



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, November 6, 2024 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 led by Anthony Novak. A moment of silence was called for Emily McDuff, RWE.

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

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

Considered approval of the October 16, 2024 minutes. **Commissioner Mrozinski** motioned to approve. **Commissioner Haney** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Claims with Payroll ending 10/18/2024 - \$1,500,700.00. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve payroll. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Tim Stabosz read the Operating Expense Claims - \$1,620,675.61. **Commissioner Haney** motioned to approve the claims. **Commissioner Mrozinski** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

Garry Scott Woodham, 4112 S. Spring Creek Trail, La Porte, while working in his garage on October 14th under a car, the jack supporting the car failed and he was pinned under the vehicle. His head and chest were compressed, yelled out for his wife who came to his aide. He realized the brake rotor and weight of the car was resting on his left, upper thigh. His wife Wendy stayed on the phone with the 911 dispatcher. As First Responders started to show up, he was comforted knowing help had arrived. 'Your quick actions, professionalism, ability to do your job through the chaos of that day were nothing short of heroic because I'm here today, leg intact and on the path to recovery is a testament to the incredible work each and every one of you displayed and provided for me that day. To all of you and to the departments in which you represent, your actions did not go unnoticed. Each and every one of you played a significant part in allowing me to stand here today and be able to share this message of appreciation to all of you. To the person who made the call for the car not to be raised until the EMTs arrived, your quick thinking and ability to recognize the severity of my injuries could have saved me from bleeding out if done sooner, thank you. To my wife, thank you for not giving up, I know you're still struggling to put the events of that day behind you, you did everything right, you had already saved my life before the shock and trauma had set in. To our local 911 Dispatch Department, what an awesome job you did with what little information you had to go on that day. Thank you. To the La Porte County Sheriff's Department, I saw each and every one of you there working frantically to help me, I heard your calls going out to the other responders to 'step it up.' At my request, a couple of you even attempted to lift the car off of me, I saw another officer desperately searching the garage for something to load the car off of me *with*, it was one of you that pulled me from the car. It was several of you that assisted me to the stretcher. The follow-up phone call to my wife the next day just to see how I was doing was very much appreciated. To all of you, thank you. To the Kingsbury Fire Department responder, through the chaos of everything going on that day, you took charge. There was a moment I was watching the EMTs staging their equipment over in the passenger side of the car, when I had turned my head back to the driver's side, there is an image of you holding the jaws of life that will forever be burned in my memory. I also knew right then and there I was about to come out, I'm pretty sure you were also the one that applied the tourniquet. I can't thank you enough for not only raising that car off of me but ensuring that everything and everyone was in place before doing so. To the EMT Department, Amanda, I saw your leadership skills on full display that day, assisting, coordinating, and communicating with the trauma unit, what an amazing job you did. Blake, you were by my side the whole time, through the chaos and carnage you had informed me that you had also been a prior military medic, being a Military Veteran myself, I knew brother-to-brother, I was in good hands. I didn't know you were currently a trainee in a trainee position at the time.

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You have my strongest recommendation for them to hire you right now, what an amazing job you did. Dexter, I must have heard that ambulance horn blow 376 times enroute to the South Bend trauma center. I really don't know how many times I heard it; I just know that your driving skills were on full display that day. To my EMT crew, thank you all for an amazing job. On behalf of both my wife and I, thank you all for the jobs that you do, I want each and every one of you to know that you do make a difference.' Members were on hand for photos and recognition, letters of accommodation will be added to their files. **Eric Fenstermaker**, EMS Director, Blake was hired and halfway through his first day he and his wife welcomed his baby daughter to their family so he is not here today.

Steve Holifield, 6782 E. 100 S., Mill Creek, consider the Burn Ban just the way it is right now, harvest is almost done. Next is the Road Use Agreement with Bluestem Solar Farms, look at White County where every pole, every line buried, cuts for driveways, signs, fenceposts, is charged by the County to put in or install. Marshall County does not have their roads fixed after two years. New Carlisle has not been repaired yet either, just be aware and keep your eyes on the citizens that live here and not just a few of them.

Kaylie Sampson, 353 North Clark, Chicago, Bluestem Solar Project, Emily McDuff spoke very highly of the leadership in La Porte County and the moment of silence in her honor was beautiful, thank you.

Department Reports/Comments

None

Requests

Considered permission to advertise bids for Michigan City EMS Base, **Eric Fenstermaker**, the current building at 201 W. Coolspring was a former Fire Department and was only supposed to be used for two years, this was in 1998. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, he as well as Mark Yagelski started this project years ago, almost as long as the Rolling Prairie EMS Base. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council to spend from LIT budget, **Charity Glaser**, Highway. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Auditor Stabosz**, if he could comment please. **President Gramarossa** reminded him he is the Secretary. **Auditor Stabosz**, this is related to finances, asked if the Commission would consider approving Charity to approach the Council potentially to spend from Major Moves. 'The Council has been looking at spending on Health Insurance from the LIT Budget so if you could increase the flexibilities so she wouldn't have to come back to you, there's five million dollars in the Major Moves funds that can only be spent on roads, its something that has been recommended to the Council, we respectfully suggest that you provide larger options including the ability to take from Major Moves if the Council desires to do that.' **Commissioner Mrozinski**, if that is her wishes if she gets on the agenda for the Council, we're only giving her permission to go to the Council. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business

Considered review on Burn Ban Executive Order. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, advise comes from several different entities. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to lift the current Burn Ban. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.** **Commissioner Haney**, spoke to location Fire Chiefs, they have the jurisdiction within their township.

Considered Road Use Agreement with Bluestem Solar Farms. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, revised the agreement about seven times, worked with Emily, Kaylie, Attorneys Scott Pejic, Guy DiMartino, and Anthony Novak, RWE staff and satisfied as written now. **Attorney Guy DiMartino**, Highway Department had suggestions, those have been implemented in the recent version. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, Charity Glaser, Highway Superintendent, she added as well. **Attorney DiMartino**, question about fixing the roads came up. **Anthony Novak**, Attorney with Newby, Lewis, Kaminski and Jones, represents RWE, before construction starts there will be a video narrative, to get a baseline of what the roads actually are, repairs to the roads will be during construction as requested by the County and the postconstruction as required by County Inspector, one of the final items worked on with Commissioner Mrozinski and Attorney Pejic was 'decommissioning language' which didn't touch on if there is damage so additional language was added to the Decommissioning process. If not done in a timely manner, the County will do it then be reimbursed. This is the third administrative step in the process, the permit, decommissioning and road use tie together that brings us here today. **President Gramarossa** thanked the Highway Department, Charity and Andrew, for their input. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered grant contract supplement for Lincoln Trail Engineering services/Permission to approach the Council for 20% grant match, **Mitch Bishop**, Planner. This is a continuation of the Lincoln Trail Extension, 200 South - going North along the former Monon Line, heads Easterly to PNW. Engineering has been going on for the last year and a half, there was a ravine that was in the line of the Trail that was cost prohibited so we went *around* the ravine, it added cost but I was able to get 80% of that cost funded which is before you here today. I was able to get \$128,000 funded. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

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New Business

Considered receive/open annual material bids for 2025, **Charity Glaser**, Highway. **Attorney Guy DiMartino** opened submitted bids then gave them to Charity Glaser who will review and give her recommendation at the next Commissioners' meeting. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to accept the bids. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. ***List attached.**

Considered approval of reimbursement agreement with INDOT to repair roads damaged during Hwy 6/Hwy 421 road closure, **Charity Glaser**, Highway. Round-a-bout was installed at Hwy6/Hwy 421, roads on the unofficial detour were 900 West from SR 2 to 800 South then 800 South to the Porter County Line. INDOT is offering to restore the roads to their previous conditions with **\$127,294.59** which is about 25% of the cost of construction. Roads on the other side were damaged but with the new Prison being built it is hard to say who damaged the roads. She recommends accepting the offer from INDOT. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. President Gramarossa**, it is difficult to have traffic use the detours so we appreciate all your effort and work, thank you.

Considered renewal Workers' Comp, **Stacy Green** and **Kar Nallenweg**, Michiana Insurance, over 6% decrease for the renewal. The transitional duty with Key Risk seems to be working, highlighted a short-term was done in order to be in line for the May deadline renewal. December 7 - May 7 timeframe. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered Storage Tank Liability coverage needs to be renewed as well. Attorney Guy DiMartino has reviewed the policy. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered receive/open bids for roof replacement at Juvenile Service Center, **Sheryl Lestinsky**, Director of Facilities. One timely bid came in from JB West, \$308,505.05. Sheryl said one more vendor came out to do measurements and she contacted the four vendors that bid last year, a scope of work was advertised in the newspaper. **Attorney DiMartino**, this is for an asphalt shingle roof. He does not see a bid bond included with the paperwork. It may be here but right now he does not see it. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, we turn bids over to the Department Head for review. **Attorney DiMartino**, you need to move this project along so it can get completed by the end of this year. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve with the condition that JB West submit the bond asap. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0. President Gramarossa**, this was bid out last year, the roof needs to be replaced. **Commissioner Mrozinski**, surprised but not surprised that more vendors have not submitted bids. **Attorney DiMartino** passed the bid to the Commission for review to move the project along.

Considered discussion for Service/Modernization for Museum Elevator, **Sheryl Lestinsky**, the elevator is in desperate need of repair, the parts are obsolete, Otis Elevator submitted an 'End of Life' notice. **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to allow this service/modernization to move forward, giving Sheryl permission to approach the Council for funding. Commissioner Haney clarified the motion is giving permission plus bids solicited by the next meeting then seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered permission to approach the Council for funding to pay invoices for the remainder of the year, **Sheryl Lestinsky**, **Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Haney seconded to open for discussion then asked for clarification on the invoices. Sheryl Lestinsky**, ejector pit in the Complex basement, drain issues at the Michigan City Courthouse, invoices for Fire Marshall inspections, and more, no total right now but she will have that ready by tomorrow. **President Gramarossa** requested an email with the cost be sent to the Commission. **Motion carried 3-0.**

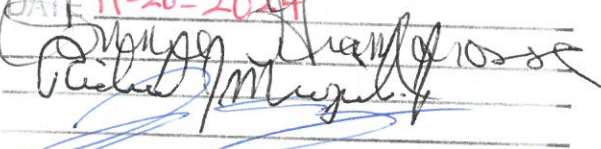
Considered Capital Improvement Plan. This was prepared by Karl Cender, a Resolution for Capital Improvement Plan specifying uses of local income tax (LIT) Economic Development Share. **Attorney DiMartino**, Auditor mentioned earlier with CEDIT funds, the Commission may have a Capital Improvement Plan which you want for 75% of the fractional share of CEDIT funds received for Economic Development, the Council is looking at using LIT funds in order to pay for some of the Health Insurance costs, every year five million dollars is budgeted from LIT to go to the Highway Department so a major part of this Resolution has to do with the five million dollars that go to Highway and Employee Health Insurance costs. **Auditor Stabosz**, Attorney DiMartino clarified the law on this is mandated to have a formal or at least written Capital Improvement Plan to be able to collect the money, well, spend the money, fulfilling the requirement. **Attorney DiMartino**, it should be done, it can be amended later. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Considered contract for Engineering Services to repair Bridge #39/Consider contract for ROW services for Bridge #166, **Jay Sullivan**, Engineer, two contracts before you today, one is the engineering design for Bridge #39, the bridge that has been closed and then Right-of-Way services contract for Bridge #166. **Commissioner Haney motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

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Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to adjourn at 10:48 a.m. Commissioner Haney seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

DATE 11-20-2024


ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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November 14, 2024

LaPorte County Highway Annual Material Bid

2025

Class 1 - Crushed Limestone

Two Bidders:

US Aggregates Inc.

South Lake Stone

Class 2 – Bituminous Patching / Rap Materials

Two Bidders:

Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.

Central Paving Inc.

Class 3 – Blast Furnace Crushed Slag

No Bidders

Class 4 – Ice Sand, Gravel, Dirt & Top Soil

No Bidders

Class 5 – No-lead, Diesel and E-85

One Bidder:

Triple J-Mar Petroleum, Inc.

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Class 6 – Signs and Sign Posts

One Bidder:

Michael Todd Industrial Supply – bid arrived on time but was not opened. Will open the bid during the meeting.

Class 7 – Culvert Pipe and Guardrail

Three Bidders:

Debco Metal Culverts

St Regis Culvert, Inc.

Metal Culverts, Inc.

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Metal Culverts bid came in late, it will be returned.

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