



**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, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

**Vice President Richard Mrozinski** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by John Jones, Michiana Insurance agent.

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

**Considered** the agenda. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to add 3 items to the agenda: **Considered** renewal summary recommendation from Craig Menne for employees' health insurance; **Considered** hold harmless agreement for Woodruff & Sons against any trespass claim for final stretch of Meadowview Estates drainage project near Kingsbury Creek and **Considered** authorizing County Auditor as designated holder of the county's credit card per county ordinance. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

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

**Auditor Tim Stabosz** read the Claims with Payroll ending 11/4/2022 - \$1,292,799.11 and Operating Expense Claims - \$3,184,903.19. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

**Public Comment**

**Tim Shortt**, Member of the Michiana Marines Corp Detachment 1348/Department of Indiana Marine Corp League Toys for Tots Coordinator, toy collection boxes are now in 160 locations throughout La Porte County through December 12<sup>th</sup>. Toys will then be distributed to those in need. Last year for the 2021 campaign, 13,696 toys were collected and handed out to 3,900 children here in our County. Nationally, Toys for Tots collected 5,212,000 with 1,796,000 going to children in the United States. Indiana Marines collected toys for Ukrainian children who have been displaced, some of them in Estonia since Russia invaded Ukraine in February. An RV manufacture in Elkhart donated storage space, a shipping container and paid for the shipping to get the toys to the children in Estonia. Two marines from Elkhart volunteered to travel to Estonia and spent two weeks going from village to village distributing all the toys to the Ukrainian children that have been displaced, 6,000 toys in all and was accomplished in about 6 weeks this summer.

**Randy Veatch**, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, spoke about the last 8 years of an industrial business running on the property behind his house.

**Department Reports/Department Head Comments**

**Larry Levendowski**, Director of Facilities, updated the Commission on the Rolling Prairie EMS Base/Highway Garage. Lights are on and gas as well as the project moves closer to completion. There are some items that will not be done until February 2023.

**ORIGINAL**

**Shaw Friedman**, County Attorney, reported it has been his pleasure to work with the Commission since his appointment January 2019. Proud of what has been accomplished as County Attorney and will work with the successor to be sure of a smooth transition. Advice given is to be available and accessible. Having a County Attorney 'on call' 24/7 is important especially during times that are not necessarily during regular business hours. Look to others for guidance on best practices. To bring transparency and openness to the selection process for engineering firms, Commissioners proposed and adopted a selection process where one Commissioner, one Council member, Planner and Engineer are rotated at random to score firms on different projects. Commissioner Mrozinski challenged his firm to secure land for an EMS Base on the east side of the county, we were able to acquire property from the state of Indiana for this new EMS base and County highway garage. Commissioner Mrozinski inquired a way to honor county citizens and proposed a Bridge Naming Committee which includes a sign by each bridge in that individual's honor. Commissioner Matias challenged his firm with a way to fund connectivity of all rail at Kingsbury Industrial Park and we were able to help secure a \$1 million dollar grant to connect all rail at KIP. Commissioner Matias also directed us to seek the grant for the voter registration van which was used at numerous sites for absentee voting. Also proud of the fact that 5 years ago Councilman Terry Garner asked for assistance in saving the county fair and fairgrounds. My office proposed not only a loan forgiveness but helped to establish the Fairgrounds Management and Events Corporation, this has allowed for much needed physical improvements to the fairgrounds to benefit future generations. Appreciated Councilman Terry Garner's generous comments and the work that was done together. Be willing to work across the aisle to get things done. He thanked the Commissioners, Council, other elected officials and all department heads that he has worked so closely with over the years. He will never stop advocating for La Porte County and looks forward to a smooth transition for the next County Attorney.

### Requests

None

### Old Business

**Considered** Highway Superintendent's bid recommendations for 2023 annual materials for Highway Department, **Duane Werner**, Superintendent.

**Class 1 - Crushed Limestone:** Two Bidders: US Aggregates Inc. and South Lake Stone. Both bids accepted. South Lake Stone will be the primary bidder and US Aggregates will be secondary.

**Class 2 - Bituminous Patching / Rap Materials:** Two Bidders: Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. and Central Paving Inc. Both bids accepted.

**Class 3 - Blast Furnace Crushed Slag:** No Bidders

**Class 4 - Gravel, Dirt, Top Soil:** No Bidders

**Class 5 - No-lead, Diesel and E-85:** Two Bidders: Triple J-Mar Petroleum, Inc. and PetroChoice/Rackham Service. Both bids accepted.

**Class 6 - Signs and Sign Posts:** No Bidders

**Class 7 - Culvert Pipe and Guardrail:** Two Bidders: Debco Metal Culverts and St. Regis Culvert Inc. Both bids accepted. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** authorizing a full culling of property ownership list to exclude parcels La Porte County wishes to retain so SRI can propose a contract to handle a deed sale auction for the County. **Commissioner Haney motioned to table. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0. \*\*\*Tabled**

### New Business

**Considered** 2023 Workers' Compensation renewal - **John Jones**, Michiana Insurance. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** contract renewal with Access La Porte County, Inc. for the next 3 years, **Andrew White**, Director. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered unfavorable** recommendation by Plan Commission for re-zoning in regards to the Petition of Rodney Allen RLC. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** renewal recommendation for the employee's health insurance, UMR, **Craig Menne**, General Insurance. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

ORIGINAL

**Considered** Hold Harmless agreement for Woodruff & Sons against any trespass claim for final stretch of Meadowview Estates drainage project near Kingsbury Creek, Jay Sullivan, Mitch Bishop. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

**Considered** County Auditor as 'designated holder' of the county credit card. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 2-0.**

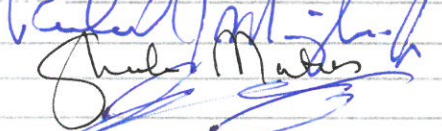
**Commissioner Comments**

**Commissioner Haney**, productive meeting for the employee's health insurance, reminded employees the North Shore clinic is available. Attended the Veterans' Day ceremony at the Civic Auditorium here in La Porte. Michigan City also had a program honoring veterans. Safe travels to everyone heading home tonight and the future for La Porte County is extremely bright.

**Commissioner Mrozinski**, La Porte County Works! Thermo-Cycler Industries Inc. was founded by Donn Kelter in 1984. Since that time, they have been specializing in manufacturing of energy efficient industrial heating and ventilation systems. In the early 1980's, with buildings becoming better insulated and more attention being given to energy efficient heating, Donn felt there was a strong need for air turnover equipment that could offer similar energy savings and comfort in smaller buildings. In September 1984 the Thermo-Cycler GTC-400 was born to serve that need. Over the last 38 years, their product line has been expanded and Thermo-Cycler Dealers have installed their system in thousands of buildings where they have been saving energy and improving the working conditions of employees in millions of square feet of warehouses, manufacturing buildings, athletic fields, and other large open area buildings. Thermo-Cycler has many years of personal experience in HVAC contracting, manufacturing and service. Thermo-Cycler takes a very sensible and simple approach to saving energy for heating warehouses and industrial manufacturing buildings. Compared with conventional infrared, unit heaters or direct fired makeup heating equipment, Thermo-Cycler can often save 30-50% in energy savings. Thermo-Cycler Industries is a small company with employees making between \$20 to \$40 dollars per hour and is always accepting employment applications. For more information about Thermo-Cycler check out their web site at [www.thermocycler.com](http://www.thermocycler.com). For information, contact Gregory Kelter, President, at 219-767-2990 or [tcinfo@thermocycler.com](mailto:tcinfo@thermocycler.com) and located at 111 E. Hamilton St. Union Mills. Two students were in attendance from South Central High School. He announced the Jane Bernard Small Animal Shelter will have Pet Photos with Santa December 10, 9am-1pm and December 11, 10am-2pm at Pet Supplies Plus, 1406 Lincolnway in La Porte. The project on 150 N. and Lofgren Road is almost complete. The Mayor's Veterans' Committee hosted the Veteran's Day event at the Civic Auditorium with Guest Speaker Todd Rokita, Indiana Attorney General. The next day the Museum had a dedication for the USS Indiana attack submarine and the USS Indianapolis ship, nice ceremony with plaques and pictures.

**Vice President Rich Mrozinski adjourned at 7:07 p.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE: 12-11-2012

  
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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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