



**LA PORTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Connie Gramarossa
President

Richard Mrozinski
Vice President

Joseph Haney
Member

**La Porte County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. County Complex Room 3 & via Zoom**

President Connie Gramarossa called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** asked for a moment of silence for student Malakai Suida who passed away.

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

Considered the agenda. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to move item 11 'd' up the agenda and placed it after **Claims**. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered approval of the November 15, 2023 minutes. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 11/17/2023 - \$1,498,736.11 and ending 12/1/2023 - \$1,468,296.65 and Operating Expense Claims - \$3,317,752.29. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve the claims. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Storm Water Ordinance and Technical Standards, **Mike Polan**, Building Commissioner, Old Rule 5 changed to the CSGP, General Stormwater Construction permit, two years ago. Required to update ordinances to mirror the state statute. In the IDEM audit, this was marked as a deficiency and the County needed to correct it. Attorneys Guy DiMartino and Doug Biege, Paul Vicari and Mike Polan all worked on updating the standards. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve on **First Reading**. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** There were no public comments. **Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** motioned to suspend the rules and pass on **Second Reading**. **No seconded heard from Commissioner Haney** therefore motion died. **Roll call: Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye and Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye. Attorney Guy DiMartino**, be sure this is on the **next** agenda for second/final reading. **Attorney Scott Pejic**, clear for the record, Ordinance La Porte County MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance Version 1.2, December 2023. *****First Reading**

Public Comment

Steve Holifield, 6782 E. 100 S., Mill Creek, commented on annexation. It would be good for the public to know what the Commissioners' thoughts are on the topic. Also stated there is a half-dead large oak tree on 500 East, just south of the intersection 200 South, on the West side of the road. The tree is leaning into the road and looks hazardous, would the County Highway look into it.

Stephen Nightengale, 998 E. 1000 N., La Porte, appeared at the BZA meeting on November 21st for a Petition to Appeal an Enforcement Officials Determination. He was stopped during his time and informed the BZA cannot override a decision made by other individuals. He requested permission to speak to County Attorney Scott Pejic in possibly having the Commission join him in his appeal. **President Gramarossa** gave permission for him to speak to Attorney Pejic however the Commission would not be joining him in the appeal, that is not normally done.

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Pat Meaney, 4078 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, remembers the days of the Solid Waste area on Zigler Road and the changes made over the years. Employees are courteous, kind, and helpful, great facility for those out in the county.

Randy Veatch, 4177 W. Schultz Road, La Porte, thanked the sitting board for joining forces within the Commissions and pulling in other departments to shut down the sand mining behind his house that began in 2015.

Emily McDuff, RWE Clean Energy, currently developing a solar and battery storage project in La Porte County that will benefit local land owners as well as the public through tax benefits as well as local construction and operations jobs, looks forward to working with everyone during this project.

Juanita Haney, 2625 W. Joliet Road, La Porte, spoke a few weeks about squeaky wheel getting greased. Commented on Voter Registration office moving to a new location.

Francine Kalita, Voter Registration, Part-Time Republican employee, statements on the Voter Registration office move.

Tim Stabosz, 1501 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Christmas Candle Light Tour Committee Member, thanked the Commission for allowing the La Porte Courthouse to be added to the list of places for the 2023 Candle Light Tour, last time was 2004. This year over 800 paid attendees participated in the event. Wonderful visibility. No tours during Covid years of 2020-2022. He thanked all of those involved in making the La Porte Courthouse look great this year.

Allen Stevens, La Porte County Republican Chair, voiced his concerns on the moving of the Voter Registration office.

Department Reports/Comments

Angela Henzman and Christen Zabel, Voter Registration Co-Directors, discussion held on the office being moved to a different location. **Commissioner Haney motioned to have any office moves must be approved by all 3 Commissioners in an open meeting. President Gramarossa**, this is an internal issue. That is not how this is done. Discussion commenced between Voter Registration Co-Directors, President Gramarossa, and Commissioner Haney. **Attorney Scott Pejic**, address the motion made by Commissioner Haney and if need be, he can meet with the Co-Directors of Voter Registration. **President Gramarossa, no second therefore motion died.**

Matt Reardon, Office of Economic Development, the County participates in a program for Broadband. Local units have an opportunity and a responsibility to get the best information out about the community. READI.net is a program of newer technology employed by the State to get better information at a modest cost. La Porte County is the second largest land county in Indiana. Introduced **Tom Dakich**, Quantum Corridor, Chief Executive Officer. Quantum Corridor was formed by Chicago-area technology innovators to drive tech infrastructure to Indiana and create an information-sharing platform for academic researchers, scientific facilities, defense contractors and industry partners. Quantum Corridor is generally restricted to the largest research and education centers and to entities that can use this level of bandwidth. It will begin near the Purdue University Northwest Campus in Westville, Indiana and traverse Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties, extending to the internet exchange superhub located in Chicago. The project has a 9-month construction period and will utilize private investment and READI Grant proceeds.

Rhonda Graves, Chief Deputy Auditor, on behalf of the Auditor's office, explained the process of paying Claims.

Commissioner Rich Mrozinski, gave a 'shout-out' to Joann Haverstock who walked in the office and made him aware of an issue in the jail kitchen, it has been addressed and everyone is welcome to walk in the Commissioners' office any time.

Requests

Considered 60 sick days pay to Harlan M. Wiltfong who is retiring, **Charity Glaser**, Highway Dept. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered favorable approval for Westchester ACE renewal, **John Jones**, Michiana Insurance. Received two proposals. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

None

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New Business

Considered 2024 Holiday Schedule. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered 2024 Board of Commissioners' meeting dates. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered favorable recommendation to rezone from B3 to M2 in Coolspring Township, **Chris Godlewski**, Abonmarche, 315 W. Jefferson Blvd, South Bend, with Isaac Hall, Petitioner/Developer from Great Lakes Capitol. Rezoning for a manufacturing spec building between W. 375 N. and W. 400 N. in Coolspring Township, Michigan City. South end of Michigan City in an unincorporated area, among commercial businesses. During the Plan Commission meeting, one individual appeared with a question about his property value, he is northeast of this parcel. **Isaac Hall**, 7410 Aspect Drive, Granger, this would be a specular development with two buildings with the north building being smaller and the other building larger, more for manufacturing. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve on **First Reading**. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to suspend the rules and vote on second reading by title only, 'Ordinance to rezone certain real estate under the zoning ordinance in La Porte County.' **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Roll call: Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye; Commissioner Haney - Aye and Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye.** **Motion carried to suspend the rules 3-0.** **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve on **Second Reading**. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Roll call: Commissioner Haney - Aye; Commissioner Mrozinski - Aye and Commissioner Gramarossa - Aye.** **Motion carried 3-0.**

***Ordinance 2023-3

Considered 2024 contract renewals for Building Maintenance, Sean Fitzpatrick, Facilities' Director. **Office Manager Sheryl Lestinsky**, only change is with fire protection. All contracts were bid out. Koorsen Fire & Security contractor was \$1,800 more however their response time is better than the current vendor, Communications Company, which also has upcharges that are not covered in the contract. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered favorable recommendation for Sebert Acres Minor Subdivision in Center Township. **Tony Hendricks and Matt Garritano**, Charles Hendricks & Associates, PC, a primary plat for a 3 (three) lot Minor Subdivision to be known as 'Sebert Acres Minor Subdivision' will be located immediately north of Schultz Road, east of 400 West, in Center Township, La Porte. Favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission which passed in October 2022. Zoned R1B consisting of 10.21 acres (parent + 3 lots). No improvements needed. No public water or sewage facilities available. Lots will be serviced by private wells and septic. Parcel number 46-06-16-100-010.000-042. 1.2 acre lots, very large lots. Originally subdivision approved in 2007 with more lots but has since been broken down to 3 lots. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Rich Mrozinski motioned to adjourn at 11:19 a.m. **Commissioner Joe Haney** seconded. **Motion carried.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 12-20-2023

Charles Gramarossa
Paul Mrozinski

ATTEST: _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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