



LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Connie Gramarossa
President

Richard Mrozinski
Vice President

Joseph Haney
Member

La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom

President Connie Gramarossa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence took place for the attacks on Israel.

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

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

Considered approval of the October 4, 2023 minutes. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 9/29/2023 - \$1,443,824.14 and Operating Expense Claims - \$6,499,368.29. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Discussion took place on the scheduling of payroll dates. **George Callas**, Toronado Drive, La Porte, questioned approving payroll that has already been paid. Motion carried 3-0. Roll Call - **Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye; Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye.** **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve the claims as presented. **President Gramarossa**, Auditor stated at the last meeting he would pay claims according to the schedule and within 30 days, 2 invoices have come in and submitted to the Auditor's office on September 25th. **Auditor Stabosz** reported the invoices are file stamped 9-29 however **President Gramarossa** said that is when he arrived in his office. **Auditor Stabosz** replied his staff file stamps the paperwork and brings all attorney invoices to his desk. **President Gramarossa**, one invoice was paid and the other was not, why? As per the MOU, payment would be made according to the schedule. **Auditor Stabosz**, he would pay the invoices within 30 days, he still has time to review the invoices and he intends to hold up his end of the agreement. **President Gramarossa**, both invoices were submitted according to the claims schedule, not expedited, one is for litigation work that is usually paid without review and the invoice for non-litigation is usually reviewed. This time the non-litigation invoice (\$227.50) was paid and the litigation invoice (\$13,905) has not been paid. The MOU signed by Auditor Stabosz states the bills would be paid in 30 days and now that has not happened. **Auditor Stabosz**, the MOU says invoices would be paid within 30 days and he will abide by the agreement. **Attorney Scott Pejic**, the MOU states invoices will be paid within 30 days of submission, now we must determine the actual submission. Executive Assistant Gonzales submitted the invoices on September 25th, the file stamp by the Auditor's staff indicates the 29th so possibly going forward Diane will get a copy of the file stamp when she submits invoices to the Auditor's office. **Auditor Stabosz** agreed that both time/dates will be the same. **President Gramarossa**, all three Commissioners signed the invoices. **Auditor Stabosz**, he will honor the terms of the MOU agreement. **Commissioner Haney**, whether we go by the 25th or the 29th, there are still seven or eleven days left for processing by the Auditor to ensure they will be on the next docket. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, via Zoom, he figured the Auditor would not live up to his end of the agreement. Discussion took place on the agreement. Previous motion made by **Commissioner Haney** died for lack of a second. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve the Claims including \$13,905 for a vendor. **President Gramarossa** stepped down and seconded. Motion carried 2-1. Roll Call - **Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Nay.**

Public Comment

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, Michigan City, attending in several capacities and comments included: member of the Community Corrections Board, Candidate for First Ward City Council in Michigan City and the GOP. Repairs need to be done at Community Corrections, bridges in Michigan City need to be cleaned up in the First Ward and the GOP received negative feedback

ORIGINAL

Pat Meaney, 4078 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, commented on signs out in locations about a certain vendor. The Auditor does not have a right to decide if an individual is making 'too much money.' He should not be singling out certain vendors, no matter how much money he thinks they make. Discussion took place between Mr. Meaney and Auditor Stabosz.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, Michigan City, via Zoom, Public Service Announcement, tips on how to stop your water pipes from freezing in the winter. Reconstruction of Pahs Road is in progress. Thanks to those involved in making this happen. Two weekends left for the Farmers Market in Michigan City at 8th Street and Washington Street.

Stephen Nightingale, 0998 E. 1000 N., La Porte, citizen most affected by Versaw on 1000 North. Appreciates Shaw Friedman's efforts on behalf of the County in stopping the truck traffic on his road. Thanked the Commissioners' support.

Tim Stabosz, Auditor and Citizen, when he speaks with certain members of the public, he gives opinions and often it may be about Attorney Shaw Friedman, currently they are involved in a billing dispute. **President Gramarossa**, we should not be discussing that here. **Tim Stabosz**, he will not rubber stamp invoices. Mr. Meaney has a conflict of interest due to Attorney Friedman representing Mr. Meaney in a court case.

Attorney Scott Pejic, recommended enforcing the policy on Public Comments, limited time and comments made should be about the business on the agenda.

Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, be careful going down that path, we went down that path 8-9 years ago, it did not work out for the County. La Porte County is being represented by Attorney Shaw Friedman on the sand mining issue behind his house. He appreciates the Commission allowing the experience of Attorney Friedman to continue with the court case.

George Callas, 708 Toronado Dr., La Porte, questions, and comments about payroll.

Department Reports/Comments

Commissioner Joe Haney, tomorrow, October 19, 2023, will be a train derailment drill exercise, an emergency preparedness exercise, held at the industrial complex off Severs Road.

Requests

Considered permission to approach the Council for additional appropriations for new vehicles, **Delora Garner and Holly Grushka**, Community Corrections. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Roll Call - Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye; Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye.**

Considered permission to switch Vendors for vending machine services at Community Corrections, **Delora Garner. Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Roll Call - Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye.**

Old Business

Considered awarding bid for Food Services in the Jail, Ron Heeg, Sheriff, contract awarded to Tigg's Canteen Services.

Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Haney - Aye; Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye; Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye.


New Business

Considered Contract wit USI Consulting Services to monitor deck cracks on Bridge #186, Jerry Sullivan, Engineer.

Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Roll Call - Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye; Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye.

Commissioner Rich Mrozinski motioned to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Joe Haney seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 11-1-2023



ATTEST: _____
Auditor
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL