



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, September 7, 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.

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

Considered the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski added three additional items: Request for travel to Georgia for Steve Eyrick, Adult Probation; RAVE contract for EMA; and Excess countywide property deed sale with SRI. Commissioner Haney added two items: Coroner's Requests for travel to Rensselaer, Indiana/Approach the Council for additional appropriation; and Presentation from American Fidelity, insurance for employees. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the amended agenda with 5 added items. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the August 17, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Joe Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 8/26/2022 - \$1,282,234.46 and Operating Expense Claims - \$3,241,413.67. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve payroll. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Mrozinski asked Auditor Stabosz if the claims amount include June litigation and April/May non-litigation claims. Auditor Stabosz, claims were previously approved a few meetings back, check the minutes. Commissioner Mrozinski, if they were previously approved then they should have been paid. Auditor Stabosz, the items were in dispute. After speaking with the vendor, partial payment will be made and the rest of the amount will be settled in court. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve the claims as presented. President Matias questioned the vendor. Attorney Friedman, asked Auditor Stabosz if the checks could be expected this week. Auditor Stabosz, yes. Commissioner Mrozinski questioned an invoice for work done with no explanation, just dollar amounts charged. Auditor Stabosz, is it for SEH for work done in the Auditor's office or for the Treasurer? Commissioner Mrozinski answered for the Auditor. Auditor Stabosz stated it will be looked into and verified. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve minus \$12,250.09 for SEH. Commissioner Haney stated there was a prior motion on the floor, no seconded heard therefore his motion died. President Matias stepped down and seconded the motion to accept the claims minus SEH claims of \$12,250.09. Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Haney - Nay.

Public Comment

Sue Reed, Executive Director for Healthy Communities, a non-profit, 501c, program began in 1997 as an initiative from La Porte Hospital then joined forces with St. Anthony Hospital, now known as Franciscan Health, and funded the program through 2006. Their mission is to promote the health and well-being of La Porte County residents. Do a lot of work with the underserved, work with the homeless shelters, Salvation Army, prenatal clinics, and participate in numerous community events. Largest outreach effort is at the La Porte County Fair. Currently employ two state certified navigators that as of August 31st have processed 187 applications for health care coverage, 162 were approved, 15 are pending and often takes 45-90 days to approve. Lead agency for the Indiana Department of Health Tobacco prevention and cessation program. There is one full-time coordinator on the tobacco program. Goal is to have a smoke-free comprehensive policy. A list of La Porte County retailers that sell tobacco products and how they market to the youth as well as the community as a whole was provided to Healthy Communities. This is called Point-of-Sale marketing, reported there are 116 licensed tobacco retailers in our county, and the state assigned 95 of them to audit. During the audit, 8% are within 1,000 feet of a school, 56% are convenience stores and 85% sell flavored or menthol tobacco products. Flavored products are popular among the youth and young adults. 90% of the tobacco retailers offer price promotions to make it more cost effective to purchase the product. 20% of the retailers place the tobacco advertisements within 3 feet of a child's eye level and 13% have tobacco within 12 inches of candy, soda and toys. On October 6th Healthy Communities will be hosting a 'Community Conversation' at the Healthcare Foundation where the full findings of this report will be shared. High mortality rate is another issue in our county. Programs are offered to help those wanting to quit smoking especially during pregnancy.

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Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, distributed handouts to the Commission. Hoped the actions next door to him would stop, has entered its eighth year. He feels for the residents on 1000 North. Covered items discussed at the last meeting. He spoke on Mr. Versaw, MS4 Director Nicole Messacar, Attorney Shaw Friedman, Ray Selke on 400 North, Building Commissioner Mike Polan, slander, falsified paperwork, Surveyor Anthony Hendricks, all 3 Commissioners, Attorney on the Plan Commission with 20 + years' experience, Doug Biege, and several people who should recuse themselves. He continued talking about Mike Polan's statement at the last meeting. The paperwork he handed out to the Commission, on the record, definitions from the current code ordinance, emails dated 7-1-2015, 7-3-2015, 7-18-2015 and minutes from 7-22-2015. **President Matias**, we cannot go over everything from 2015, this is a business meeting, she is respectful to his thoughts however he needs to complete his comments. **Randy**, nothing has been done. He continued with the meeting minutes in 2015, a pond, Anthony Hendricks, Doug Biege, Rick Brown in MS4, Mike Polan, dream home, D&M attorney talking about a sand pit and sand mining, trucks, Pavey's trucks that are 'grandfathered' in, D&M talking about repairing the roads but that never happened, one permit for one year. Minutes from a Commissioners' meeting on 12-9-2015, Mike Bohacek sends it back to the Plan Commission. The actions are covered in the definitions. Look at the definitions.

Mike Polan, Wrecking Ball of Truth, two years he stated there was a definition in the dictionary of doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Multiple departments have looked at the issue on 400 West, multiple sets of Commissioners, different Building Commissioners, different MS4 Directors, has MSHA ever been contacted for verification if it is sand mining? **President Matias**, we're not going to go back and forth on this issue. **Mike Polan**, there have been no violations, period, no zoning violations. How many dollars are going to be spent on this, tax payers' dollars, on one individual. We've been to court, it has been litigated 2-3 times, the original court case was lost, we have no standing. County Attorney has pleaded with the previous speaker to file a private civil nuisance action if not happy with what the county has done. We've all bent over backwards for the previous speaker. There are no violations. One site is not big enough to have a permit, the other site sits dormant most of the time and third site is a farmer on a tractor. This is all a waste of everyone's time and tax payer money.

Willa Faye Moore, 515 Grace Street, Michigan City, spoke on the Mobile Voting Van. Suggested four locations in Michigan City that could be used for the van, empty lot at the corner of Franklin Street/Warren Street, Denny's Restaurant, Eastgate Plaza on Michigan Blvd, and 8th Street/Wabash Street. Advertise in advance of the locations. Local candidates are important.

Deborah Chubb, 3630 Birchwood Trail, Michiana City, grateful for the van, encouraged it to be used for the public. Should be used during Absentee Voting. Calendar should be set up for dates and locations.

Allen Stevens, via Zoom, Republican Chair, shared his thoughts on the Mobile Voting Van. Increase registration and voter turnout is a goal of both parties in the county. Agreed with Faye and Deborah that it would be great for voters that live in large apartment complexes, areas of Michigan City that might be a considerable distance away from a polling location, or have limited access to public transportation. Is this strictly to be used for mobile voting? Check the grant for clarification. Is it to be used for registering voters? This should be done with the staff of Voter Registration then because they are trained to do the paperwork. No campaign signs should be on it or staff wearing campaign shirts. Applications turned in at the van should be turned over to Voter Registration and not one political party or the other.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Larry Levendowski, Director of Facilities, updated the Commission on the Rolling Prairie EMS Base/Highway Garage. Currently waiting on gas and electric to be hooked up in about 3-4 weeks. Waiting on a few materials, 6-8 weeks timeframe. Spoke next on behalf of FMEC, will be approaching the Council for needed improvements on 2-3 items.

Amanda Lahnert, Health Department Director, reported on a new booster, Bivalent, for the Covid vaccine. Available by both Moderna and Pfizer. Health Department's clinic is open on Wednesday, 4th floor of the complex, appointment is needed and the new booster is available from Moderna. Pfizer is available at surrounding pharmacies. The booster is available for 12 years and older. A large amount of grant money has been received and she requested a trailer be purchased with the funds. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve her request to approach the Council to purchase the trailer with the grant funds. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Jeremy Sobacki, Parks Department, Sebort Woods County Park is now open, 3608 W. 925 N. in Springfield Township. Grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th at 10:00 a.m. A DNR Nature Preserve employee will be on site to give a hike on a trail and history on the property. Thanked all of those who came out to Bluhm Park for its grand opening with the new playground equipment. This fall 3 more new playgrounds will be installed with weather permitting. Creek Ridge will have two and one at Red Mill. Thanks was given to the Commissioners, Council members and Healthcare Foundation for their support. **President Matias** thanked Jeremy for his hard work, his staff and the building trades for building the bathrooms at Bluhm and Luhr parks.

Larry Butcher and Rob Sabie, EMA, RAVE alert contract is nearing its expiration date. Recommended we go with the 5-year contract. Also talked about Smart911 which is the public side of RAVE. RAVE alerts can be specified to only certain alerts or areas, for example, weather, road closures, or school closings are available. Requested a committee be put together for certain notifications and training. National Weather Service is tied in to the RAVE service. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the 5-year contract renewal. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Heather Stevens, Clerk, via Zoom, requested the Commissioners give her permission to use a small office at the Michigan City Courthouse to meet with her employees to discipline and interview. **Commissioner Haney**, spoke to Judge Stalbrink at the courthouse, all judges and a magistrate agree she could use the room, **Commissioner Haney motioned to allow the Clerk use of the small office at the Michigan City Courthouse. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Lynn Swanson, Coroner, handed out paperwork to the Commission showing last year and this year's manners of death in La Porte County. Suicides and homicides are down this year however overdoses are extremely high. Drug Task Force, Sheriff's Department and Police Departments are out in force, doing their job. The latest drug of choice is Rainbow Fentanyl which looks like colorful little pieces of candy. Be aware especially with Halloween coming up in October. This year Lynn and her staff have responded to 217 deaths and last year at this time it was 219. **Considered** permission for Lynn to approach the Council for additional appropriation to her Professional Services account. **Considered** permission for travel to Rensselaer for training. Lynn stated 99% toxicology reports that come back on the deaths include fentanyl. It has even shown up in marijuana and has been pressed in pills. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve both requests. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Nicole Messacar, MS4, reported on a workshop that was held less than two weeks ago for local contractors and other MS4 departments to understand the new process so we're at the beginning of a new 5-year permit cycle, about 23 of the attendees were builders and we educated them on what needs to be done to stay in compliance with the new permit requirements. A new timeline was received from the state this morning on when items are due. Working with the Building Department and tightening up the process with the permits. A workshop will be scheduled soon between the departments. We will be characterizing our water quality on the county and prioritize the work we need to do in those areas. Keeping our water clean.

Requests

Considered permission to retain trade-in ambulance and **permission** to approach the Council regarding funding related to hold back trade, **Andrew McGuire**, EMS Director. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council for funding to repair one a/c unit, not to exceed \$5,000, at Red Mill Park, **Jeremey Sobecki**, Parks Department. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission for Magistrate John Link, Amanda Collins and Kendalyn Erne, to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, for the NAPSA annual conference, **Steve Eyrick**, Chief Adult Probation Officer. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered requesting a proposal for a countywide Deed Sale Auction conducted by SRI. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney**, given the history of a sale of county owned property, he would like to see a list prior to any sale. **Attorney Friedman**, he sent an email with a list on Friday at 5:12p.m. **President Matias stepped down and seconded to move the process forward. Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

Presentation by American Fidelity, **Brent Rempe**, distributed paperwork to the Commission. Working with Monique Thomas, HR and Commissioner Haney on ways to help employees, HR, Auditor and payroll. Stated reasons to allow American Fidelity to assist General Insurance for the benefit of the county. There will be a savings of \$12,000 to the county if American Fidelity is approved which would eliminate the current EASE program. **Requested** approval to start this process of working with GIS and the county. No contract is required but there will be paperwork to sign. No cost to the county. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve paperwork but subject to review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Considered establishing process for use of the Mobile Voter Unit (MVU), the van acquired to promote voter access for registration, absentee voting application, and early voting for use at various locations and events contingent on availability of deputy registrars/county employees representing both political parties. Discussion held at our last meeting. County Election Board held a meeting. **Commissioner Haney**, it's important to leave it with Voter Registration. Make suggestions to the County Election Board/Voter Registration for locations. The spirit of the grant that was awarded and fought so hard for by CEB President Chuck Watterson and CEB VP Nelson Pichardo. Election integrity and the election fall on the Clerk/CEB. We don't want to muddy the waters; we need to keep it clear. It should be fully utilized. **President Matias**, the van was acquired last September yet she has not

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seen it anywhere in the county being utilized. The concern is if it was under the office of Voter Registration, it has not been anywhere except sitting at the Highway Department not being used. It is a waste of tax payers' resources. She sent an email July 28th to Voter Registration inquiring the process of scheduling the van. The email was forwarded to Clerk Heather Stevens who replied back saying she would work with VR to get something set up. To date, no process has been developed, this is not a partisan issue. Voting is an American privilege. The grant was for \$67,000 of tax payer money that came back to our county, it should be used to register people to vote, applications for absentee voting could be available and absentee voting can be done in this mobile voting unit. Since a schedule has not been done then the Commission suggested a schedule be kept in their office, calls come in for all types of topics and the secretary knows where to get the information or what office to send a call. Voter Registration could adjust their schedules to work in the mobile voting van. Schedule will be available on the website for the locations. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, during the discussions it was stated the battery was dead on the vehicle, it was parked at the Highway Department, he asked the Highway Department to take a look at it. There is a lift gate on the van and the switch had been left on so it drained the battery. The battery has since been replaced. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to schedule the van through the Commissioners' office.** Opened for comments. **Nelson Pichardo**, Vice President, County Election Board, agreed with Commissioners Matias and Mrozinski. The purpose of the grant is to utilize the van as a tool and it has not been used in that way. The Commissioners have the resources and ability to allow the use of the van more then the Clerk's or Voter Registration offices. It is time to try something else since it has not been used like it should be and he was thankful the Commission has brought the issue up. As a member of the Election Board, he would like to see the two-party chairs appoint the individuals working or volunteering inside the vehicle. We need to use the Mobile Voting Van everywhere throughout our county, it should not just be parked. There is an efficient and productive way to get the unit out in the public. Part of the language of the grant spoke about 'safe elections' and it was brought up at the Election Board meeting that by having the Commissioners in charge of the scheduling would somehow make the elections 'unsafe.' Oaths were taken when the Commissioners took office, he doesn't understand by having a schedule created in the Commissioners' office will result in 'unsafe elections.' Ultimately the van needs to be used. **Jim Kimmel**, 1015 S. Westwood, La Porte, agreed with Nelson, start thinking outside the box. While he was listening to everything being said, he was thinking that the high schools should be able to help as well. Allowing the parking lots for use of the van as well as registering students to vote. Get the 2 County Chairs involved, have them make a list of willing individuals, get them trained. Stop the bickering about who has the keys or where its' going to be kept and work collectively together. It's a beautiful piece of equipment and it needs to be out in the public. **Tim Stabosz**, 1501 Michigan Ave, La Porte and Auditor, agrees the van is not adequately used and that is a concern, money was spent for a reason but he advised the danger is that the van has become politicized. Asked the Clerk if she has reached out to other clerks that have mobile voting vehicles for their policies on the use of them. A Commissioner is up for reelection, no one wants accusations against either party in any election year that this creates a precedence that if controlled by the Commissioners of 'ballot harvesting' and if the van camps out in certain areas that favor one party or the other, and the Commissioners are in control of it, it creates a very bad image. The Election Board and/or Voter Registration are supposed to be independent entities that ensure fairness. You are on dangerous ground here. Agreed that the van is not being used like it should be and is unacceptable however how will it be determined for the locations, will it be in an open meeting or through emails? Will it be a 2-1 vote? Do you take vehicles from Department Heads that are failing? He agrees it is not being used properly however it should stay under the direction of the Clerk and County Election Board. **Commissioner Mrozinski** checked with other counties, one Commissioner stated his county had issues and their vehicle is now under their control due to the parties involved. **Heather Stevens**, Clerk, via Zoom, pointed out to Commissioner Mrozinski that she took a key to the highway department who then gave it to the Commissioners office. It is a mobile voting van, not a registration van, you don't need a van to register people. She has attended fairs/festivals the last 5 years registering people. The van is new and details are being worked out. A lot of election law must be followed and she is in charge of the elections as Clerk. The Commission is overstepping majorly. **Commissioner Haney** read a statement from Election Board President Chuck Watterson, 'the purpose of the grant must be used exclusively for the public purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration in La Porte County.' To Chuck, the mobile unit is to be operated by the Election Board only. He has no issue with the Commissioners having input on locations or the public but his biggest issue is the view of impropriety, each Commissioner is an elected position and if they have control over the unit, it would portray a bad look on the election process. This can be avoided by everyone working together as separate units of government to ensure that everything is checked and balanced. The mobile unit needs to stay under the Election Board in order to comply with the purpose of the grant and to ensure secure elections, if someone wants to use the van feel free to contact the CEB. Public notice only needs to be issued if the unit is being used as a polling place. No need to notify if being used for purposes of registering or publicly at festivals. **Commissioner Haney** then gave his thoughts on the subject. Chuck Watterson filled the tank up on the mobile unit once, so Joe had offered his county gas card to fill the tank on the van. If the Commissioners are going to hijack this vehicle, then any of the Commissioners can use their gas card to fill it up. At the last meeting it was made clear that the Commissioners want the mobile unit for one thing and that would be viewed as ballot harvesting which is quite concerning to him. There is a process which should be followed by the Election Board, Clerk and Voter Registration. It is a red herring when it is said that the Commissioners own the vehicle, they have the title but the same can be said for all of the county owned vehicles. Vigorously opposes the mobile unit being placed under the scheduling of the Commissioners. It will cost us the grant and wouldn't be surprised if it lands the county in a lawsuit. A black cloud will be over us as we go in to the election season. Need to remain fair and impartial, he was shocked to hear Commissioner Mrozinski use the word integrity to describe himself when he has sat up on the mezzanine and lied on multiple occasions, he has been caught lying, caught on video, this idea that there is integrity here is ridiculous. **President Matias**, stated there is a motion on the floor by Commissioner Mrozinski. She objected to dramatic language that was used during comments made by others. Red herring, hijacked this vehicle, ballot harvesting...how does registering grandma and grandpa that live at

Rittenhouse Village or live in a neighborhood where they have no means to register to vote. How is that ballot harvesting? That is inflammatory language. The right to vote needs to be preserved. As a former teacher, she agrees with Jim Kimmel that the high schools would be a great place for the mobile van. The Sheriff Department pays for the gas cards so they may not want to pay for the mobile van. **President Matias stepped down and seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

Considered Treasurer's request for contract with S.E.H. (Damon Tsouklis) regarding 2020 reconciliation. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

New Business

Considered contract with Christopher Burke Engineering, LLC, to assist County EMA department with Five-Year plan to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 - Larry Butcher & Rob Sabie, EMA Management. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0**

Considered Construction Inspection contract with USI for Bridge 186 spanning Kankakee River on 650 West. **Jay Sullivan**, Engineer, LPA grant, 80/20 with INDOT and the amount is \$244,000. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Professional Engineering Design Services with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for Bridge 166 over Long Ditch on 1200 South. **Jay Sullivan**, Engineer, LPA grant, 80/20 with INDOT in the amount of \$267,210. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haney, busy past few weeks, visited Michigan City courthouse for issues; walked the trail at Sebert Woods; discussed future plans for the county parks with Jeremy Sobacki and board members at their meeting held last night; had a good meeting with Senator Todd Young's representative; Hanna Fest, Scarecrow Fest, and Pumpkin Fest are coming up; and could not disagree more with his fellow Commissioners about the Mobile Voting Van. Voting is a right, not a privilege in the United States, as an American citizen you have a right to vote, a privilege is for example, going to Costco and getting a membership. A distinct difference between a right, which is a natural right that every American citizen is born with, and a privilege that is extended and can be revoked at any time. America is also a constitutional republic; it is a form of a democracy. Encouraged everyone to go back and watch the last meeting pertaining to the discussion on the mobile voting van and its usage. Listen to the verbiage of his fellow Commissioners and tell him that it doesn't fall in line with the intent of 'ballot harvesting.' The term 'hijack' is an appropriate term. Election Board is in charge of the elections. By state law, state statute. Commissioners can't be sending the van out to collect votes. This entire notion to me is preposterous. We're at risk for losing the grant with this, wouldn't be surprised if it brings a suit against the county. One department suing another department with a possible lawsuit. Voting is sacred in America; it separates us from a lot of countries in the world. If people don't believe in the elections, the process, if there is no openness, no transparency, the systems and laws are not adhered to, everything falls apart in this country. We saw various issues in the last election, whether founded or unfounded, that threw a dark cloud over the last election. He would like the next election to be free of that, everything transparent and above board. He supports the van staying where it is right now, under the Clerk but agrees it should be used more.

Commissioner Mrozinski, Larry Levendowski gave a great report on the new ambulance base. Rich attended a meeting concerning code enforcement in the county. He was approached a few weeks ago that paving was caught up for the year, the Council approved an additional \$300,000 to get a bit more roads paved. He continues to work on getting a VA clinic here in La Porte. The Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, created by the VA to improve quality and access care for veterans, was turned down by Senator Joe Manchin. Rich has been in touch with Congressman Frank Mrvan, Senator Mike Braun, Congressman Jim Banks and Senator Todd Young's offices moving forward to figure out funding for the possible clinic in La Porte. Door Village Festival is this weekend. Suggested the mobile voting van be on site if possible. In New Mexico a state district court disqualified a County Commissioner for being an Oath Keeper member.

Commissioner Matias, La Porte County Works! program highlighted La Porte Custom Metal Processing, located at 3226 N. State Road 39, La Porte. The company primarily operates in the steel business/industry within the wholesale trade and is a coil toll processor. La Porte Custom Metal Processing Inc. purchased Leveltek in 2014. The toll processing takes raw or semi-finished goods and processes it for other uses. La Porte Custom Metal also performs stretching, slitting and cut-to-length operations in addition to the toll process for a wide range of industries. They serve a variety of customers in aerospace, power generation, railcars and bus panels, food service equipment, automotive components and so many more. They are an in-demand industry, works cooperatively with several industries to ship products from their floor to the final customer. Customers that look for this in-demand product include Aerospace, Defense, Automotive, and Power Generation. They currently have 50 employees making between \$19 to \$35 dollars per hour; they anticipate they will need approximately 20 new employees starting at \$19.00 per hour. Offer full benefit package, 401K, referral and attendance bonus, dental and eye care with shift premium bonus. In addition, the company offers a pleasant and stable place to work. Information will be posted on the County's website. **Made** a brief comment about the mobile voting van, it was acquired with a grant for approximately \$67,000 and was to be used for registering voters. To be used as a **mobile** voting van then

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that is an opportunity for the County Election Board and Clerk. Commissioners are not making it a mobile voting place to gather or 'harvest' votes. Registering people in the county was the goal for the use of the van, if an application to vote absentee is needed then those could be available as well. You can always do this online, too. It doesn't take a person from Voter Registration to fill out the forms. The intent for the van is to allow students at the high schools to register or for those individuals that don't have a computer or access to do the online registering. Stick to the facts and leave out the emotions surrounding this issue with the van. The Commission is currently bi-partisan with one Democrat and two Republicans. She ended her comments with the change in the Michigan City lakefront this summer where the lifeguards were extremely well-trained by the Michigan City Fire Department. This summer season had 16 potential drownings and zero fatalities. The well-trained lifeguards really came through and saved those in need. The lifeguards have since gone back to school so please use caution when at the lake.

President Sheila Matias adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 9-21-2022

Sheila Matias
Richard Fort-Lusk

ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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