tim** said it stirred the nests and brought them out.

**Earl Cunningham**, "Last week Mr. Mrozinski was on the local radio station saying that Mr. Cunningham should get his facts straight before he runs his mouth. So, I'm going to try to give you some facts. These are the facts as I know them and they have been shared with me and some I can give you flat out paperwork so let's start with fact #1, on 6-2-21, President Mrozinski signed contracts to clean 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Brown Mackie with L & K Cleaning even though Club Clean's proposal was 43.8% lower. Mr. Mrozinski stepped down to second the motion and voted in favor knowing that his own daughter was either a part owner or owner, depending on her own statements, and I have both her statements and the contracts. Your attorney did not advise you during that meeting to at least be transparent, I don't think it's illegal to have a contract with your daughter but I think you certainly owe the tax payers the courtesy of being transparent about it. Fact #2, the County hired your grandson on 12-7-20, although in fairness he did leave county employment less than a month ago. The County hired your nephew on 1-20-21 and he is still here as of yesterday. Fact #3, this is a pattern for you, as in 2017, you hired your own campaign manager and a large financial contributor, as a department head. Shortly thereafter he hired your daughter as office manager in that department. In fairness, she did depart within a year, within the first year of the new department head's tenure. And since you served on the County Council for 8 years, I should not have to explain the difference between the Council and the Commission because the Council only hires 1 person and that's their attorney. You (Commissioners) guys have the authority to hire department heads and to 'fire' department heads as far as that goes, that's the power of your influence. Commissioners Matias and Haney have both personally assured me they have no relatives working for any department heads and I find no evidence to the contrary. However, if you find any of **my** relatives working for the County, please introduce me to them because I am totally unaware and as a Councilmember I have no control over their employment in the first place. Another fact, you had the option, Mr. Mrozinski, of appointing former State Senator Jim Arnold who had served on the Indiana State tourism committee to our local tourism board after being asked by Mr. Arnett to fill that seat, instead you appointed your own daughter. In closing, Mr. Friedman recently quoted me from 2014 about him being a 'good attorney' or 'great attorney' when the emphasis of that



comment was on that he was an even better politician and I stand by that statement, I'm - he's a far better politician in my opinion. Two years later in 2016, it was Mr. Mrozinski who opined in a written statement, 'I submit that La Porte County will be **much** better - and that emphasis was from Mr. Mrozinski - much better off when Mr. Friedman is gone.' You (directed to President Mrozinski) were still selling that same position last fall. Just to be clear, if Mr. Friedman is somehow under some allusion that he will ever represent me personally again, he won't. You're (to Attorney Friedman) fired. Thank you." **President Mrozinski** responded with facts that the L & K Cleaning contract was vetted by the Building Maintenance Department and voted on by the Commissioners. He said it will save the County money to which Earl approached the podium and asked how it would save money if it is 43.8% higher than the other bid. **President Mrozinski** said it was Building Maintenance that vetted L & K Cleaning, not him. It was voted on and the contract signed. He questioned Councilman Cunningham about his son's live-in girlfriend working in the Auditor's office to which Earl replied his son is not related to her.

### **Department Reports/Department Head Comments**

**Barb Huston**, E-911 Director, spoke on the policy handbook for employees, particularly page 44, item B, longevity increases. 'In recognition of seniority to the County, the County allows longevity 2% increases to employees every 3 years, up to 27 years of service.' She reported we have employees who have been with the County 40, 42, 45 and 46 years. She suggested this should be increased to 42 years or an additional 5 steps. Barb requested the Commissioners review this page and requested permission to approach the Council/Job Evaluation Committee Workshop on August 11<sup>th</sup>. **Attorney Friedman** stated Waggoner, Irwin and Sheele is no longer contracted with the County but Cender & Company or Baker Tilly might be able to help if needed. **Commissioner Matias** suggested HR be brought in on this request. **Commissioner Matias motioned to add this to the Joint Workshop on August 11<sup>th</sup> for the Council to review as the financial body. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried to approach the Council for change in this policy.**

**Darlene Hale**, IT Director, commented on one of her employees that when she hired him she was not aware of who he was related to among the county employees. The employee's dad was her English teacher and that's all she knew about him. He is currently an intern in her department while he is home from college and will soon be returning to school.

**Tim Stabosz**, Auditor, reported on correspondence he had with the State Board of Accounts on the so-called 1.5 million dollars no-bid contract for the Michigan City bridge repairs. "As you know I told the County Council at their last meeting that because of concerns whether statutes were being properly followed, I was going to independently go to the State Board of Accounts and ask them if doing it under the so-called special purchase statute recommended by Attorney Friedman was - pass muster as the paying agent of the County I wanted to make sure if I'm paying bills for them so that they're not going to say - slap me and say 'you shouldn't have paid these bills' so we received a, my concerns, well, we received an initial report from the State Board of Accounts and it is preliminary that this special purchase statute does not apply to public works projects. Attorney Friedman has written a admittedly rather compelling brief for his case which he submitted to the State Board of Accounts saying that the statute should apply and I guess the argument was that this is not really a public works projects because of the specialized nature of it, we'll see what the SBOA says to that. I do have concerns about two things that I wanted to report to you and ask for consideration on which is that the Council passed the 1.5 million dollars without knowing your exact intentions. In a letter from the attorney went out on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the email, which is only days after the Council meeting saying 'oh, we're going to use this special - propose using a special purchase statute.' I would respectfully argue to you for the future that the Council know before hand and not get kind of blindsided that 'oh, we're going to use a special purchase statute' that they ideally would have known at their meeting would be one concern I have and the precedent that sets. I do have concerns and I'm going to couch this so I'm not personally attacking anyone but I would appeal to you to understand that when there are relationships in La Porte County amongst members of the Commission and/or



family members and who do work for the contractor and that there is concerns about...we have to be concerned whether - even if there isn't impropriate, we always have to be concerned about appearance of impropriate with the public and the contractor here has roots like deep in the county but you know, when the contractor has built a garage for a public official even though they're not in the garage building business and the contractor has a contract with a public official's daughter, you know we need to be concerned that this passes muster and looks good with the public so that we don't have dispersions cast on us so those are my two concerns and thank you." **President Mrozinski** stated Auditor Stabosz should have been concerned when he missed the bond payment a few weeks ago or missing the deadline with the State yesterday. **Auditor Stabosz** replied that sounded like a personal attack.

**Earl Cunningham**, Councilman, said Attorney Friedman was recognized at a Council meeting as a department head. He asked if Attorney Friedman is a department head now. Earl pointed out to the Commissioners that their rule on personal attacks should be a two-way street. **President Mrozinski** asked Earl if he is just supposed to sit there and not defend himself. **Earl** said Rich has a right to comment back but not attack personally. **Rich** said everything Earl spoke about was directed at him. **Earl** said he spoke on Rich's daughter, son or grandson or his nephew. **Rich** said he did not hire them. **Earl** pointed out that Rich can hire or fire the Department Head that did hire them. He then told Rich he is one of 2 votes that could hire and fire the IT Director or the Director of Facilities. **President Mrozinski** jokingly said the Commission cannot fire Councilmen to which Earl said although it was funny he felt that it was a personal attack.

### Requests

**Considered** permission to travel to Chicago to attend the IAAO - Mike Schultz, Assessor. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Considered** permission to approach the council for an additional appropriation for maintenance contracts - Andrew McGuire, EMS Director. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Considered** permission to pay 60 sick days to Mike Hasselfeldt who is retiring after 24 years - Andrew McGuire, EMS Director. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Considered** permission to approach the Council for EMPG grant application - Larry Butcher, EMA Director. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.**

### Old Business

**Considered** 2<sup>nd</sup>/final reading on Ordinance for proposed 47-unit townhome development north of Briar Leaf Golf Course - Chris Willoughby, Attorney. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to remove from the table. **Commissioner Matias** seconded. **Motion carried.** **Attorney Friedman** stated a request came in from Attorney Chris Willoughby to extend this request a month which would be until our next meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. **Commissioner Matias** moved to re-table this item. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried. Tabled.**

**Considered** 1<sup>st</sup> reading on Ordinance to vacate unimproved roadway E. Poppy Lane in Hudson Township - David Ambers, Attorney (Tabled at last meeting). **Commissioner Matias** moved to remove from the table. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.** **Attorney David Ambers** was present and said the state statute for this approval process has recently changed but because the county's zoning ordinance has not been brought in line with the State statute we still have to go through the process of final approval with the



Commissioners. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to pass on 1<sup>st</sup> reading. **Commissioner Matias** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

### New Business

**Considered** expanding scope of services from Cender & Company on ARP issues beyond “lost revenue” to other ARP issues as needed. **Attorney Friedman** said various Commissioners, Councilmen and other elected officials have posed questions to Mr. Cender on issues outside of lost revenues and in order to respond his scope of services would need to be expanded beyond the agreement in May. **Councilman Earl Cunningham** came to the podium, “Before you do this, remember the Council approved \$5,000 for Mr. Cender to come up with lost revenue, period so if we’re going to expand the scope and you’re going to expect any money, you better get that approved by the Council because I think the Council’s persuasion at Monday night’s meeting was if Mr. Cender wouldn’t answer it then get the information from Baker Tilly so I think you need to tread cautiously on that item, thank you.” **President Mrozinski** thanked him for his legal advice. **Earl** asked President Mrozinski if he was charging him with practicing law. **Rich** said it sounded like it. **Earl** said it was not legal advice but reference to what the Council said at the meeting Monday night. **Commissioner Matias** asked for legal guidance from Attorney Friedman as to whether or not the expansion of scope of services could be paid out of the Commissioners’ budget from Professional Services account. **Attorney Friedman** replied yes, it could be paid from the Commissioners. ‘There was some discussion about tapping Baker Tilly but I don’t think there was a vote taken.’ **President Mrozinski** said there was not. **Auditor Stabosz** wanted to comment but **Commissioner Matias** asked Attorney Friedman to finish his statement. **Attorney Friedman** stated yes, it could be paid from Professional Services. It is not designed to be confrontational with the Council, it is designed to provide professional services so that the Commissioners, Council - each of whom have various issues on ARP, have somewhere to go with their questions. **Commissioner Matias** said when Mr. Cender was at a prior meeting he stated his arrangement with ARP would be billed at his regular rate. **Attorney Friedman** replied ARP services from Mr. Cender, Baker Tilly or anyone else is reimbursable with the ARP funds and the professional services account won’t have to be used. **Auditor Stabosz** said they will still have to be appropriated to which **Attorney Friedman** agreed, saying correct, any ARP funds still have to be appropriated and approved by the Council. **Commissioner Matias** asked Tim for his comments. **Auditor Stabosz**, “We ultimately don’t know, I mean, that’s a pool of money that you have and whether you have enough or not, you’re elected to use it by approving an expanding a contract you’re eventually going to have to go to the Council and say we need more money for our professional services and obviously it’s up to them, what they say politically, it’s not my business so I would just keep that in mind.” Tim said the minutes from the lengthy over 3 hour Council meeting were still being compiled and once completed he will check for a couple of motions made with conditions possibly for Baker Tilly to be involved. He suggested members of both the Commission and Council get together to iron out ‘who is doing what’ with the ARP funds. **Commissioner Matias** said Karl Cender has been the Commission’s financial advisor for probably a decade so he would seem like the natural fit for this work. **Commissioner Haney** stated he was at the 3 hour plus Council meeting and he recalls in one of the discussions Councilman Rosenbaum specifically pointing out some various issues with more of the accounting numbers based approach then general business of Cender as opposed to for example Baker Tilly. Joe said the Council was waiting on responses from Baker Tilly and the other service. From memory he thought Cender’s paperwork had a maximum of about \$35,000 in charges and were waiting for estimates of maximum amount from the other two services and how it compares to Karl Cender’s. **He suggested maybe this should be tabled until more information is gathered from the Council then motioned to table this item. No second was heard so motion died.** **President Mrozinski** stated Karl Cender is already the Commission’s financial advisor and we are not asking the Council for any appropriations. **Commissioner Matias** motioned to expand the scope of services for Karl Cender. **President Mrozinski** stepped down and seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

ORIGINAL



## Commissioner Comments

**Commissioner Haney** said it had been a busy 2 weeks. Vaccine Clinic is still open. Keeping an eye on the numbers of positive cases in our County. Hospitalizations are extremely low with Covid related issues. A quarterly Board of Health meeting took place which he attended. Also the Budget Hearings with the Council. Boat races this past weekend. A lot happening in our County Parks. Pioneer Days will take place at Creek Ridge Park September 25-26, 2021. Great activities to take part in - wagon rides, food, and crafts. Meetings were also held at the fairgrounds to improve infrastructure. He said there had been some consternation over the past week. Commissioner Haney said he responded publically to false claims and allegations made against him. About 8 different bullet points were asked on one question that he responded to and he appreciated the outpouring of support from the community, from friends, family and colleagues as well. He didn't want to get into some of the ludicrous claims that were made but he had messages come in from colleagues, physicians, physician's assistants, nurses and other clinicians that he worked with over the years and he wanted to share one from a lady he hasn't had contact with in a few years. Read the message into the minutes.

'Joe,

I wanted to check in and see how you're doing? I am not sure what you're up to these days, however, I did hear about a slanderous county council meeting that took place recently. I know that you are very dedicated to your work these days. I know you are fully committed to anything you set your mind to. Which reminds me of the days we worked together at Advocate Christ Hospital. Joe, you were very much an integral part of our success in the operating room, with saving lives. We were saving lives on the south side of Chicago back when there were 60+ shootings in Chicago, every single weekend. In those days I was working 80 hours per week due to the high volume of traumas. I swear it seemed that you worked just as much, if not more. Seeing the carnage and saving as many lives as we possibly could truly takes a toll. I am glad you moved further away from the combat zone and are able to move your family away from all of this senselessness. But I am so proud of what you represent and your plight. I honestly had to reach out since I heard someone being so blatantly slanderous. Does he even realize how ignorant he sounds? "Door to door plasma salesman?" You have got to be kidding me. Frankly, I am insulted since he clearly has no respect for what we do as clinicians. Joe, you have touched and saved more lives than you realize and I don't want that to go unrecognized. I hope you continue to stand strong and know you'll always be a hero to the Christ crew. Keep in touch and stay safe.'

The author of this message has since moved on to the Director of Nursing. Commissioner Haney said, "That was an extremely touching letter to me and I've received other messages of support from various folks I've worked through, worked with over the years. You know, hearing something like this and attempting to trivialize you know, what was basically my life's work. I've lived in the private sector or been in the private sector obviously but as far as working as a consul - doing consulting and other representative matters. It's painful to hear things like that, it's disturbing, especially the aspersions that cast on the field in general to what I did in the surgical suites for quite a while, it's disturbing and that makes me sad. I think that's probably one of the best ways to end this today is that regardless of what I encounter up here as I'm trying to do the work as I see fit and in trying best to serve the people of La Porte County and the employees of this county. No matter what happens, I'm not going to be intimidated, I won't be silenced and I'm not going to back down and I'm not going to stop fighting for the people of La Porte County. Thank you."

**Commissioner Matias** commended the people at the fair, both the Fair Board and FMEC as well as the many, many vendors that contributed to without cost, their labor, their team's labor and some contributed materials as well to make the fairgrounds look terrific. It was great to see life return to the fairgrounds. Thanks to the Facilities and Highway departments who stepped up as well. Last weekend City of La Porte, Mayor Dermody and his team deserves a big kudos for the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Lakefest event. It was great. She reminded all of the Grand Prix boat races this weekend in Michigan City that is organized and promoted by the Convention & Visitors Bureau and Jack Arnett. This is an event that brings a lot of focus to the county and the great services we have to offer. Sheila said as she listened to IT Director Darlene Hale talk about internships she thought it was an opportunity for youth employment in our county employment.

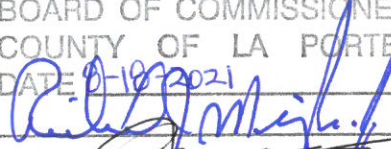
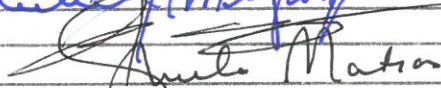
ORIGINAL

If each department took one youth and gave them a 2 month internship it would give them work experience to put on their resume. "I would challenge us to turn some of the negativity into positivity. Nothing is better than our kids and how can we figure out ways to work with our school system and make sure that we get some kids who may not be the ones who always volunteer for everything and sign up." She challenged all departments to maybe come up with a program for next summer for young people to have an internship opportunity in county government.

**Commissioner Mrozinski** reported on the Broadband program with Commissioner Matias and Tony Rodriguez and stressed how important it is to the county. When kids could not go to school during Covid and may not have had access to internet at their home is a perfect example for the need of Broadband throughout our county. He said Office of Community and Economic Development is working on several projects that will be positive for the county. We have a great team working and he thanked them.

**President Mrozinski adjourned at 10:59 a.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE: 8-18-2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL