



LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dr. Vidya Kora,
President

Sheila Brillson Matias,
Vice President

Richard Mrozinski,
Member

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Wednesday, March 6, 2019 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

President Vidya Kora called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Auditor Joie Winski called the roll: Commissioner Sheila Brillson Matias – Present; Commissioner Vidya Kora – Present; Commissioner Rich Mrozinski – Absent. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

Commissioner Brillson Matias requested to remove item “9 a” from the agenda then motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

Considered approval of February 20, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Auditor Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 2/22/2019 \$1,235,437.25 and miscellaneous claims of \$1,457,574.98. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Public Comments: Larry Pinkerton – 1612 L Street, La Porte – Commented on NIPSCO rate increase.

Department Head Comments:

Tony Mancuso – Health Department – Requested permission to approach the Council to spend non-reverting funds to upgrade their water lab. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Steve Alt - E-911 Director Report – Removed old/faulty equipment and chairs. Purchasing new chairs. Purchased call lights based on suggestions from the staff. Committees created to empower staff in management and decision making, also selected his own command staff. Steve visited all 3 shifts in his first two weeks as Director. Sick/Call-offs have been an issue. Currently working on a new procedure to address this problem. Approved to hire 3 Part-timers not to exceed 28 hours per week/56 hours in two weeks. Moral has improved. Possibly a time clock using a thumb print to clock in/out to verify employee arrival/departure will be used instead of the current door entry.

Jeremy Sobecki - Parks & Rec Director Report – County Park Board established in 1977 without a park or land until 1981. Since then the department has grown to 4 main parks: Luhr – 1987, Bluhm – 1992, Creek Ridge – 1992 and Red Mill – 2002, totaling 457 acres. While some money was allocated to develop and maintain the properties, acquisition of the four properties was either by donation from the landowner or money raised by outside sources. Currently 160 acres along the Kankakee River that includes a campsite accessible only by boat. Jeremy stated his department has 7 full time employees and 8 seasonal. There are 17 miles of trail of which 5 are paved. One nature educational center, 5 rentable picnic shelters, 2 enclosed rental halls, 8 playgrounds and 4 dog parks. La Porte County Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement is “to preserve, protect and manage natural, cultural and recreational resources within a diverse and balanced park system. We will provide educational opportunities through facilities and programs for all citizens of La Porte County to further their awareness and enjoyment of those resources.”

Steve Eyrick – Adult Probation - Requested permission for travel to Miami, Florida for 3 employees. Funds in their budget to cover the cost. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

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Jay Sullivan - Engineer Report – Currently 17 active projects: bridges, roads, culverts and sidewalks. All matching grants with approx. 14 million dollars from State and Federal monies coming into the County. INDOT opening bids today at 400 North and Johnson Road. Culvert work begins at Lofgren Road and 150 North. Jay praised Mitch Bishop for doing all the work and putting it together.

Item “d” under New Business was heard next. *****Considered** request by LaLumiere for a four-way stop at 650 North and Wilhelm Road – Jay Sullivan. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve request for Jay Sullivan and Highway Department to generate an Ordinance for presentation at the Commissioners meeting March 20th. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Larry Butcher – EMA - Requested permission to travel for RAVE to Orlando, Florida. Funds are available in his budget. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Mike Schultz – Assessor - Reported on Ratio study done and out of 92 counties in the state of Indiana La Porte County ranked in the top 30 for getting tax bills out in a timely manner. Mike stated instead of hiring a firm to do the job his staff did it and on time.

Requests:

Considered authorizing HR Director Barb Mossman to travel to Las Vegas for a conference. *****Removed**

Considered authorizing E911 Director Steve Alt to travel for Certification training to Massachusetts. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered authorizing Deputy Prosecutor Kristina Armstrong to travel to New York. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered \$500 each for Downtown La Porte Antique District, Door Village Harvest Festival, Union Mills Conservation Club, Four A’s Car Club and Great Lakers Auto Club from CVB Community Event Fund. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Old Business:

Considered Final reading on Ordinance to establish Non-Reverting County Coroner Fund to be used for educational training for county coroners. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried. *****Ordinance 2019-2**

New Business:

Considered Intervention in pending NIPSCO electric rate case. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered Appointment of Johnson Township Trustee Jon Smith. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered Opened Ambulance Bids – Andrew McGuire – EMS – Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to give opened bids to Andrew McGuire for review. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered request by LaLumiere for a four-way stop at 650 North and Wilhelm Road – Jay Sullivan. *******

Considered request of non-profit Indiana Guardianship Services, Inc. to approach County Council for \$37,500.00 local match with state grant regarding adult guardianship services – Amber Poff, ED. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered contract with Thomas & Associates to pursue rural broadband grant from the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) and announce Rural Broadband Task Force members – Tony Rodriguez, Office of Community & Economic Development. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered contract with Tony Rodriguez, OCED. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered Updated Responsible Bidder Ordinance to comply with current state law. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve 1st reading. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered Settlement for Johnson Road/Coolspring Avenue accident – Doug Biege. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Considered Ordinance for rezoning for Leslie P. Craft – David Ambers. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve 1st reading. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

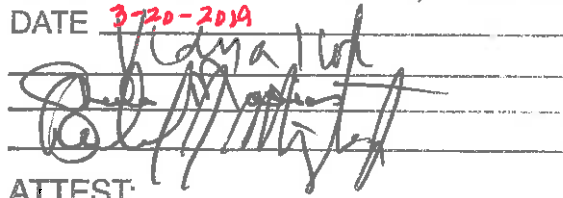
Attorney Certification; Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the LaPorte County Plan Commission for the approval of vacating unimproved public way in Rolling Prairie (CJ Investment Property, LLC). Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve first reading. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

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Attorney Certification; Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the LaPorte County Plan Commission for the approval of vacating unimproved public way in Rolling Prairie (Grimm Development Corporation). Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve first reading. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motioned carried.

Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to adjourn at 11:17 a.m. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE 3-20-2019



ATTEST: _____ Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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