



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 – FAX: (219) 326-9103

Dave Decker,
President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Vice President

Michael Bohacek,
Member

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

MINUTES

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2106

To be held at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
Commissioner Decker called the meeting to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
All Commissioners present.
4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
Commissioner Kora nominated Commissioner Decker for President. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Bohacek nominated Commissioner Kora for Vice President. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Kora adds Clarification of the County Employee Health Insurance Premium to New Business. Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve as amended. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
December 16, 2015
7. **CLAIMS**
Payroll Ending-12/18/15-\$1,065,656.80
Miscellaneous Claims-\$621,376.82
Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**
 - A. Department Heads.
 - B. Commission Liaisons.
 - C. Board and Commissions.Commissioner Kora asked to read a list of appointments and approve them all with one motion. Commissioner Decker stated that is fine.
Department Heads
County Attorney-Friedman & Associates.
Confidential Executive Secretary-Robin Surber
Insurance Agents of Record-General Insurance and Michiana Insurance.
Economic Development Advisor-Dave Christian.
County Planner-Mitch Bishop
County Engineer-Mike Yacullo.
County Highway Superintendent-Robert Young.
IT Director-Darlene Hale.
County Financial Planner-Carl Cender.
County Home Administrator-Kay Felton.
Veterans Service Officer-George Watkins.
Museum Curator-Sue Richter.
EMS Administrator-Andrew McGuire.

E911 Director-John Dudek.
Animal Shelter Director-Jane Bernard.
Stationary Engineer-Jerry Cooley.
EMA Director-Larry Butcher.
Director of Weights and Measures-Mike Quinn.
Utility Inspector-Richard Dombrowski.
Right to Know-Jeff Hamilton.
Commissioner Kora moved to re-appoint the above positions. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commission Liaisons

County Highway-Commissioner Decker.
Regional Bus Authority-Commissioner Decker.
County Home-Commissioner Kora.
Plan Commission-Commissioner Bohacek.
Right to Know-Commissioner Bohacek.
NIRPC-Commissioner Decker.
Animal Control-Commissioner Kora.
Workforce Development-Commissioner Kora.
Northern Indiana Commuter Trans District-Commissioner Decker.
Drainage Board-Commissioner Bohacek.
E911-Commissioner Bohacek.
EMS-Commissioner Kora.
Data Board-Commissioner Bohacek.
Juvenile Services Board-Commissioner Bohacek.
Solid Waste-All three Commissioners.
Emergency Management Council-Commissioner Decker.
Local Planning Council-Commissioner Kora.
LaPorte County Fair Board-Commissioner Decker.
Community Corrections -Commissioner Kora.
Congressional Liaison-Commissioner Bohacek.
County Council Liaison-Commissioner Kora.
Commissioner Kora moves to appoint the above liaison positions. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Boards and Commissions

LaPorte County Public Library-Dava Buell.
LaPorte County Animal Control Advisory Commission-Vidya Kora, Lisa Polarzzi, Dr. Dorrah, Pat Shively.
LaPorte County Alcohol Beverage Commission-Mike Mollenhauer.
LaPorte County Board of Health-Monique Guillard, Dr. Dorrah.
Human Resources Review Board-Commissioner Decker, Commissioner Kora.
LaPorte County Board of Zoning Appeals-Glen Minnich.
LaPorte County Community Corrections Advisory Board-All current are reappointed except for Matt Burden will be represented by Thomas Scottsdale.
Right to Know-All current are re-appointed.
Convention Visitors Bureau-Doug Waters, Mike Sietz, Bernadine Murphy.
LaPorte County Drainage Board-Commissioner Bohacek.
E911 Advisory Board-Commissioner Bohacek.
LaPorte County EMS-Marsha Leonard, Robert Coulter Jr.
LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Board-Dale Ellis.
Plan Commission-Glen Minnich, John Carr will replace Jay Wright, Harold Parker.
LaPorte County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals-April Van Buren, Hasan Dabagia, Barbara Driener.
LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission-Terry Larson, Joe Coar, Patricia Harris, Vidya Kora.
Commissioner Kora moves to accept the appointments listed above. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

10. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Jerry Cooley- appeared and thanked the Commission for his reappointment. He then discussed the elevators in Michigan City. He indicated they are upgrading the smoke alarms in the MC Courthouse. He said he needs permission to go to the Council for permission to do that. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote. He also indicated the telephones are being replaced and they are working out the bugs in the new system. He commended the IT department for the work they have done to get the phones up and running. He said the building at 8th street had water issues from the last storm. He said serve pro did a great job getting the leaks cleaned up. He said the projects are moving right along. He also indicated that his truck is in need of tires and he needs to know if they are getting new trucks so he doesn't waste money on tires only to get a new truck.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

12. **REQUESTS**

A. Mitch Bishop-LPCCVB fund request in the amount of \$1000.00 for Bicentennial Events.

Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconded. Commissioner Bohacek moved to make a onetime exception to raise the limit for this specific project. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. John Espar-Prosecutor-Request to travel to Ontario Canada and San Diego California for training.

Commissioner Bohacek moves to approve the travel request contingent upon the change in policy to address the airline issue. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

C. Dave Decker-Request for travel to Washington for NACO Conference.

Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR 2016

Commissioner Kora moves to approve. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

**14. DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION—LEGAL NOTICE-COMMISSION MEETINGS—
AGENDA NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

Commissioner Bohacek moves to use the News Dispatch and the Herald Argus and the Westville Indicator. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

15. REPORT ON 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/STATUS UPDATE ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Commissioner Decker gave a report of the years accomplishments for 2015. See attached for full text of update.

16. OLD BUSINESS

17. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announce contact information for state agency receiving written public comments in January on NIPSCO's proposed 11 percent electric rate increase.

Attorney Friedman encouraged the public to contact the State of Indiana in writing to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor-OUCC, Consumer Services Staff, 150 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, In 46204.

B. Announce changes to the Health Insurance Premiums-

Commissioner Kora indicated that the premiums have gone up and that the County will absorb that amount so that no change will be reflected for the employees.

18. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Bohacek indicated that the analysis of the leasing program was unique and that some of the comparisons were incomplete, in order to get a more complete comparison he has requested more information from the bidders. He is still waiting for one clarification, he said the number are coming in very good and he should be able to present the cost aspects of both options.

Commissioner Kora congratulated all of the Department Heads who were re-appointed. He thanked them all for the service they provide. He also thanked the members of all the boards for their service. He indicated that participation in the boards and commission make the community stronger and more vibrant. He stated that the appraiser did come to the County Home and he is waiting for the report to come back and he will share it with the Commission and Council. He further indicated that the finances are in much better shape and he is anxious to hear the numbers at the next meeting. He also stated that he and Tony Mancuso have been in talks with the local realtors regarding the well ordinance and have another meeting soon.

Commissioner Bohacek indicated that there is a cart full of bricks in the back of the room from the Courthouse. He stated that the public is welcome to take a brick so they can have a piece of the history.

Commissioner Decker stated that the Commission is going to start the Hoosier Homestead Initiative as a pilot project that would be the first in the state of Indiana. He said if we are successful here, the program will then go throughout the state. He said it will put several of the properties that did not sell at the tax sale back on the tax rolls by getting them to qualified families to homestead the property. An eligible homesteader will receive title free and clear of any back taxes and other liens, but would be required to live in the home at least three years, bringing the residence back up to city and county code, pay all the taxes, utilities and other homeowner obligations, such as insurance going forward. He indicated they are currently lining up a qualified nonprofit to partner with and will likely take that up at the meeting on the 20th. In the meantime people who have an interest can call (800) 800-9538 to have their names placed on a list for future information. He said he is looking forward to **EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA**

19. ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora moves to adjourn. Commissioner Bohacek seconds. Motion carried by voice vote.

ATTEST: *MJRO*

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA