



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202
La Porte, IN 46350-3400
(219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

**Sheila Matias
President**

**Richard Mrozinski
Vice President**

**Joseph Haney
Member**

**La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 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. Following the pledge **President Matias** encouraged parents and grandparents to ask their children's/grandchildren's school on safety protocol due to the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas on May 24th where 19 children and 2 teachers lost their lives and 17 others were injured.

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 accept the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered approval of May 18, 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 5/20/2022 - \$1,275,996.92 and Operating Expense Claims - \$2,062,330.91. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

President Matias reviewed the policy on Public Comment. There are 7 notes in the policy; statements should be directed to the presiding officer, no person should address board members individually; the presiding officer may prohibit comments which are deemed frivolous, repetitive, or harassing; the presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate a person's statement; if it's personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant; any charges or complaints against individual employees of the county, department heads, elected officials, advisors should first present complaints to the presiding officer, in writing and remarks by any persons addressing the Board which adversely affects the character and motives of any other person are out of order. The focus is to conduct a business meeting with civility and respect.

Public Comment

None

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

President Sheila Matias read into the record a Notice of Public Hearing from IDEM pertaining to Old School Crushing Company. Meeting will be held at the Hanna Public Library. *****Letter attached to minutes**

Requests

Considered permission for 4 IV-D Child Support Staff Members to travel to Charlotte, North Carolina August 7-10, 2022 to attend the National Child Support Enforcement Association Leadership Symposium. **Barry McDonnell**, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from the Child Support office, they were bumped from a conference that was approved for May so this would be the only conference this year that his staff will be attending. They have the funds for this travel to Charlotte. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

ORIGINAL

Considered permission to pursue pricing and approach the Council for 2 ambulances/1 support vehicle. **Andrew McGuire**, EMS Director, recently received an update on delivery time for ordered ambulances to be the first quarter of 2025 year. Trying to maintain his fleet, would like to replace two 2017 ambulances E-450, one has mileage of 95,641 and the other 111,021 miles. Expect additional miles to be added until they are replaced. The support vehicle is a 2012 Chevy Tahoe with 98,600 current miles. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council for budget shortages in fuel and corporate accounts. **Andrew McGuire**, EMS Director, three areas of his budget that is short; the annual budget for fuel is \$47,500 and is averaging about \$7,900 per month with the high gas prices, request will be for an additional \$50,000 to get his office through the end of the year; corporate compliance which is non-reusable items such as i.v. catheters and band-aids, annual budget for this line item is \$54,900 and is averaging about \$11,000 per month, request is for \$80,000 additional dollars and then other operations, oxygen is paid from this account, not only has the price for oxygen increased but a fuel charge has been added to the price as well. Annual budget for oxygen is \$21,500 and has been averaging \$3,000 per month. Will be asking for an additional \$18,000 to get through the rest of the year. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council to pay double time for mandatory overtime. **Andrew McGuire**, EMS Director, currently a mandatory policy is in place and is only used when volunteers do not fill the 'open' position. Down side of the policy is it only pertains to 'call-offs' so it does not apply to employees out on FMLA, Workers' Comp issues, open positions due to staffing shortages, or long-term issues. This was especially difficult during the Covid pandemic. An idea for compensation for the mandatory overtime is to pay 'double time' instead of 'time and a half.' **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered request for Commission/Council workshop to summarize ARP expenditures to date and discuss planning/potential future initiatives. **President Matias**, added this to the agenda because she had been receiving phones calls and messages inquiring how the ARP funds have been used so far. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve an expenditure report, not a workshop, request from the Council on the 21 million dollars in ARP funds. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Considered E-911 bid recommendation for project updating consoles, furniture and carpet. **Matt Deckard**, Assistant Director E-911, one bid was received from Xybix Systems, Inc. and has since been amended to the amount of \$605,693.21. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve permission to approach the Council for funding. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered first amendment to Lease of Covid Vaccination Site relocation to 901 Lincolnway. **Attorney Shaw Friedman**, negotiated an amendment for our 'rent free' lease with La Porte Hospital/Northwest Health which will move to a new location at the Heritage Place due to the old hospital that is scheduled to be demolished this summer. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

New Business

Considered first reading for Ordinance amending zoning map to rezone property owned by Meadow Creek Development LLC from B2 to R1A. **Kevin Warren**, Attorney for petitioners, and Tony Hendricks, County Surveyor, this is approximately a 7-acre parcel located on Otis Road in New Durham Township. No remonstrators at the May 24th Plan Commission meeting. Both the rezone and a minor subdivision plat were approved with a favorable recommendation to the Commission. **Tony Hendricks**, Izaak Walton League owns the property behind this parcel which has a big ravine that is an environmental ecology area, it is very rare and will always be protected, stormwater will not be blocked off from this area. Septic systems will be used and not mounds. Four lots are planned with each being 1-1/2 acres. Kesling family did not want to pack homes in this area. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve on first reading. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***2nd reading will be at our next meeting June 15th.**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haney, Memorial Day remembrance for those who gave everything some including their lives to defend this great country. Start of summer with lots of things to do in our county. Boat races are scheduled in the north part, south county will have events as well as our county parks. Family Fishing Night and Tai Chi are just a few events, June 7th at Bluhm Park will be a public meeting for the Parks Department. Public input will be welcomed for the direction of our parks for the future. A grand opening for our first fully accessible park will be held at Bluhm Park. John Thune, "I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it is marked by the blood of those who died defending it."

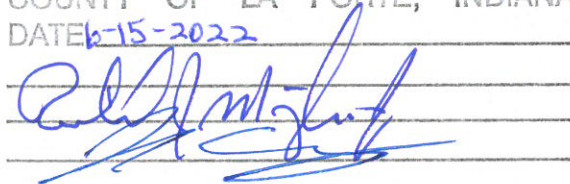
Commissioner Mrozinski, Plan Commission and RDC still moving forward with a few projects: 39 North; Highway 35 and I-94; Highway 421 and I-94 with the Love's Travel Shop. All good for the county. A code enforcement meeting was held which is something that has been needed for many years. Signs will go up in certain areas of the county for the recent Jake Brake Ordinance that was passed. 'Jake Brake' refers to compression release engine brakes, a feature on large diesel-powered vehicles like semi-trailers, it works by releasing the compressed air in the engine via the exhaust valves to quickly reduce speed, resulting in a loud noise. This happens often, especially along Highway 20, especially in Rolling Prairie. Rich attended a meeting for Veterans with representatives from the offices of the Veterans Administration from Washington, D.C., Jessie Brown Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Congressman Frank Mrvan's office, local VFWs and American Legions, about a possible clinic right here in La Porte. Mishawaka and Crown Point are the closes' locations for veterans in our area. It was well received. There is an empty building in La Porte at the Sagamore Business Center that used to be part of the La Porte Hospital. A meeting was held with the Swanson Center, Paladin, Sheriff's Department, La Porte, Long Beach and Michigan City Police Departments, Adult Probation, and Judges. Mental health facilities or the lack of having any in our county was the topic. Beatty Memorial Hospital and a floor at the La Porte Hospital used to be for mental health but they no longer exist. There are limited services offered with the Swanson Center. We do not currently have a hospital for those that require what is not offered at the Swanson Center. While the meeting was going on it was the same time the school shooting was taking place in Uvalde, Texas. Our 176th County Fair will be July 9-16. He reported logging 107 work hours for the month of May, working for positive goals for the county.

Commissioner Matias, the need for mental health in our county is severe. Law enforcement officers are trained for their job and at times not always as therapists for people they come into contact with that may have mental issues and require additional help. There are often needs for people incarcerated in our jail. She went on to talk about Corsicana Mattress who closed their doors recently, the company was sold 12 weeks ago and currently going through reorganization. All of the staff that we have been working with when they brought their business to La Porte County are no longer with the company. During a conference call with the new CEO, Eric Rhea, who has been on the job for 6 weeks and was hired as a 'turn-around' executive, stated there was not anything La Porte County did wrong or can do to change the company's mind about closing their doors in our county. "This was an economic decision for a business that is challenged today. We are changing the company's footprint. There was a very capable workforce so there was no reflection on the employees. I am accountable to the new ownership and to the rest of our workers." They have 12 plants and are only running 3 days a week. The impact of the supply chain disruption and the economy weighed heavily on their business. This company invested almost 7 million dollars into the old Scott Foresman warehouse in Pinola. This building had been sitting vacant for over 20 years and has now been renovated with a new sprinkler system, electrical upgrades and more. Businesses have been calling with interest on this building as well as the employees that soon will be looking for employment. La Porte County Works! this meeting is focused on Pyrotecnico located at Kingsbury Industrial Park and they bring 125 years of experience as a nationally recognized leader, innovative full-service fireworks, special effects, and laser display production company. Their decades of experience provide the company with the knowledge and ability to use the best technology, techniques, and innovative products with the utmost safety. The company has lived and breathed fireworks, lasers and special effects and are able to provide a "wow" experience that is affordable, safe, and memorable for their customers. La Porte County residents might not know of Pyrotecnico, but they will remember Melrose Polytechnics, which was founded in Kingsbury in 1984. Melrose Pyrotechnics recently merged with worldwide known company Pyrotecnico in October 2021. The main office is located in New Castle, Pennsylvania with locations across the nation. Some of the company's clients include: Super Bowl Live; Houston Texans; Tampa Bay Buccaneers; The Orange Bowl; Cleveland Indians and Cavaliers; Chicago Bears and White Sox; University of Notre Dame; South Bend Cubs; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; Jimmy Kimmel Live; New York City Rockets and many more. Pyrotecnico is always looking to hire hard-working and passionate individuals, interested in joining the team of pyrotechnicians. Specifically, they are in need of CDL Truck Drivers. The company has an average wage of \$15 to \$30 dollars per hour, offers a full

benefit package, and has 6 current local job openings paying between \$15 and \$20 dollars per hour. To view the current positions, visit their web site here: pyrotecnico.com/careers. This will be on our County website.

President Sheila Matias adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 6-15-2022



ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • www.idem.IN.gov

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Brian C. Rockensuess
Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Preliminary Findings Regarding a
New Source Review and Source Specific Operating Agreement (SSOA)

for Old School Crushing Company, Inc in LaPorte County

SSOA No.: S091-45106-00183

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received an application from Old School Crushing Company, Inc, located at 16766 South 250 West, Hanna, IN 46340, for New Source Review and Source Specific Operating Agreement (SSOA). IDEM's Office of Air Quality (OAQ) issues this type of permit to regulate the operation of new sources and modifications at existing sources that release air pollutants.

On April 22, 2022, the Office of Air Quality (OAQ) had a notice posted on IDEM's website (<https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>) stating that the draft for New Source Review and Source Specific Operating Agreement (SSOA) had been proposed for this operation and provided information on how the public could review the proposed permit and other documentation. Due to several comments received by IDEM from interested parties, a public meeting will be held on June 8, 2022 to discuss air permitting for Old School Crushing Company, Inc.

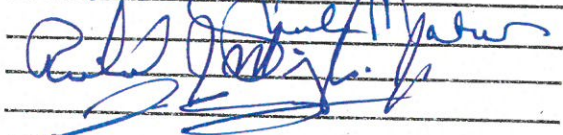
A copy of the permit application and IDEM's preliminary findings have been sent to:

La Porte County Public Library, Hanna Branch Library
108 West St
Hanna, IN 46340

and

IDEM Northwest Regional Office
330 W. US Highway 30, Suites E & F
Valparaiso, IN 46385

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DATE 6-1-2022


ATTEST: _____

Auditor

A copy of the preliminary findings is available on the Internet at: <http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/idem-caats/>

A copy of the application and preliminary findings is also available via IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (VFC). To access VFC, please go to: <https://www.in.gov/idem/> and enter VFC in the search box. You will then have the option to search for permit documents using a variety of criteria.

You are invited to attend a public meeting:

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will hold a public meeting to discuss air permitting for Old School Crushing Company, Inc. on:

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 5:30PM (CDT)
South Central Community School Corporation-Cafeteria
Entrance Door #15
9808 South 600 West
Union Mills, Indiana 46382

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What will happen at the meeting?

IDEM staff will describe the draft Old School Crushing Company, Inc air permit and answer questions from citizens in an informal setting. The public meeting will not include formal presentations, but will give the public an opportunity to ask questions, make statements, and discuss air pollution concerns with IDEM staff.

Written comments and supporting documentation can be presented at the public meeting, or if you do not plan to attend this meeting, you can send written comments to IDEM before the end of the public notice period. The public notice period has been extended to Monday, June 13, 2022. All comments will be considered by IDEM when we make a decision to issue or deny the permit. Comments that are most likely to affect final permit decisions are those based on the rules and laws governing this permitting process (326 IAC 2), air quality issues, and technical issues. IDEM does not have legal authority to regulate zoning, odor or noise. For such issues, please contact your local officials. If you do not want to comment, but would like to be added to IDEM's mailing list to receive notice of future action related to this permit application, please contact IDEM. Please refer to permit number S091-45106-00183 in all correspondence.

To Contact IDEM:

Luda Lang
IDEM, Office of Air Quality
100 North Senate Avenue
MC 61-53 IGCN 1003
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251
(800) 451-6027, ask for Luda Lang or (317) 233-0863
Or dial directly: (317) 233-0863
Fax: (317) 232-6749 attn: Luda Lang
E-mail: LLang@idem.IN.gov

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the public meeting, please contact IDEM's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Attn: ADA Coordinator
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
317-233-4200

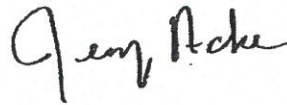
Please provide a minimum of 24 hours notice if possible. Speech and hearing impaired callers may contact the agency via the Indiana Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333.

What will happen after IDEM makes a decision?

Following the end of the public comment period, IDEM will issue a Notice of Decision stating whether the permit has been issued or denied. If the permit is issued, it may be different than the draft permit because of comments that were received during the public comment period. If comments are received during the public notice period, the final decision will include a document that summarizes the comments and IDEM's response to those comments. If you have submitted comments or have asked to be added to the mailing list, you will receive a Notice of the Decision. The notice will provide details on how you may appeal IDEM's decision, if you disagree with that decision. The final decision will also be available on the Internet at the address indicated above and will also be sent to the local library indicated above, the IDEM Regional Office indicated above, and the IDEM public file room on the 12th floor of the Indiana Government Center North, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251.

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If you have any questions, please contact Luda Lang of my staff at the above address.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Acker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Acker, Chief
Permits Branch
Office of Air Quality

For additional information about air permits and how the public and interested parties can participate, refer to the IDEM Air Permits page on the Internet at: <https://www.in.gov/idem/airpermit/public-participation/>; and the Citizens' Guide to IDEM on the Internet at: <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>.