



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**Connie Gramarossa
President**

**Richard Mrozinski
Vice President**

**Joe Haney
Member**

**Laporte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

Commissioner Connie Gramarossa, President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance** led by **Joe Coar**.

Roll Call

Auditor Tim Stabosz called the roll: **Commissioner Richard Mrozinski** - Present; **President Connie Gramarossa** - Present; **Commissioner Joe Haney** - Present. **Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.**

Consider Agenda

Commissioner Gramarossa asked for consideration of the agenda. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to add to the agenda the State Health Funding Resolution for the Commission to accept and to add it under Old Business. **He made a motion to approve State Health funding Resolution as amended.** **Commissioner Haney** stated he would like to make a motion to request this to go to the Council and wanted to amend motion and to include. **Attorney Pejic** asked **Commissioner Haney** was he looking to amend motion and he stated yes. **Attorney Pejic** stated he thinks this should be a separate motion procedurally and **Commissioner Haney** replied, okay. **Commissioner Haney** stated he would second **Commissioner Mrozinski's original motion.** **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Joe Haney stated he would like to make a motion to consider Complex Flood Renovation to the county Council. The Counsel advertised \$1.7 million appropriation. **Commissioner Gramarossa** asked did **Commissioner Mrozinski** and **Attorney Pejic** know anything about this because she was not aware of this and they stated they were not either. To avoid issues with the Council, **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded **motion.** **Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Gramarossa asked for consideration for approval of the June 7, 2023 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** stated he was not going to approve. **Commissioner Gramarossa** motioned to approve minutes. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 2-1.**

Consideration of Claims

Auditor Tim Stabosz stated **Payroll** ending 06/09/2023 in the amount of \$1,484,141.08 and **Operating Expense Claims** in the amount of \$ 100,399,082.91. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve **Operating Claims and Payroll** as advertised. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Public Comment

Joe Port, La Porte stated he had two things to talk about problem with leakage at the Michigan City Courthouse and positive comments about La Porte County Inspection Department. He talked about the unit at the courthouse and what was going on. Artic Engineering is standing behind the leakage, it's coming from an hvac unit. The unit was resealed and it is still under warranty. The negative air has been checked out. Joe

commented on the various leaks and what was going on. The inspection department was very thorough and serviced them like they never seen before. The inspection department is doing their job in La Porte County.

Rodney McCormick, Michigan City asked Commissioner Mrozinski had he had a chance to see what was going on with the handicap ramp at the Michigan City Courthouse? He said he thought Commissioner Gramarossa was going to take care of it. she replied, no she had not. Commissioner Mrozinski informed Rodney that he would take care of this.

Dakota Uler, Michigan City, he stated the Board of Elections Center moved polling locations and voters can cast their votes at any polling place. He supported the efforts to make voting easier and more convenient for the public. And, he applauded the county clerk for her efforts.

Attorney Pejic asked that the Commission to revisit the Consideration of Operating Claims item “C” because it was not addressed. **Auditor Stabosz** stated he had omit reading it and stated correction to June 7, 2023 Operating Expense Claims should be \$ 5,661,253.54 – \$564,850.00 = \$5,096,403.54. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

Department Head Comments

Heather Stevens, Clerk stated the county Election Board had a unanimous vote to move La Porte County to voting centers. She is in the process of gathering additional information to bring before the Commission. Eight polling locations is required in the county and right now they have 38 which gets them out of the schools and is more convenient.

Mike Polan, Building Commissioner, thanked Mr. Coar about his kind words about the Building Department. He said this goes to show what can be accomplished when we work together and there is great communication. Mr. Polan asked were there any questions about anything else or their quarterly reports? **Commissioner Mrozinski** stated he hears a lot of great things and positive comments about the Building Department and about Mr. Schuman and the other inspectors. Mr. Polan thanked Commissioner Mrozinski. He also, said he would like to thank his staff as well. **Commissioner Gramarossa** thanked Mr. Polan and his staff for showing up and being very accommodating.

Sean Fitzpatrick, Director of Facilities stated his department has 713 closed work orders as of today. He said he’s looking for the Commission’s support to go before the Council for some funding. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the funding was critical for Facilities to manage and get the departments up and running properly. He said earlier he had presented the Commission with a breakdown of the items he wanted to present to the Council. There also are some budget shortfalls that needed to be addressed. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve to go before the Council for support for funding. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded motion. Commissioner Haney said he was not going to be able to second motion. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded motion. Commissioner Haney stated nay. Motion carried 2-1.**

Old Business

Commissioner Mrozinski read the State Health Funding Resolution. Commissioner Gramarossa asked were there any public comments about the health funding? **Donna Johnson** commented on health funding and said receiving funding from the government would be more problematic. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to adopt the State Health Funding Resolution as read. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded motion. Commissioner Haney stated nay. Motion carried 2-1.**

Attorney Pejic stated he has spoken to multiple individuals about the health fund. The state has already appropriated this money. Taxpayers have already paid into this. He said it is going to save the county a lot of money. He thanked Commissioner Haney. He believes there are safe guards in place and this would make good use of tax dollars. The county can opt in or opt out of this. **Commissioner Gramarossa** stated she do believe this was voted on at the last meeting. **Attorney Pejic** said a motion needs to be made to adopt the

resolution. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to adopt the resolution as read this day. Commissioner Haney** stated he had a question about when it could be the opt out option be taken if need be. **Attorney Pejic** said he did not have an answer in regards to this but, there are resources down state to help guide us. Commissioner Haney stated he would not be able to **Commissioner Haney** said he was not going to be able second motion and wanted additional information. **Commissioner Gramarossa** continued with discussion saying the budget hearings were coming up next month. She said it was unfair, and it would be difficult for department head to go into the meeting not knowing whether funding was available or not. **Commissioner Gramarossa seconded motion. Motion carried 2-1.**

New Business

Consider permission for Voter Registration Office to close office and attend the La Porte County Fair July 10, 2023 thru July 14, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. We will be registering voters and answering questions they might have – Christen Zabel and Angela Henzman, Co-Directors. Christen said she would like to relocate the mobile unit and if not possible, they would like to be in their own buildings as in the past. The Board of Commissioners informed Christen that she would have to work out relocation with the Fair Board. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the closing of office for the Fair as stated in request. Commissioner Haney seconded motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider approval of minutes from the 2/6/23 Joint Council/Commission meeting. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider payout for sick days and keeping dental insurance for James Sosinski who is retiring after 41½ years from the Sheriff Department. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider permission to close Zigler Road to through traffic from 2nd Street to State Road 2 from July 8, 2023 thru July 15, 2023 to host annual fair – Steve Mrozinski, President, La Porte County Fair. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider Memorandum of Understanding with La Porte City - Mike Frazee, Superintendent. **Commissioner Gramarossa read Memorandum. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider end of service for Allen Stevens. **Commissioner Haney** asked if he terminated prior to this or on suspension and asked **Commissioner Mrozinski** to clarify. **Commissioner Mrozinski** stated discussion of personnel issues were not allowed in this meeting. **Commissioner Haney** made comment about how he felt and **Commissioner Gramarossa** informed him that discussion of terms of his termination was not allowed in this meeting and told **Commissioner Haney** he could say whatever he wanted. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Commissioner Haney stated nay. Motion carried 2-1.**

Consider permission to travel to 2023 NCSEA (National Child Support Enforcement Association) Leadership Symposium on August 6, 2023 thru August 9, 2023, Anaheim, California – Sean Fagan, Prosecuting Attorney. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Consider funding for the Phase II PE for Bridge #37 which has already been approved by the Council – Jerry Sullivan, Engineer. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Mrozinski made a motion for Commissioner Gramarossa to read qualifications and background of recommendation for Interim Superintendent, Charity Glaser for the Highway Department. Commissioner Mrozinski made motion to accept Charity Glaser for Interim

Superintendent for Highway Department. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Commissioner Haney stated nay. Motion carried 2-1.

Commissioner Haney stated there was another item for consideration which is, the flood request. **Commissioner Haney made a motion that the flood request not to exceed \$1,729,46.00 for the items advertised after a bid process.** He said the Council has already advertised repairs and new work to the building. **Commissioner Gramarossa, Commissioner Mrozinski, and Attorney Pejic** made comments in response to the flood request. Discussion of a motion of support, and the bidding process was mentioned and recommended. The Board of Commissioners does not set the Council's agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski said, a vote on a dollar amount of anything not properly advertised cannot be legally voted on as per statute for 48 hours and the motion is out of order. **Motion died for a lack of a second.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Commissioner Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried 3-0.