



**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 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

Vice President Rich Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by Jeremy Sobecki leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to add to the agenda: **Consider** Resolution recognizing the significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and **Consider** recommendation of the Plan Commission for the proposed Planned Unit Development in regards to the petition of Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Inc. **Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered approval of June 1, 2022 minutes. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 6/3/2022 - \$1,297,754.78 and Operating Expense Claims - \$10,868,482.44 which included 2 claims for Friedman & Associates in the amount of \$12,922.50 for April and \$14,452.50 for May. Original Operating Expense amount advertised was \$10,841,107.44. **Commissioner Haney** asked if the 2 additional claims were uncontested to which Auditor Stabosz replied he approved them. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Vice President Rich Mrozinski read **Resolution 2022-5** recognizing the significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. ***Attached to minutes

Public Comment

Nathan Patrick, Michigan City, General Order No. 3 statement read into the minutes, "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freed are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere." On June 19, 1865, U.S. Major General Gordon Granger issued the order. Forty-seven states have recognized this holiday with Indiana being number 34. Requested the County to be closed on Monday, June 20th in observance of Juneteenth, June 19, which falls on Sunday.

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Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, Michigan City, voiced his concerns for Juneteenth to be recognized by the County as a holiday.

Brett Kelly, Sr., commented on the holiday of Juneteenth, requested an executive order to give the employees the day off on Monday to observe the holiday. **Attorney Friedman**, the set schedule of paid holidays is approved at the beginning of each year.

Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, the company behind his house is once again wanting to move sand.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Jeremy Sobecki, Parks Department, seasonal help is needed in his department. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to give permission to **Jeremy** to approach the Council with the request of changing a part-time position to a full-time position. Currently there are 3 full-time maintenance positions and with all of the parks/buildings in his department the 3 positions are not enough to get the work done. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Tony Rodriguez, reported he will be approaching the Council on the 27th of June requesting funds for the second half of the year for the Economic Development Office. Commented on the closing of Corsicana Mattress, the company put money into upgrading the building they were in which now has a high value and will be great for any company or business.

Tim Stabosz, Auditor, scheduled this Friday to begin the process of settlement which is the distribution of the monies received through tax payments. Year-to-date has collected slightly more than this time last year with roughly \$83,000,000. The units of local government, the tax units, will receive their share of the tax money collected. "Statutorily they need to receive that money by the end of the month so we're on schedule, my estimate is that because of the tax billing issues, the county probably was maybe short a couple million in its collections so hopefully there'll be no hardships to any of the units." The reissuing of tax bills is still being discussed and an announcement will be made soon.

Requests

Considered permission to pay 44.25 unused sick days to Vicki Szilaygi who is retiring. **Tim Stabosz**, Auditor, Vicki has had 25 years of outstanding service to the County and no additional funds are needed.

Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered permission to pay 60 unused sick days to Desiree Nichols who is retiring after 33 years of service.

Tom Alevizos, Circuit Court Judge, requested via a letter for support from the Commission. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered permission for travel to Nashville, TN for NADCP annual training July 25-28. **Steve Eyrick**, Adult Probation, spoke to Commissioner Mrozinski, this is required training and no additional funds are needed.

Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered permission to close Zigler Road during Fair week July 9-16 by the Fair Board. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriations to fill propane tanks, not to exceed \$5,000. **Jeremy Sobecki**, Parks Director, tanks are low and price is cheaper in the summer.

Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

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Old Business

Considered 2nd/final 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 Henricks**, County Surveyor, requested in addition to this 2nd reading for the rezoning but also approval of a minor subdivision plat that was approved by the Plan Commission as well. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the 2nd/final reading for the rezoning of the property. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the minor subdivision plat. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0. ***Ordinance 2022-4 for the rezoning of the property**

New Business

Considered Memorandum of Understanding with Mid America Health regarding dental services at jail. **John Boyd**, Sheriff, current dentist is retiring after 30 years of service, no additional funds are needed. **Attorney Friedman** has reviewed and approved the contract. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered Tek84 Service Agreement, **Rochelle Brown**, Community Corrections Director, Option 1 in the amount of \$8,500. **Attorney Friedman** has reviewed the agreement and recommends Option 1. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the agreement and permission to approach the Council for funds. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered renewal for contract Nyhart. **Tim Stabosz**, Auditor, as part of the financial reporting, vendor specializes in accounting, this contract has an increased amount of only 3% which is good considering current inflation. **Attorney Friedman** reviewed and recommends the contract. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Considered recommendation of the Plan Commission for the proposed Planned Unit Development in regards to the petition of Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Inc. **Frank Ille**, Love's and **Matt Finke**, Senior Project Manager, both via Zoom, were available for any questions. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the PUD based on the favorable recommendation by the Plan Commission. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

Commissioner Comments

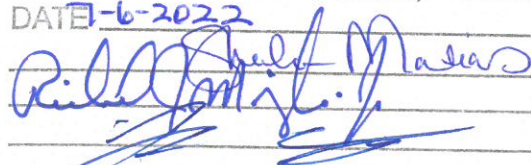
Commissioner Haney, productive and busy two weeks. Union Mills had a great turn out with about 40 residents showing up for the IDEM meeting on Old School Crushing Company in Prairie Township. He attended a Parks Department meeting which was open for public input for direction of our County Parks, not many in person but several comments were made online via monkey survey and another will be out soon. Discussion was held on securing land for a park in the south part of the County, there are no parks south of Bluhm and Luhr Parks. Several events took place recently including a 'brick laying ceremony' for the Veterans Walkway of Honor in La Porte at Soldier Memorial Park. Take advantage of planned events in the county for the summer with parades, fireworks, and the 176th-year County Fair. Solid Waste will be holding a drop-off this Saturday at the fairgrounds for household hazardous waste. Commented on fire protection in our county, we have amazing volunteer fire departments all across the county. Heard a local official say that the public was not safe in a certain area in the county for fire protection which is not true. Reasons heard for people not being 'safe' are absolutely preposterous and he has confidence in all of the fire departments. Scare tactics should not be used. Commented that we should be civil with the public and not sure if there is a radical right or left dealing with trucks or sand in neighborhoods. It is not a partisan issue whatsoever. The Commission should not be presenting itself to the public that way, not appropriate and he closed with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., 'Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed.'

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Commissioner Mrozinski, Double Track continues to move forward and will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in Michigan City on Monday, June 20th. Love's Travel Plaza is moving forward as well with their plans in Michigan City, they have been very patient with all of the moving parts and entities involved, sewer and water will be going in and ground breaking will take place soon. A meeting took place today on the Meadowview Estates drainage issue with the contractor, County Engineer, Planner, Surveyor, and Council President. There will be a meeting coming up on the Michigan City drawbridge, Franklin Street Bridge, that could be a possible solution for the County. The project at I-94/Highway 20/Highway 35 will meet on Tuesday for more information to move it forward. County Code Enforcement is still being discussed. The EMS Base/Highway Building in Rolling Prairie is moving along as well. There is a building in Sagamore Parkway that was used by La Porte Hospital that was vacated once they built their new facility that has a possibility of being a Veterans' Clinic. A tour took place with several officials and a letter was drafted/sent to the Veterans' Administration requesting support for our County. Chicago, Crown Point and Mishawaka are the closes VA facilities to us now. Senator Todd Young and Congresswoman Jackie Walorski both support the idea. FMEC has done a great job at the fairgrounds, this year will mark 176 years for our County Fair. August 27th will be the annual Fox Park Music Fest put on by the Guardian Riders in support for veterans.

Vice President Rich Mrozinski adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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



ATTEST: _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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**Resolution No. 2022-5 of the Board of Commissioners
of La Porte County, Indiana recognizing the significance
of Juneteenth Independence Day**

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular Southwestern states until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations and this has been a tradition in the Southwest for more than 150 years, and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 46 states and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures, and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion or race, and

WHEREAS, slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865, and

WHEREAS, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world,


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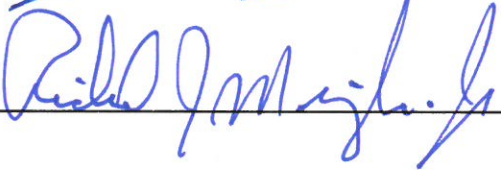
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY THAT

1. This Board recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States and
2. We support the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of our nation to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States, and
3. We recognize that the observance of the end of slavery is an important part of the history and heritage of the United States.

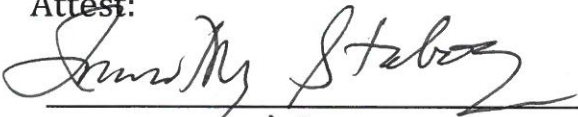
All of which is resolved this 15th day of June, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA.





Attest:



Auditor

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