



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

Circuit Courthouse

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LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

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Marlow Harmon, President

William Hager

Barbara Huston

### LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2005

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room.

Present at the meeting were Commission President Marlow Harmon, Commission Vice President William Hager and Commission President Barbara Huston. Also, present Executive Secretary Linda Arnett.

Commissioner Huston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2005 as submitted, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### WEEKLY REPORTS

The commissioner's review and sign weekly reports.

#### CLAIMS

#### PAYROLL

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve Payroll Ending July 15 2005 and July 29, 2005, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$763,903.33, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### REQUESTS

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Eric Yandt, Director Community Corrections/Ordinance (Final Reading)**

**Mr. Harmon, Ordinance on second and final reading, hearing no objections. Ordinance by title only, Ordinance for LaPorte County Community Corrections Commissary to Disburse and Purchase.**

**Mr. Hager, made a motion to adopt on second and final reading by title only, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.**

**This will be known as Ordinance #2005-10.**

**Patty Pease, LaPorte County EMS Director/ Ambulance Bid Recommendation**

**Mrs. Patty Pease, I am recommending that we accept the bid from Medtec for the purchase of 2006 model ambulance. With the difference in price of about \$18,000.00 also the paint warranty and the trade-in value.**

**Mr. Harmon, there is \$18,000.00 difference, did you get everything in it that you wanted for that \$109,011.00 price?**

**Mrs. Pease, yes.**

**Mrs. Huston, made the motion to approve the \$109,011.00, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.**

**Mrs. Pease, I have also supplied you with the quotes for a new Suburban and giving the old suburban to the Coroners Office. We received three quotes from vehicles on various lots, and with the equipment needed the total cost would be \$39,000.00 for this vehicle.**

**Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the \$39,000.00, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.**

**Mr. Harmon, the request will be from CCD funds.**

**Pedestrian Connector Bridge/ Courthouse to Annex-Jail**

**Mr. Harmon, we would like to get this project moving forward and the estimated cost is between \$500,000.00 to 550,000.00. There are some designs that can be changed and Mr. Hager you have some changes you would like to see made to that.**

**Mr. Hager, I had a meeting with Brian Glaze and he and the architect are willing to come over and take some of the gingerbread off of it and this would save us a lot of money on it. I would go along with that we allow them to come over and come up with a different plan on it.**

**Mr. Hager, made a motion to move forward and get Brian and the architect over here as soon as possible and move forward on this.**

**Mr. Harmon, do you want them to go ahead and put it out for bids?**

Mr. Hager, yes and put it out for bids.

Mr. Harmon, we have a motion by Mr. Hager to move forward with this project and make the design changes and then put it out for bids so that we can approach the council for there next meeting at the end of this month. At this time the cost is approximately \$550,000.00 and the changes that the architect is going to make should lower that amount and move forward with that.

Mrs. Huston, made a second to the motion. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, this would be taken out of Riverboat.

#### Agreement for Government Channel

Mr. Harmon, as you know we are in the process of having a government channel in which the county is going to be responsible for we have agreed to contract with Alco of LaPorte County, who will actually run the government channel for us and tape all of the meetings. The contract we are signing with Comcast this year for the increase in the amount of money we get back from Comcast last year was 4% of that contract, that contract was increased to 5% and then we can take that 1% increase and contract with Alco in order to run our station. That 1% would also include not only taping all government meetings; there would be some meetings that would actually be live meetings, like the meetings that are held in this room could be live meetings from this point on. Also, the 1% could include a line item in there that video equipment would be purchased by Alco for this room or any room we have it in. This agreement was drawn up, Mr. Szilagyi looked at the agreement and approved it and we are at the point we are ready to sign the agreement with once we sign the agreement with Comcast which will be shortly we should have a channel number by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the President of the Commission to sign the contract.

Mr. Harmon, we won't release this until we get the final contract from Comcast.

Mr. Lombard, I just want to say thank you to the commission. I just wanted to say this is a county wide project that is owned by the county. This will be the first channel ever in Comcast Cable for local cable that will be county wide; it will not be in the City of LaPorte at the present time, the City boundaries it will be in the outer county of LaPorte and in the City of Michigan City due to some contractual obligations between Comcast and the City of LaPorte. This will be a 24 hour, seven day a week operation; there will be a live person there 24 hours a day, seven days a week giving information for the county.

Mrs. Huston is it also possible to do "Amber Alerts" over that.

Mr. Lombard, we can do "Amber Alerts" what ever you want we can do.

Mr. Harmon, you are not selling ads.

Mr. Lombard, what we do is there is a basic operating capital that we need to operate the camera men ,equipment and to cover the overhead and that is what the contract your signing is for. There is a thing called underwriting it is not a direct ad it's a Horizon Bank or a LaPorte Savings brings you this next hour. Yes, we will be doing underwriting and there will be no political ads or any for or against ads.

Mrs. Huston has made a second to Mr. Hager's motion to approve. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Mitch Bishop, LaPorte County Planner/County-Wide Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Mr. Bishop, I am here to ask permission to establish a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The purpose is to review the work done by Eric Kelly and Duncan and Associates in the months to come. I believe the comprehensive plan is going to be a 12 to 15 month process and I spoke with Eric last week and we worked out the logistics of this. Our feeling was to bring in 20 to 30 member committee and between 10 and 15 of them would be city and county representatives and the rest would be residents from the community. There maybe a NIRCP representative, people from the farming community, housing community, home builders association, so some where around 25 people. The will give as a chance to see the work he is doing, to make sure its what we want and the future we want to see for LaPorte County.

Mr. Hager, the only thing that I think is that we should have all three commissioners on there since this is for LaPorte County, and with that I make a motion that we accept this request.

Mr. Bishop, ya, that's fine.

Mrs. Huston, made a second to the motion by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Bishop, I think we should all get together and work on that list of names.

Mr. Bishop, I think the first meeting should be in late August, after the kickoff meeting.

#### Karl Cender/ Cender & Associates

Mr. Harmon, this is a contract that was proposed by Mr. Cender and I had discussion and meeting in reference to economic development in LaPorte County. The South part or just South of Michigan City, just South of 400 as you know that is all county area and south of I-94 there are several developers that have numerous businesses that they want to bring in there is 55 acres that they want to develop. In order for anyone to develop they need sewer and water down there and in order to pay for that sewer and water we need an avenue on how we can help promote that.

One way of promoting it is thru a TIF district and what Karl Cender will do if we sign the contract, they will take the types of business the developers are attempting to bring forward, to see what kind of dollars it can generate in a TIF district just North of 94 between 400 and 94 we would also want to make that a TIF district if it looks like the TIF district will pay of the infrastructure As I said, the sewer and water would have to be run in those areas and the roadways would have to be upgraded. Mr. Cender's company would do and they have done this on numerous occasions, they have done this in Michigan City for the past 12 to 15 years, they would be able to tell us if there would be enough money generated in this area which would be a TIF district to pay for this type of infrastructure. If it doesn't we would not do anything and the companies would have to figure out a way to get the sewer and water out there. So I am asking the board to consider this contract tonight with Karl Cender and Associates in the amount not to exceed \$4,500.00 for professional services. The amount of money at this time for that development is around 2 million to take the sewer and water there, so that is the kind of dollars that would have to be generated by these business to be able to move forward with this project.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion that we engage Cender & Associates to perform the study, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Paul Young, Director LaPorte County Emergency Management/ Additional Appropriation \$75,000.00 Weather Radio Project

Mr. Paul Young, this is regarding a weather tower and NOAA that we are out of the waive and we have a weather tower that can do this it is located at Schultz Road and Highway 35. The tower is vacant but if we do the infrastructure on this thing, NOAA will then take it over and do the maintenance on this for life. We would have to put a generator in it to drive this program but after that NOAA would take it over. This would give all 614 square miles of this county coverage without any impedance, no problem at all it right here for us. The closes tower to us is Chicago to our west and South Bend to our east and we are pretty dependent on them right now and I think this would be a good project for us. We would be able to get all the weather for the schools and there would be no problem.

Mrs. Huston, who owns the tower now.

Mr. Young, Denny Sheets.

Mrs. Huston is he selling it to you.

Mr. Young, no it's a lease but once we do the infrastructure on it its all NOAA, we turn it over and it's all NOAA.

Mrs. Huston, so he owns the tower and he leases it to people.

Mr. Young, correct.

Mrs. Huston, but once you take it over and do all the infrastructure then he no longer owns it?

Mr. Young, he will own it, he leases it to NOAA and they take care of it.

Mr. Harmon is there any way we can recoup that \$75,000.00

Mr. Young, no

Mr. Hager, I have been out with NOAA and I was impressed.

Mr. Harmon, we would either have to take it out of CCD or Win Tax, let's put them both down.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the request of Mr. Young, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None


ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

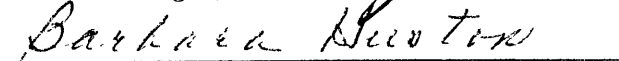
LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlow Harmon, President



William Hager, Vice President



Barbara Huston, Member

Attest: 

Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor

(Approximately 15 people in attendance)