



**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, December 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

President Sheila Matias called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Matias asked for a moment of silence remembering Steve Squires who passed away. He was a Hazmat volunteer.

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

Considered the 2nd amended agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to accept the 2nd amended agenda. Considered Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Considered approval of the December 7, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 12/16/2022 - \$1,871,860.57 and Operating Expense Claims - \$74,838,151.92. **Auditor Stabosz**, the amounts include bonus for employees and settlements from property taxes paid. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Public Comment

Mike Seitz, great job done on the decorations around the outside of the La Porte Courthouse.

Cary Schnick, Center Township Fire Department, distributed handouts to the Commission, requesting county road N. 400 W. be routed a bit more west when approaching Johnson Road, along the Toll Road.

Tim Stabosz, agreed with Mike Seitz that the décor around the outside of the La Porte Courthouse is wonderful and thanks to those responsible.

Mike Mollenhauer, Councilman, stated 3 individuals will be missed. Sheila Matias, Shaw Friedman, and Diane Gonzales.

Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, commercial business running behind his property in a residential neighborhood.

Department Reports/Department Head Comments

Barb Huston, E-911 Director, her department is ready for the Blizzard Warning weather conditions

Larry Butcher, EMA Director, Travel not recommended during the Blizzard Warning.

Tony Rodriguez, OCED, review of 2022 annual report.

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Requests

Considered permission to approach the Council for funding to replace 9 computers - Thomas O'Neal, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to pay Peggy Corbett for 26 sick days due to retirement - Scott Bell, Michigan Township Assessor. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Considered 2nd/final reading on Ordinance to amend site development permit fee and authorize 3rd party service provider - Nicole Messacar, MS4. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***Ordinance 2022-7**

New Business

Considered S.E.H. contract for Auditor - Tim Stabosz, Auditor. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haney, thanks to everyone for another great year. Closed with a quote from Irving Greenberg, 'The proper response, as Hanukkah teaches, is not to curse the darkness but to light a candle.'

Commissioner Mrozinski, thanked Larry Levendowski for all that he has done. He thanked Tony Rodriguez, Matt Reardon, Mike Seitz and Bailey McGrath for their work in Economic Development and Redevelopment Commission. Sheila has been great. County Attorney is going to be hard to replace. Diane Gonzales will be very hard to replace. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Matias, La Porte County Works! Models Plus, LLC was established in 1996. The company is located at 605 Grayton Road, Kingsford Heights, Indiana. ModelsPlus™ was founded as a dental laboratory, specializing in bracketing and orthodontic training models. As the business grew, ModelsPlus™ began offering surgical training models and marketing services to dental professionals around the world. In recent years, they have begun to branch out into the world of orthopedic training and patient education displays. As the need for outsourcing certain aspects of their medical education business began to take production off-shore, the business decided it would be in their best interest to purchase and stock the machines necessary to produce all their materials in house and under the same roof. Today, they are fully equipped with multiple UV flatbed printers, advanced laser systems for cutting and engraving, and multi-axis CNC machines for producing a wide range of products. Although for years, the company's bread and butter has been manufacturing custom anatomical models, they now provide branded packaging, custom cases with foam, presentation and trade show displays, 3D and UV printing services, engineering services, laser marking and engraving, and multi-axis CNC or Swiss Lathe manufacturing. The company offers a standard benefits package for all their employees after a 90-day probation period. Although they are currently fully staffed, they are always accepting employment applications. Employment information is located at the bottom of their web site or by going to www.bonemodels.com/careers. If you're looking for employment in a fun and fast-paced environment, and want to learn an interesting and innovative trade, check them out at their web site or stop by at their Kingsford Heights location today. **President Matias** ended her service to the County by saying what she is most proud of is the team work among the employees and officials. We got through Covid. Thanked employees for her questions, friendship, professional advice, and encouragement. Rural Broadband is critical to the County as well as Economic Development. Blessed Diane for her professionalism, thanked her colleagues on the Commission, thanked Shaw for doing a great job then adjourned the last meeting of the year at 7:02 p.m.

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

(I WAS NOT PRESENT)

ATTEST: _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Joseph Haney
President

Connie Gramarossa
Vice President

Richard Mrozinski
Member

2023 LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

La Porte County Complex, 809 State Street, La Porte, Indiana - Meeting Room #3
1st Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m. and 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

January 4, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
January 18, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

February 1, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
February 15, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

March 1, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
March 15, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

April 5, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
April 19, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

May 3, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
May 17, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

June 7, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
June 21, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

July 5, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
July 19, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

August 2, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
August 16, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

September 6, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
September 20, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

October 4, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
October 18, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

November 1, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
November 15, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

December 6, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
December 20, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 1-4-2023

Connie Gramarossa
CONNIE GRAMAROSSA

ATTEST: *Louise J. Stealy*
Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 01

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE POLICY BY WHICH MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAPORTE COUNTY MAY PARTICIPATE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS, P.L. 88-2021 (HEA 1437), SEC. 5, amended IC 5-14-1.5-1 et seq. (Act), effective April 20, 2021 by amending IC 5-14-1.5-3.5 to prescribe new requirements by which members of the governing body of a public agency of a political subdivision may participate in a meeting by any electronic means of communication;

WHEREAS, a member of the governing body may participate by any means of communication that:

- o Allows all participating members of the governing body to simultaneously communicate with each other; and
- o Except for a meeting that is an executive session, allows the public to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting;

WHEREAS, the Act requires the governing body to adopt a written policy establishing the procedures that apply to a member's participation in a meeting by an electronic means of communication and may adopt procedures that are more restrictive than the procedures established by IC 5-14-1.5-3.5(d); and

WHEREAS, the County's Board of Commissioners is the executive governing body of LaPorte County, Indiana; now therefore be it resolved:

Section 1. (a) The provisions of the Act, including definitions, apply to this resolution.

(b) This resolution shall be known as the "Electronic Meetings Policy" of the Board and applies to the Board and any committee or Advisory Board appointed directly by this Board or its presiding officer.

Section 2. (a) Subject to Section 3 and 5, any member may participate in a meeting by any electronic means of communication that: (i) allows all participating members of the governing body to simultaneously communicate with each other; and (ii) other than a meeting that is an executive session, allows the public to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting.

(b) A member who participates by an electronic means of communication: (i) shall be considered present for purposes of establishing a quorum; and (ii) may participate in final action only if the member can be seen and heard.

(c) All votes taken during a meeting at which at least one member participates by an electronic means of communication must be taken by roll call vote.

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Section 3. (a) At least fifty (50%) of the members must be physically present at a meeting at which member will participate by means of electronic communication. Not more than fifty percent (50%) of the members may participate by an electronic means of communication at that same meeting.

(b) A member may not attend more than once in a calendar year by an electronic means of communication, unless the member's participation is due to:

- (1) military service;
- (2) illness or other medical condition;
- (3) death of a relative; or
- (4) an emergency involving actual or threatened injury to persons or property.

Section 4. The minutes of a meeting at which any member participates by electronic means of communication must:

(1) Identify each member who:

- (A) was physically present at the meeting;
- (B) participated in the meeting by electronic means of communication; and
- (C) was absent; and

(2) Identify the electronic means of communication by which:

- (A) members participated in the meeting; and
- (B) members of the public attended and observed the meeting if the meeting was not an executive session.

Section 5. No member of the Board may participate by means of electronic communication in a meeting at which the board may take final action to:

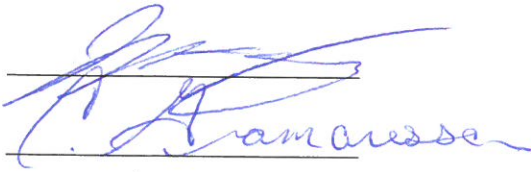
- (1) adopt a budget;
- (2) make a reduction in personnel;
- (3) initiate a referendum;
- (4) impose or increase a fee;
- (5) impose or increase a penalty;
- (6) exercise the Board' power of eminent domain; or
- (7) establish, impose, raise or renew a tax.

Section 6. This resolution shall be effective from and after adoption by this Board.

Adopted this 4th day of January 2023

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Board Of Commissioners of La Porte County, Indiana


C. H. Hamesse

WAV

Attest


County Auditor

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RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the need for a highly intensive, coordinated and energized economic development effort to recruit new business activity is a priority, and

WHEREAS, there is a demonstrated need for a single point of contact for business, developers, site locators, and infrastructure improvements supporting the growth of business and commerce throughout LaPorte County, and

WHEREAS, coordinated efforts related to long-term planning, engineering, and infrastructure investments are critical to the future success of LaPorte County, and

WHEREAS, LaPorte County shall consolidate departments and staff for a more efficient and effective use of resources, and

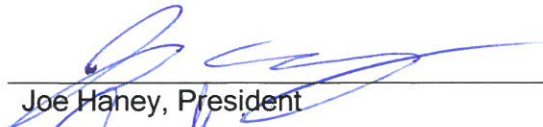
WHEREAS, the undersigned believe that creation of a "Center for Economic Development, Planning & Governmental Affairs" with its own dedicated office space, consultants and staffing is an important step to signal to existing business and business prospects that county government is creating a single office for those seeking information and assistance with planning, engineering, zoning, land use, infrastructure, job training, targeted tax incentives and other related site assistance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. There is hereby created a LaPorte County "Center for Economic Development, Planning & Governmental Affairs". Office space in the County Annex will be designated and assigned immediately.
2. The Center for Economic Development, Planning & Governmental Affairs shall work with and cooperate with existing local economic development corporations, city and town governments, labor, and business leaders in the sharing of "leads" and business prospects and will be the key point of contact for business decision makers and site locators seeking assistance in LaPorte County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of January 2023

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA



Joe Haney, President



Connie Gramarossa, Vice President

NA

Rich Mrozinski, Member



Auditor Stanislaw, AHS