



# LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**Sheila Matias**  
President

**Richard Mrozinski**  
Vice President

**Joseph Haney**  
Member

## La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom

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

**Chief Deputy Auditor Vaughn Galloway** called the roll: Commissioner Sheila Matias - Present; Commissioner Rich Mrozinski - Present; Commissioner Joe Haney - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

**Considered the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve by adding two items;** under 11a, pursue purchase of rear parcel to the Michigan City EMS Base on Wabash Street and 11 h, add reinstating position of Director of Facilities to list of positions from policy-making annual appointments to prior classified job status. **Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered approval of March 16, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Chief Deputy Auditor Vaughn Galloway** read the Claims with Payroll ending 3/25/2022 - \$1,254,825.13 and Operating Expense Claims - \$1,418,686.55. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**President Matias**, due to Meadowview Estates/Nowak being on the agenda, she asked that comments for that subject be held until the time on the agenda. Please remember the code of conduct, be respectful, civil and try keeping it to 3 minutes.

### Public Comment

**Jackie Dermody**, Family Advocates, thanked the County for support with Family Advocates and their programs. Thanked Attorney Friedman who sits on the Board. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Family Advocates would like to 'paint the town blue.' On April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the La Porte Public Library, a member of the Prosecutor's office, Police Department, Family Advocates, Dunebrook, and HealthLinc will be available to share resources from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and answer questions. April 28<sup>th</sup> they will be in Michigan City at the public library from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Blue ribbons and a big bow were given to the Commissioners. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

**Randy Veatch**, 4177 W. Schultz Road, six years and nine months ago he was introduced to the 'inner-workings' of La Porte County and it was in the form of deception, the falsehood of a man and his dream home. He has been misled, misguided, lied to and has spent many hours and dollars trying to stop the mining operation on land adjacent to his property. He continues to attend the meetings until the business next door to his is stopped. Does not see it on the agenda and wondered what is the current status. **Attorney Friedman** offered a copy of the stop-work order to Mr. Veatch.

### Department Reports/Department Head Comments

**Larry Levendowski**, Director of Facilities, reported on work being done in the Surveyor's office with the counter for security. Prices were collected and one from Larson Danielson was for \$18,985. He requested permission to approach the Council for the funds. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Barb Mossman and Monique Thomas**, Human Resources, announced Barb's resignation with her last day on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Monique will be Interim Director. **Monique** reported a Job Fair will be held April 18-19, 2022. **President Matias** asked if Department Heads would be available for brief interviews. **Monique** replied yes and job postings are currently on our website. Flyers are available.

ORIGINAL



**Connie Gramarossa**, Councilwoman, Emergency Declaration for the fairgrounds' grandstands/bleachers. On February 28<sup>th</sup> there was a council meeting with no mention of this issue to the council members yet 3 days later on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Maintenance Director had an appointment scheduled with ET Paddock Enterprises to examine the bleachers, a report was prepared on March 11<sup>th</sup>. She read from the report, 'Larry, at your request the outdoor grandstands and bleachers at the La Porte County Fairgrounds were surveyed on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the inspection was by visual means and no tests were performed.' The information was given to the council members during the presentation by the Director. She doesn't understand why the project is moving forward, awarding the contract to the same contractor who received the contract less than a year ago to replace planking when the Council approved \$125,000 for improvements to the fairgrounds. Why was the project not inspected prior to the work being done? She was not made aware of the emergency until the night of their meeting. **Randy Novak**, Council President and FMEC President, County owns the land but FMEC is responsible for maintaining the grounds so as they were getting ready for the upcoming fair this year, it was realized that the grandstand and bleachers have never been inspected which could be a liability. In January Homeland Security was contacted but they don't do inspections on bleachers anymore so they recommended a firm. Once the weather improved the company came out to do the inspection then a report was completed, which took a while to get it, then after reviewing the report with our insurance company and Council Attorney, it was determined that no one was allowed to use the grandstands and/or bleachers until repairs were made or those that failed the inspection were removed. FMEC took the initiative to declare an emergency for the repairs. The request was sent to the Council Members for approval. Tickets have already been sold for shows during the fair week and the repairs need to be done. **Guy DiMartino**, Council Attorney, when the issue was looked at and due to Covid, the supply chain plays a factor into repairs, the fair may not be open for this year if the work wasn't done. The contractor was able to meet the bids in time for this year's 176<sup>th</sup> county fair. The fair would have been canceled and possibly put out of business for good. **Connie Gramarossa**, not debating that the work needed to be done but the notice should have come sooner than during the meeting and then expected to vote on it. FMEC and the attorneys staged this for months and not all of the Council members were aware of the condition of the grandstands/bleachers. Elected officials have a responsibility to let the public know when asked especially on a contract over half a million dollars. When they receive their packets then a vote is expected minutes later is wrong. **Attorney DiMartino** stated he learned about the issue late Friday afternoon and the contract needed to be signed in order to meet the deadline of getting the supplies. No appropriation is required if it is an emergency. **Randy Novak**, no one sat on anything for months, the report was brought to the FMEC in March. FMEC hoped to have a proposed plan for the repairs without having to declare an emergency however they were told it is either repaired right now or the fair will be shut down. If feelings were hurt due to not enough notice, that was not the intentions, the priority of the people and public safety were the intentions and that's why the Emergency Declaration was done for the grandstands/bleachers.

**Sheila Matias**, President, as the MS4 Permit Holder for the County, "Yesterday afternoon in my role as MS4 General Permit Holder I signed stop work orders at both the D&M location off Schultz Road and the Versaw location on 1000 North effective 72 hours after service of the orders. Because of changes made to MS4 permitting around the state effective December 19, 2021, I now have the responsibility of certifying under oath in 90 days that our permit program is fully compliant with all aspects of federal and state law. I have made the determination that unlike all the other MS4 permits granted in our county that list specific 'construction' or 'projects' requiring land disturbance - both of these permits simply say "land contouring" or "tree clearing". Land contouring and tree removals simply describe how a site is being prepared. It doesn't describe an end use or construction. Both permittees will be allowed to reapply now that their existing permits have been declared null and void - but they will have to describe specifically the nature of residential, commercial or industrial 'construction' intended and secure building permits and any zoning variances. Effective March 15 - IDEM has given me a form to execute within 90 days under pains of perjury that all our MS4 permits comply with federal and state law and that these two permits as currently written do **not** describe with any specificity what construction is planned and how storm water runoff from that construction site or building project is being prevented from affecting nearby streams and waterways. I'm not going to allow open-ended 5-year permits for 'land contouring' or 'tree clearing' without knowing what construction project is planned for a given site and this is in my role as Commission President and MS4 Permit Holder. Thank you." **Randy Veatch** approached the podium, thanked the Commission for the stop work orders but asked what about Ray Selke.

### Requests

**Considered** permission to advertise for bids for various equipment and furnishings to upgrade and update capability in E-911 center. **Barb Huston**, E-911 Director, consoles are 15 years old. Furnishings includes anti-static floor squares and mats, 24/7 chairs, monitors with keyboard and mouse, and office furniture such as desks, with assorted attachments. Air purifiers will be added as well. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve request to go out for bids. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** acquisition of Total Response Power and Caliber proposal. **Barb Huston**, E-911 Director, all dispatchers are certified in Emergency Medical Dispatch, when a medical call comes in to the center a list of questions are asked according to a reference board at each station. The Total Response Power and Caliber will be displayed on the monitor screen instead of flipping pages on the reference board. Surcharge account will be used for the funds. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the approach to the Council for permission to spend out of the surcharge account. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**



**Considered** permission for ERISCA 59<sup>th</sup> annual training travel to New Orleans May 22-26, 2022. **Sarah Konieczny**, Deputy Prosecutor's for Child Support Division, requested sending 4 staff members to training. It is a popular conference with a wait list so the 4 members may not be able to even go however in case they are approved by ERISCA to attend, everything will be in order for them to attend the conference. No additional appropriation is needed, they have the funding for the travel. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** Proclamation for Innovative and Creative week April 15-21, 2022 - Cynthia Hedge. **Commissioner Haney** read the proclamation into the record. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. \*\*\*Attached to minutes**

**Considered** permission to sell 12 used police vehicles and to seek bids for 12 replacement vehicles. **John Boyd**, Sheriff, asking for 9 - 2022 Police Pursuit vehicles, 2 - 2022 Police Pursuit vehicles - Trucks and 1 - 2022 Police Pursuit Sedan. Council expressed they prefer selling the 12 used vehicles instead of trading them in. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, where will the old vehicles go when new ones come in and the cost to strip the vehicles of all police equipment. **Council President Randy Novak**, the idea is to sell them in a sealed bid and sell them in lots, several together not separate. Auction them off in a silent bid was the thoughts of several Council members, should bring in more funds then trading them in. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

### Old Business

**Consider** 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of rezoning to permit Sloane Avenue Land Opportunities residential development on SR 2 East, just outside the City of La Porte - Attorneys Todd Leeth and Katie Kopf. **Attorney Todd Leeth**, after the 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the last Commissioners' meeting, a request was made to meet with the neighbors. On March 29<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held where a concept plan was shared with the concerned neighbors then it was slightly changed to accommodate them (farmers). The original plan did not have as much buffer yard on the southern end of the plan. A walking trail was included on the original plan but was removed after concerns of 'overspray' was discussed by the farmers. The petition is well stated, it is residential property and not agriculture. The frontage of this property along Highway 2 is zoned R1B and as per our county comprehensive plan and ordinances suggests that if public utilities are available then residential development is the best use for the land. City of La Porte has sanitary sewer lines available. John and Duneland Group with Sloane Avenues was present at the meeting. **Commissioner Mrozinski** said the lots are .22 each which is less than a quarter of an acre. **Attorney Leeth** said the home values will be between \$300,000 to \$400,000 and will sit nicely on 10,000 square foot lots, his client is a developer and will be working with a home builder. They will not be pre-fab homes. The overall density for the 166 acres, the concept plan shows 308 homes which works out to 1.885 homes per acre, which is low density, suburban density. Urban density is 4-6 homes per acre. This site plan is under 2 homes per acre. **President Matias** has a hard time approving something that could change and end up not being what is in front of the Commissioners today. The buffer is a concern. There is a need for housing in our County but we should not sell ourselves short. Would like to have more information on the plan.

**Commissioner Mrozinski** compared this new site to one on the agenda, Meadowview Estates, that has drainage issues in their subdivision. Has soil boring been done? **Attorney Leeth**, can enter into a series of commitments that go along with the zoning change. Concerns heard at the original hearing at the Plan Commission have been addressed. **Commissioner Haney** reported on his meetings with the farmers. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to table the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. No second was heard therefore motion died. Public Comment was heard at this time. **Jim Paarlberg**, 4701 E. 300 N., Rolling Prairie, voiced his concerns about the proposed development. **Commissioner Haney** stated he had no problem with sending this back to the Plan Commission however he did not want to see it delayed for 365 days. We need approximately 4,000 homes in our county according to the recent housing study that was done. **Attorney Friedman** suggested that the developer provide examples of previous completed work to the Commission. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to deny. President Matias stepped down and seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Commissioner Haney** neither approved nor denied. Petition for the proposed development will have to start over from the beginning. **Luke Smith**, 3974 E. 350 N., Rolling Prairie, understands the developer does not want to spend money on a study of the area prior to building. The 166 acres is 100% wooded and animals would be displaced if the area is disturbed. Believes that the developer should be willing to spend money on the concerns of the farmers prior to moving forward with the plans to develop on the parcels.

**Discuss/Address** concerns related to proposed fix for long-term drainage issues of subsurface water in Meadowview Estates/Kingsbury Creek. **Al Walus** presented a power point review on this issue. **Tony Hendricks**, Surveyor, and **Jay Sullivan**, Engineer, were present as well for this review that started in September 2019 and ended in November 2020. Five areas requested were to meet with the county staff and neighborhood representatives; review technical data/details of the 5 potential mitigation options; propose any additional mitigation options for consideration; evaluate benefits/challenges of the identified options and identify recommended steps for mitigating the drainage issue. **Tony Hendricks**, Technical Advisor to the County Drainage Board as well as County Surveyor, was brought in to this problem due to the urban drain and surface storm water problems which have become subsurface storm water. Twelve years now for this drainage problem in Glendale, Meadowview, a farm to the east of this area and Kingsbury Creek with adjacent land owners. "The review of concerns, the number one was the proposed subsurface drain pipe which is a 30-inch pipe." It was only chosen because it is the most widely used pipe in the nation therefore it would be available and in stock. The 30-inch pipe allows for reducing the slope to gain more depth at the upper end. It lays flatter, runs slower and would be about 7 feet deep around the Meadowview region. Gravity would attract the water naturally to flow down into Kingsbury Creek,



subsurface water only. There are 10-20 homes pumping 'millions of gallons of water' through their sump pumps, some homes have multiple pumps running. The water is just recirculating back into the basement of these homes. "As we look at this drainage area, the subsurface, the engineering study is that if the subsurface water from the soil flows into this pipe through the ferocity of the soil it will go down to Kingsbury Creek which it normally would do in the impacted waterways that are there but it's not working." Stream Stats is a data tool you can use online. Kingsbury Creek is not a ditch. It is a mutual drain. **Jay Sullivan** added there is an intent to install a monitoring well to check for E. coli and other pollutants to not go in the creek. "There's been some questions on the laterals, Christopher Burke's original design, conceptual design, had tile and laterals going into the properties, the county didn't want to install drainage tile in the properties, that's not, you know, what we want to do and then maintain them so the idea was to put a lateral there that they can hook up to and the lateral was not intended for, and will not be used for, if we keep with the laterals, but it will not be used for pumping water out of the basements, that's for perimeter drain tile only, to drain the property lines down, drain the water from the properties." No storm water is going into Kingsbury Creek, these are two separate isolated issues. Storm water goes into a retention pond then works its way into the creek, this is subsurface water only. **Randy Novak** stated he was told previously no laterals would be installed or used but when he was sent the plans, he saw laterals would be along the property lines. He was told no one would be tying into them. He asked specifically if laterals would be used at a Council meeting and was told no, this was when funds, possibly 1.3 million dollars, were requested for the project. Is there more than one plan for the project? **Jay** replied 5 plans or options were drawn up by Christopher Burke Engineering and a decision was made to go with one of the plans. The laterals can be removed from the design plans. **Kevin Raymond**, 632 W. Nowak Drive, not opposed to removing the laterals. If the tiles work then the laterals won't be needed. **Dennis Lantz**, distributed handouts to the Commission, 6500 S. Highway 35, a meeting took place as to what will happen once the water goes downstream. Referred to the handout, Bridge #77 - Bridge Repair, this is not the project. He went over the paperwork and pointed out questions. Ground levels were never shared with the homeowners in Meadowview Estates. There is compassion for the residents of Meadowview however concern is now for the residents adjacent to Kingsbury Creek. A FEMA Grant was applied for in 2009-2010 to help the residents in Nowak subdivision but was never completed. Several lots have lost their septic system. There are 3 lots that are vacant and hopefully the developer will not be allowed to sell them. **Ralph Harmon**, 6102 S. Highway 35, gave color photos to the Commission. Built his retirement home with a pond filled with fish. He feels for the residents of Meadowview, no one should be having to pump water out of their basement however the water going in to Kingsbury Creek will have affects as well. Is there a way to shut this off if it doesn't work? **Tony Hendricks**, yes, there is the possibility to install a restrictor in one of the manhole cleanouts to shut this off. **Earlene Belzowski**, 2945 S. 75 W., corner of 75 and Nowak, moved to the property in 1989. After the first year, a foot of water appeared in the basement and has since been on/off with the flooding issues. Two pumps are running and have been replaced several times over the years. She hopes the county will move forward with the project to help those in the Meadowview Estates subdivision. **Jeanette Raymond**, 632 W. Nowak Drive, hopes there is a solution for everyone with concerns. Don't let the last 3 vacant lots to ever sell, water level indicators show 30 inches below the surface. **Sherry Banic**, first homesite owners south of the creek, has compassion and sympathy for Meadowview Estates and hopes for a resolution for everyone. Main concerns are the proposed design plans which will allow the water to flow into a wetland and a designated flood zone. How can this be allowed? **Tony** replied flood plans and flood ways are designated by Indiana Department of Environmental Resource and then sent on to FEMA for flood insurance purposes. Calculated on a 100-year event, 500-year event and 1,000-year event but doesn't mean they are constantly flooded. If the professionals are wrong, what can be done? At 75 and Nowak the water can be stopped and the residents will continue to be flooded. A mutual drain is a legal term that says if there is a drain then everyone has a right to drain into it. One neighbor does not have a right to block another neighbor from water draining into the natural water way. **Dawn Milner**, 1272 W. 400 S., public comment needs to be held if the permit is changed. **Tony**, install a French drain on Nowak and allow it to dead-end at 75 W. to see what is coming up in the water before going south with it to Kingsbury Creek. Current permits are not for Nowak Drive or 75 W., they are for Kingsbury Creek only. Water could be pumped out of the manhole and not basements. **Rose Haite**, 678 W. Nowak Drive, for a lot of years neighbors affected have come before the Commission and encouraged the project to keep moving forward, professionals are doing their job and getting the correct permits. **John Smith**, 566 W. Nowak Drive, built his house in 2006. Builder had the permit from the county, no water visible after digging the foundation. An in-ground pool was put in August 2009, again, no water. After the hurricane came through dumping 8-10 inches of water on the area, that's when the problem began. His sump pumps have not been running so there probably won't be a lot of water in the 30-inch pipe. **Dawn Milner**, suggested a steering committee be put together for the project for oversight and input. Kingsbury Creek residents were never informed of this project. **Commissioners** requested both Tony Hendricks and Jay Sullivan to report back to the them at their meetings once the project gets started. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve the project to move forward and hold a workshop. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. \*\*\*Remove the laterals

**Considered** Construction Inspection services contract for Meadowview Estates project with USI Engineering - Jay Sullivan, Engineer. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

#### New Business

**Considered** proposed purchase agreement for \$135k for parcel next to Michigan City EMS base, subject to financing approval by County Council for purchase - Andrew McGuire, EMS Director. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ORIGINAL



**Considered** pursuing the purchasing of the rear parcel to the Michigan City EMS Base located on Wabash Street. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to permit the department to join the ATF Task Force - **John Boyd, Sheriff. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** renewal of contract between Sheriff's Department with Peter B. Wood, Esq. for training and legal advice regarding police procedures - **John Boyd, Sheriff. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** contract renewal with FSSA to provide Medicaid coverage for jail inmates as well as coordinate benefits coverage for offenders transitioning back into the community - **John Boyd, Sheriff. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Consideration** of policy change to the County Health Insurance for retirees that would make Sheriff Merit Deputies eligible for county health insurance if eligible for full retirement pension benefits at age 50, with 20 years of service - **Ron Heeg, Chief Deputy. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the use of their firearms range and training facility - **John Boyd, Sheriff. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** retroactive approval of Commission President and Council President's declaration of 'public health and safety emergency' requiring emergency repairs to grandstands at La Porte County Fairgrounds - **Larry Levendowski, Facilities Director. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** reinstating positions of I.T. Director, Facilities Director, County Planner and Commissioners' Executive Assistant from policy-making annual appointments to prior classified job status. **Attorney Friedman**, in 2013 there was a move by the Commission in hopes to reclassify these positions to adjust the pay however that has not happened so the current Commission would like to put these positions back to reclassified and not annual appointments. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Barb Huston** approached the podium, she agrees with the positions of the IT Director, Executive Assistant and Planner but did not support the Facilities Director being included because that position was always an annual appointment. We are an 'at will' state but she stood behind her reasoning that the Facilities Director was always appointed every year. **Commissioner Haney**, former Commissioner Barb Huston has a valid point and he supports the 3 original positions but could not support the Facilities Director being added. **President Matias stepped down and seconded. Motion carried 2-1.**

**Considered** renewal USI on-call contract. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** authorizing external employee salary study to be conducted by Wagner Irwin Scheele as requested by County Council - **Barb Mossman, H.R. Director. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** 2022 Primary Election Polling Locations - **Heather Stevens, Clerk. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Considered** Positive Pay Contract with Horizon Bank - **Heather Stevens, Clerk. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

#### Commissioner Comments

**Commissioner Haney** attended several meetings the last 3 weeks. He hopes for better communication between himself and his fellow Commissioners. He sent out a few emails but received no reply on two. ADA compliant issues with a bathroom in the La Porte Courthouse, free training was offered to Community Corrections employees and then questions pertaining to vending machine prices. They responded to the vending machines but not the other questions. It's gone into a state of petty vindictiveness. These are issues that affect the county, the tax payers and the employees. "And to ignore my communications that are coming from employees in the courthouse, that are coming from our corrections staff, coming from the Prosecutors' office, simply because they're routed through me as in one of those positions as liaison, to spite those areas, buildings, departments, and those people simply because they're coming through me, I think it's inappropriate, I think it's wrong, and I think it's honestly, that's its evil. I mean, who doesn't want to provide facilities to the handicap and disadvantage, who doesn't want to provide training to people who risk their lives and go



out and keep our community safe. It's preposterous to me and it's not right and I would ask that my fellow Commissioners stop taking out on other departments, other areas, their ire that they have with me, to stop taking it out on these other people, these other employees and the people of La Porte County and I will close with Just because you can justify it, does not mean it's right."

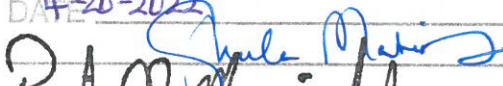
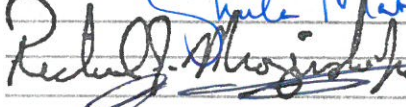
**Commissioner Mrozinski** asked Commissioner Haney if he was done, **Commissioner Haney** replied yes and Commissioner Mrozinski's snide comments are wearing thin on him.

**Commissioner Mrozinski**, as he looked over the minutes from the last meeting, he quoted the Clerk as saying 'our machines are programmed, the room is a mess and it would be great for me to ask my husband to come in and help me this weekend but I think letting the Republican Party Chairman anywhere near our programmed voting machines, no matter, because it looks terrible.' E went on to say a tape can be reviewed showing the Republican Chair has been in the room with the voting machines on a Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and people have told him it is a regular occurrence, the Republican Chair being in the La Porte Courthouse. He stated it is a bad idea to have him in the building, around the voting room especially during an election and it could possibly be illegal. **Clerk Stevens** responded saying it has not happened, he's been nowhere near those machines and they have been kept in a locked room. "I came in the front door to my personal office where there are no election materials whatsoever. Please show me where he's been anywhere near that room. He has not. There's a difference. Maybe if you've spent some time over here, seeing what's going on, you would know where those machines are kept."

**Commissioner Matias** addressed Commissioner Haney's comments on the emails, the ADA compliant bathroom does not require 3 Commissioners to make a decision. Call the Facilities Director and ask for an estimate of the cost for the upgrade. She responded to the vending machine prices however for Community Corrections permission to travel could have come from the Advisory Board as well. La Porte County Works! Blooms Greenhouses located at 719 E. Hupp Road, Kingsbury, Indiana, Blooms Greenhouses has over 35 years of experience in the wholesale greenhouse business providing spring annuals, including hanging baskets, bedding flats and vegetables to the general public. In the fall season, they offer a vast assortment of fall mums and grasses. According to the company, they have developed a collaborative corporate culture where everyone is hands-on and has input in the company's direction. They are committed to exceeding their customers' expectations and feel strongly that in order to do that, they must have employees that are a cut above. If you are a cut above and wish to be included in their plan for growth and success, apply today. Blooms currently has a total of 8-10 core employees, but they will expand to 30 seasonal employees in the spring. Their operating hours are 7:00 am to 5:30 pm seasonally. They have a competitive compensation of \$14 per hour for part time workers and \$15 per hour for full time workers with an incentive bonus plan. They also have numerous mid-level positions open that require experience in the greenhouse industry. They are currently hiring for General Labor, Sales Associates, Growing Facility CDL Delivery Drivers, and Non CDL Drivers. To view the open positions at Blooms and to apply for those open positions, go to their website. Blooms will be opening on April 15th for the season and will be having their Annual Open House on the 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup> and will have raffles, door prizes ad free popcorn. This will be posted on our website.

**President Sheila Matias adjourned at 1:39 p.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE 4-20-2023  
  
  
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA**

**WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION WEEK  
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, The week of April 15-21 is recognized by the County of La Porte, State of Indiana, and more than 104 communities and 50 countries around the globe as “World Creativity and Innovation Week,” and

WHEREAS: The United Nations has designated April 21, 2022, as “World Creativity and Innovation Day,” and

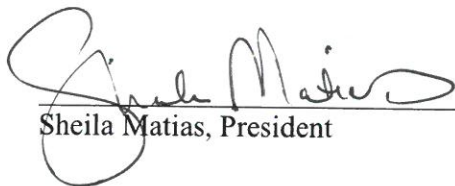
WHEREAS: World Creativity and Innovation Week is a celebration and recognition of our ability to generate new and useful ideas, use our imagination and make new decisions so our communities, nation and world may thrive, and

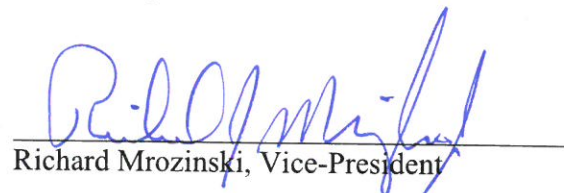
WHEREAS: World Creativity and Innovation Week is also designated to make every citizen aware that our society, our nation, and our economic viability depend on our individual and collective creativity, and

WHEREAS: During World Creativity and Innovation Week, La Porte County citizens are encouraged to recognize and apply their own creativity in their homes, schools, workplaces, organizations, government and communities.

NOW THEREFORE, We, Sheila Matias, Richard Mrozinski and Joseph Haney, do declare April 15-21, 2022, as WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION WEEK in the County of La Porte, State of Indiana, and we encourage all La Porte County citizens to embrace their own creative spirit and to enjoy and express it in their homes, schools, workplaces, organizations, government and community.

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

  
Sheila Matias, President

  
Richard Mrozinski, Vice-President

  
Joseph Haney, Board Member

**ORIGINAL**