



**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**

**Laporte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

President Joe Haney called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of allegiance led by **Auditor Tim Stabosz**.

Roll Call

Auditor Tim Stabosz called the roll: **President Joe Haney** – Present; **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** – Present; **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** Present and Voted via Zoom. **Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.**

Consider Agenda

President Joe Haney asked was there any additions, solutions or corrections to the agenda. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** motioned to add an amendment to the agenda: **Consideration of Claims under 6a**, a correction to Payroll ending 00/06/2023 need to be changed to 01/06/2023 and underneath this is **Consider Courthouse Completion Committee**. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider Approval of Minutes

President Haney suggested Considered approval of the January 4, 2023 minutes. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Consideration of Claims

Auditor Tim Stabosz read Claims. Payroll ending 01/06/2023 were \$1,489,689.14 and **Operating Expense Claims** were \$200,700.87. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Public Comment

Rick Kentaft, 324 Bach Street, City of Laporte, stated he was in front of the Commission at the first meeting and he asked a question then concerning our new County Attorney and stated his question was not answered. He states that he sees on the agenda about the Jones Law Office. He asked at that time was the County Attorney going to be paid travel time coming from St. Joseph County to these meetings. He stated he's going to ask that question again. **President Joe Haney** informed him that usually we don't use Public Comment for Q& A and told him that he would answer his question. **President Joe Haney** stated no, the County Attorney will not be paid travel time coming from St. Joseph County to these meetings. Rick went on to say that as a taxpayer he feels that the only way to get questions answered is stand in front, ask questions in these meetings. He then asked about the consideration of a contract with Wright and Associates, LLC for engineering and wanted to know if the MS4 position was going to be eliminated, if not, what was the salary going to be. **President Joe Haney** informed him that Public Comment was not for Q& A, his phone line and email was open

ORIGINAL

and to feel free to reach out to him. **President Joe Haney** informed him that the MS4 position is an appointed position and asked did he have any additional questions at this time.

President Joe Haney asked was there any other Public Comment, if not the meeting will move on.

Department Head Comments/Reports

Mericka Beaty, Laporte County Community Corrections stated she wanted to present the TREC, tax refund and exchange compliance system and stated that she had met with the county attorney to look over TREC contract. She stated it's basically an accountability when individuals do not pay their fees at Community Corrections that they have the authority to go after their income taxes. She stated it needed to be signed by the governing body and wanted to present the contract and some information to them to look over. **President Joe Haney** gave her permission to approach the bench and stated that for the record it did meet his approval. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motion to accept the TREC contract. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Requests

None at this time.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

Considered Sherriff's garage UniFirst contract. Sherriff Heff stated he has presented the UniFisrt contract to the county attorney and stated it met his approval. He wanted to present contract to BOC and requested their support as well. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered contract with Tiger Correctional Services for Jail Food Services. Sherriff Heff expressed the rise in food cost per meal per inmate. This has been the first increase over two years. The county attorney has looked over contract and it has met his approval. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider Hold Harmless Agreement with Woodruff and Sons. **President Joe Haney** stated that this item had been already presented and they were just revisiting it. Mitch Bishop stated the agreement had been discussed in the November/December 2022 meeting. The previous attorney had drafted an email of an agreement for the Hold Harmless in the meeting, November/December 2022 and it was signed by all three Commissioners. However, Woodruff did not accept this. Woodruff needed a more formalized agreement for the Hold Harmless and it is being presented before the BOC tonight for acceptance. **President Joe Haney** stated he did have a chance to review updated agreement and had no problems with it and county attorney has reviewed. Per Mitch, Woodruff's attorney has not reviewed agreement as yet. Mitch stated he's waiting for them to get back with him on this. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski motioned to table. Commissioner Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion tabled 3-0.**

Consider Resolution 2022-6. **President Joe Haney** stated that he would make sure that additional information is put out on this going forward. It's a study for the City of Laporte and was passed in July 6, 2022. **President Joe Haney** wanted to make sure things are moved forward on completing study due to the possibility of jeopardizing grant monies approved for study. He wants to make sure monies are not lost and having to be paid back ensuring taxpayers are not put on the hook for this. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to**

repeal 2022-6. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski motioned to abstain. President Joe Haney seconded. Motion carried 2-1.

Consider out of state travel Erika Stallworth in March 2023 approved by Judge Alevizos. **President Joe Haney** stated it was an email put out on this and everyone had seen this. Email was straight forward and it was for some training. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider contract with Wright and Associates, LLC for engineering services for MS4 related items. **President Joe Haney** stated that there was a scope of work drawn up while we are engaging the professional engineer to do some work onsite for inspections for MS4 and there are some reporting requirements related to this. For the time being we are building up our MS4 department and do not want any lapses to fall in regards to companies doing anything. So we are engaging with the professional services of the engineer with the number of ongoing issues throughout the county at a discounted rate. This certainly will be a big help and help us to move forward. All BOC members should have a copy of this. The county attorney had reviewed contract and approved. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. President Joe Haney seconded. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski opposed. Motion carried 2-1.**

Consider contract for Jones Law Offices. **President Joe Haney** stated, for the public, the BOC appointed Jones Law Offices as the county attorney at the first meeting of the year. The contract needs to put in the agenda to be advertised. The outgoing administration failed to do so. A copy of the contract has been provided for the meeting for review today. **President Joe Haney** stated there will be no travel cost for the attorney to travel from St. Joseph County to these meetings. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider resolution establishing Center for Economic Development, Planning, & Governmental Affairs. **President Joe Haney** stated this item was held over for this meeting to make sure it was agenda properly. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. President Joe Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.** **President Joe Haney** read for the record the resolution for discussion and stated this resolution is adapted this day, January 18, 2023. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. President Joe Haney seconded. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski opposed. Motion carried 2-1.**

Consider contract for AME Consulting for services related to Economic Development, Planning & Governmental Affairs. Paul Vincent, Principal Engineer for AME Consulting stated he was excited about the opportunity to work with Laporte county. He hopes to get their organizational plans and strategies locked in within the first month or so of working with the county. He stated their background is with planning and have grant writers on staff. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. President Joe Haney seconded. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski opposed. Motion carried 2-1.**

Consider Courthouse Completion Committee. **President Joe Haney** stated it was crucial to get the work done, one year mark was approaching. The work needed to be done before the warranty runs out. He stated the committee would consist of one Commissioner, the Director of IT, and the Director of Facilities to oversee these items getting done. **Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve. President Joe Haney seconded. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski opposed. Motion carried 2-1.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Connie Gramarossa motioned to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. President Joe Haney seconded. Commissioner Rich Mrozinski had already logged off before motion to adjourn.

ORIGINAL

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 2-1-23

[Signature]

ATTEST: _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL