



**LA PORTE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202**

**La Porte, IN 46350-3400**

**Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229**

**Dr. Vidya Kora,  
President**

**Sheila Brillson Matias,  
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski,  
Member**

**LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 3, 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 Kora – Present; Commissioner Brillson Matias – Present; Commissioner Mrozinski – Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

**Considered** the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** approval of March 20, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Auditor Winski** read the claims with Payroll ending 3/25/2019 - \$1,212,295.17 and miscellaneous claims of \$1,303,224.47. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Public Comments:**

**Jeff Lantz – 4006 W. 800 S. Union Mills** – Informed Commissioners on a storm drain across the street from his residence at the American Legion that is clogged with sand. Drain is located at the corner of 400 W and 800 S. President Vidya Kora stated the issue would be looked into and the county will get back to him. Commissioner Brillson Matias directed Jeff to give his contact information to Duane Werner, Highway Department.

**Department Head Comments:**

**Steve Alt – E-911 Director** – Reported restructuring is still taking place in his office. He thanked Porter County 911 for allowing him to attend their staff meeting. A quality assurance and training program has been implemented. They existed however wasn't being utilized. Steve also stated National Public Safety Dispatcher Week has been proclaimed for April 14 – 20, 2019. In 1991 Congress proclaimed the second week of April to honor and recognize men and women who serve as "first responders" when you need help. Steve read into the record the Proclamation. Commissioners thanked Director Alt and his staff. \*\*\*Proclamation attached to minutes

**Rob Neary – Community Corrections Director and Soljoura Atwater – Assistant Director** – Gave Commissioners a report on their office. Currently up approximately 19 % participants than last year. Yearly grant was submitted to the State. Sheriff Boyd has assisted 3 times with the K-9 units to search the premises for any contraband. Director Neary stated his office will be attending the Job Fair held at Blue Chip Casino to advertise for available positions at the facility as well as to let the community know about Community Corrections. Soljoura reported changes have been made to the counseling department. G.E.D. and Character development classes will be offered as well as Smart Recovery/Self-Management, which is recovery from addictions training. Parenting/Family values reunification process will also be implemented. Board of Commissioners thanked them for their report.

**Requests:**

**Considered** authorizing road closures for the HannaFest 2019. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**ORIGINAL**

**Considered request of Probation Dept to permit painting of murals in the tunnel between Courthouse and Complex.** Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered request of Kesling Building Plaque to be displayed outside the museum.** Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the Historical Society Board to pay for a plaque which will read "The Kesling Building - Erected 1994" and will be displayed outside the entrance door to the county museum. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered Proclamation for World Creativity and Innovation week – Cynthia Hedge.** Commissioner Brillson Matias read the Proclamation in to the record. The week of April 15-21 will be recognized as World Creativity and Innovation week. It is a celebration of our ability to generate new and useful ideas, use our imagination and make new decisions so our communities, nation and world may thrive. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried. \*\*\*Proclamation attached to minutes

#### **Old Business:**

**Considered recommendation of county's claims adjuster in the damages claim lodged by U.S. Signal.** Part of claim from Solid Waste move involving the semi-tractor hauling over-sized screen which caught on NIPSCO power lines. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

#### **New Business:**

**Considered Opening Bids for Class 11 and Class 12 – Bob Young – Hwy Dept.** Duane Werner present for Bob Young while Attorney Shaw Friedman opened sealed bids. Class 11 – Bituminous Materials: Asphalt of Indianapolis Bit-Mat Products both received in a timely manner. Class 12 – Hot Asphalt Concrete: Reith-Riley and Walsh & Kelly were also received in a timely manner. All bids accepted and were given to Duane to take to the room next door in the Complex for public review then recommendation was made to have Bob Young review the bids and return to the Commissioners next meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered Johnson Road Crack Fill Proposal – Bob Young – Hwy Dept.** Duane Werner requested crack seal be done on Johnson Road. Stated it was presented to them by their asset management plan to be addressed this year to prolong the life of the road possibly 5-8 years. Contributing factors were the extreme cold weather from the Polar Vortex, detour traffic due to construction and truck traffic. Money is in the highway department's budget to pay for this filling. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered Child Support Consulting of Indiana contract – Kristina Armstrong – Prosecutor's office.** Kristina asked Commissioners to imagine four quadrants for non-custodial parents, court ordered to pay child support. Non-Custodial Parents that have the ability to pay and do pay – those are great. Next quadrant you have Parents that have the ability to pay yet chose not to – that is where the Thompson Reuters contract comes into effect. Third quadrant has Parents that *want* to pay but don't have the ability *to* pay. Fourth quadrant or the "black hole" has Parents that can't pay and don't want to pay. This contract involves the third quadrant with the Parents that want to pay but barriers prohibit them from being able to pay. Incentive funds will be used. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered Thompson Reuters contract for Prosecutor's office – IV D incentive funds.** This contract involves the second quadrant mentioned in the above paragraph where the Non-Custodial Parents *have* the ability to pay but chose *not* to pay. Incentive funds will be used here as well. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered authorizing Adult Protective Services to purchase their leased vehicle – Kristine Harlow.** Kristine was not present however after Commissioner Mrozinski stated he looked it over and motioned to approve, Commissioner Brillson Matias reported two vehicles in this department are leased and the department would like to purchase one of the vehicles with funds from their budget. The amount would be \$7,967.11. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Considered settlement in the matter of *Munoz v. La Porte County Parks and Recreation.*** Manuel Munoz was visiting Bluhm County Park with his son. He attempted to show the child how to use the "spinner bowl" and was thrown off. Mr. Munoz sued both the county parks and the maker of the spinner bowl, Kompan. This has been a long-running case but a settlement has been reached for \$14,500 of which \$2,500 will go to Medicare to satisfy their lien with the balance going to Mr. Munoz and his attorneys. Original demands were six figures plus but through extensive discovery, the only issue remaining was the lack of a warning notice that the bowl was intended only for children. A sign has now been posted. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**ORIGINAL**

**Considered proposed Triangle Bus Project agreement and Consider payment of \$31,250.00 for county Share of 4 way bus project with City of La Porte, City of Michigan City and Purdue Northwest.** President Kora stated approximately 6 years ago this service was implemented to give students of Purdue that lived in Michigan City and La Porte an opportunity for a ride to the campus at a reasonable cost as well as to provide transportation to those that needed it between the cities. Additional stops along the bus route have been requested. Attorney Friedman reported there may be enough funds in the Commissioners' Professional Consulting account to pay for this instead of approaching the Council. Commissioner Brillson Matias motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motioned carried.

**Consider authorization for revised plan for reconstruction/remodeling of Michigan City Courthouse; consider endorsement of bond financing plan for County Council's consideration – StructurePoint/Tonn & Blank/H. J. Umbaugh.** Attorney Shaw Friedman stated Tonn & Blank and American StructurePoint will be explaining Plan C (Option 3 in the handout) they had come up with for the Commissioners to recommend to the Council for approval. Matt Hubbard with Tonn & Blank handed out a Project Development Budget to the Commissioners showing three cost options. Option 1 - \$24,710,257; Option 2 - \$20,550,014 and Option 3 - \$22,492,026. Option 1 had the space for all county offices but had a higher cost, Option 2 had lower cost but not all offices were accommodated, 15,000 square feet less than what a 20 year plan would require when planning for the future. Option 3 (or C) has the same footprint as Option 1 with all the required area but would have a different appearance. It would be a "precast concrete building with punched window openings as opposed to curtain wall openings with a large glass area." President Kora said the cost was not just for the new building but would be for repairs to the current courthouse in Michigan City. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve Option C. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**Consider changing county's postal machine vendors – Joie Winski – Auditor.** Auditor Joie Winski said OnLine Data is a service currently used in La Porte whereas Pitney Bowes is used in Michigan City. The request is for Pitney Bowes to be used at both locations with new machines which will be leased by the county. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve the Pitney Bowes contract. Commissioner Brillson Matias seconded. Motioned carried.

**President Kora motioned to adjourn at 11:14 a.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
 COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
 DATE 4-17-2019  
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 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor  
 LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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