



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

Circuit Courthouse

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Marlow Harmon, President

William Hager

Barbara Huston

### LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room.

Present at the meeting were Commission President Marlow Harmon, Commission Vice President William Hager and Commission Member Barbara Huston. Also, present were LaPorte County Attorney Robert Szilagy, Executive Secretary Linda Arnett and Executive Assistant Monique Gillard.

Commissioner Hager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, under “Old Business” we need to add Voting Machines and the Pedestrian Bridge Connector.

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the minutes of June 7, 2005 as submitted, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### WEEKLY REPORTS

#### CLAIMS

#### PAYROLL

Ms. Huston made a motion to approve Payroll ending July 1, 2005, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### REGULAR CLAIMS

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Regular Claims in the amount of \$1,039,270.03, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount \$439,105.31, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE

None

## REQUESTS

None

### Judge Walter Chapala, LaPorte Superior Court #1/ Request CCD Funds \$1,229.00 Purchase Printer

Marilyn Steinhiser, Court Administrator LaPorte Superior Court #1, I have added information printer quote and Mr. Tulacz of Data Processing has found us a printer for less. The amount we are now requesting for the printer is \$319.00 and not the original amount of \$1,229.00.

Mr. Hager made a motion to grant the request for \$319.00 out of CCD Funds, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Tim Bietry, President, Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce/ Work Keys

Tim Bietry, I am here with Mike Seitz and we are here to ask for support of Work Keys and we are asking for an official recommendation to the council for the \$50,000.00.

Mr. Hager, you are asking for the County Council for the first year of operation or \$168,532.00 for the Work Keys Program here in LaPorte County. I have a problem with financing, because we really don't have the financing at this time. We have the Treasures Office with all the taxes, they need extra help and we do not have the money to give it to them. I only have a problem with this except for the financing of it and I know Michigan City is putting no money into it and the City of LaPorte is putting no money into it because they don't have it.

Mr. Bietry, I hope we didn't mislead you, we are not asking the County Council for the \$168,000.00, what we are asking for is \$50,000.00 in a contribution Michigan City and LaPorte are putting money into it.

Mr. Hager, that is economic development and that has been going and that is not out of there tax bases.

Mr. Seitz, I have been in the workforce development and the chamber since 1977 and for years I have been talking to businesses on the education side, you always here from the employers that the education system is not producing the type of employees we need and you here from the educators that well the employers are not telling you what we want. Work Keys is going to give the common language so that everybody is talking the same language on the same level people. This is very important to our county in the future if not now get involved in this and use this economic development tool to our benefit.

Mr. Hager, are the schools going to be able to support this, they are laying off right now and in talking to the teachers they say there is no way that they are going to be able put this in to there schools.

Mr. Bietry, all seven (7) of the superintendents in the county have pledged to be involved in the Work Keys and administer the program.

Mr. Seitz, I am not sure but I think the state is looking into finance with the school corporation.

Mr. Bietry, there has been talk about that.

Ms. Huston, I am not for Work Keys in high school and I do think it places limitations on children. I don't know if I had taken the test when I was in 9<sup>th</sup> or the 11<sup>th</sup> grade that the test might have said that you are not qualified to do anything. I think that limits children and that's why I am not for your program at this time.

Mr. Seitz, this is how this works if I tell my counselor that I want to be an engineer and in order to be an engineer I have to test out at certain levels in certain subjects. So I go in test and I am low here, high here, low here and medium here and I am in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and if it is going to take me from going from here to here to go and be an engineering student, then it looks that I have got to remediate and work my way up.

Ms. Huston, I understand that part that you want to improve yourself but in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade that you may possibility that you're going to deplete that dream. What if in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade they are low in everything but they still want to be an electrical engineer and they know they have to work harder to do this. I just don't believe in that testing.

Mr. Bietry, one of the exceptions is that Work Keys is an aptitude test, such as you described earlier its not an aptitude test, its not going to tell you what career your going to be good at, it tells you what your skill levels are along ten skill bases. It tells you where your skill levels are measured on ten different dimensions.

Mr. Harmon, I am supportive of this Work Keys program. I am talking about the people on the street that need help and this is just isn't for the schools it is people that are being put out of a job and need assistants.

Mr. Seitz, we will know what we can provide a corporation when that corporation comes to town.

Mr. Harmon, we need to help the companies that are here and we need to help them stay here.

Mr. Bietry, we are looking at the incumbent and the adult workers that could be helped most.

Mr. Harmon, we are asking the county give out of riverboat - win tax \$50,000.00

Mr. Cooley, LaPorte County Councilmen, the question I have is this yearly or a one time shot? How will you keep updating this if it is only a one time shot?

Mr. Bietry, we are not looking for continued support, we just need an initial support funds to get it going in LaPorte County. It will be funded by the companies that get involved in work keys we will have a staff for one year no more than two years and by the second year have it funded by the companies that are involved with Work Keys. We need somebody in the county that business can call to learn about Work Keys and have that person in place for no more that a year no more than two and by that time businesses won't need a staff person it will gain momentum on its own.

Ms. Huston, the funds you are asking for is for one year and only one or maybe two.

Mr. Bietry, we think that it will be for only one year will be enough, if there is a second year the county schools said that they would consider funding it themselves. Also, the companies that have come involved with Work Keys would help fund that because they have seen the benefit of that.

Mr. Harmon, we need a motion.

Mr. Hager, I have no problem with this but I do have a problem with the tax dollars at this time, so I make a motion to deny this at this time, second by Mrs. Huston.

Mr. Harmon, I am asking the board members to think very seriously about this is very important. We are not using tax dollars, we are talking about using riverboat money not tax dollars and I think we need to help the people out on the streets that do not have jobs.

Motion carried with a 2-1 vote to deny with Mr. Hager and Mrs. Huston voting against and Mr. Harmon voting for the program.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Engineer / Ordinance Setting Speed Limits

Mr. McVay, this was past in a previous meeting.

Mr. Szilagyi, you made your recommendations at the last meeting.

Mr. Harmon, we have an Ordinance before us on first reading by title only, hearing no objections. Ordinance setting Speed Limit on County Road 400 West.

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

Mr. Harmon, ask that we waive the restrictions and allow it to be read by title only.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to read the proposed Ordinance by title only, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, second and final reading by title only, Ordinance setting a Speed Limit on a portion of Fail Road and 400 West.

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

Ordinance 2005-09

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Engineer/ NICTD Bridge N-101 & N-102—NICTD Railroad Over C.R. 200 East and C.R. 300 East --\$1,525,000.00 County Portion

Mr. McVay, we are requesting these two bridges are substandard and NICTD is going to be contributing approximately 50% of the construction cost and the engineering cost.

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

Patty Pease, LaPorte County EMS Director/ Ambulance Bid Openings

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

Attorney Szilagyi, the first bid is from Med Tec in the amount of \$109,011.00 and from Alexis in the amount \$127,304.69 and that is all of the bids.

Mr. Hager made a motion to turn the bids over to the EMS Director for her recommendation, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Recommendation next meeting

Lynne Spevak, LaPorte County Clerk Election Machines

Mr. Harmon, this was tabled at the last meeting, we need a motion to remove from the table.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to remove from the table, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, ES& S, Micro Vote and Fidlar in reviewing I have met with people investigating these computers and Mr. Behler has done a extensive background checks on these three companies and on the type of machines that are being used throughout the State of Indiana. Mr. Behler has talked to 72 counties thru the state and has his recommendation.

Mr. Behler, it was 74 counties and in researching on the internet and with State and County Officials, the Micro Vote is easy to use and better for the handicap and the voters in general. The bottom line is at this point I recommend that the county go with the Micro Vote system. There is one other consideration, as you all know there is no chance the law does not allow the state to take away your money that we receive which in our case would be \$850,000.00. However, there is a July 1<sup>st</sup> dead line, the Secretary of State can step in and choose the system. Micro Vote Company is part of the state purchasing system and can be purchased at any time, ES&S is not.

**Mrs. Huston, the Micro Vote is handicap accessible where the ES& S you would need a separate machine a touch screen for the handicap.**

**Mr. Behler, yes.**

**Mr. Harmon is there a paper trail in case of a recount.**

**Mr. Behler, the Micro Vote machine prints an audit vote incase of a recount, there is a separate data base.**

**Mr. Harmon, it's my understanding we will receive a refund from the state in the amount of \$850,000.00 from the state. The machine would cost \$1.1 million dollars and we would get a refund of \$850,000.00.**

**Mr. Hager, made a motion to sign a contract with Micro Vote, second by Mrs. Huston.**

**Question from the floor:**

**Jeana Blake, I am from Voter Registration Office and I just want to make sure that which ever system you go with that it is "State Certified", because if it is not its going to be wasted money . Not state recognized but state certified there is a difference.**

**Mr. Behler, the Micro Vote System is state certified.**

**Motion carried with a roll-call vote to approve the Micro Vote System. .**

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

**Mr. Harmon, this will be taken out of Riverboat funds.**

**Mr. Harmon, we need a motion not to go with the election board's recommendation.**

**Mrs. Huston, made the motion not to go with the recommendation of the LaPorte County Board of Election, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.**

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

**Mr. Harmon, this is an ongoing issue and we have received an option 1 and option 2 from DLZ which has quoted a price on the covered walkway. The cost has increased from 2003 to today from \$440,000.00 as of today that estimate is from \$500,000.00 to \$550,000.00 to do that same work now. And option 2 would be \$467,000.00; we have many problems with the walkway we have had numerous lawsuits from this walkway, due to many accidents.**

**Mr. Hager, I have asked to meet and go over this with DLZ and go over this with Al Ott and at this time I still not had any communication with them. So, I can not support them as an engineering firm on this until then.**

Mrs. Huston, as I read this option 1 and option 2 is what is in option 2 is it included in option 1?

Mr. Harmon, no.

Mrs. Huston, I would say for the additional fee that we go with option 1.

Mr. Harmon, in reference to DLZ, they have asked to come over and meet with the commissioners to see if this could be altered in anyway.

Mr. Hager, I am asking to table this for two weeks.

Mr. Harmon, we have a motion to table by Mr. Hager, do we have a second? No second to the motion the motion fails.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to go with option 1 and include Mr. Hager's motion that they do come over and talk to us. I would like to make a motion that we adoption 1 and have a conversation with Brian Glaze, second by the Chairman, Commissioner Harmon. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-1 with Mr. Hager voting nay.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Eric Yandt, Director Community Corrections/ Ordinance

Mr. Yandt, it was suggest by the State Board of Accounts that an Ordinance be created that permits us to purchase of items and other services needed.

Mr. Harmon, what are the funds used for now?

Mr. Yandt, they are used for that purpose but our request is that we utilize those funds without going thru general claims file.

Mr. Szilagyi, this is recommendation was from the State Board of Accounts.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to adopt on first reading by title only, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Harmon, Ordinance for LaPorte County Community Corrections Commissary to Disburse and Purchase.

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

Mr. Harmon, we will table this for July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

##### LaPorte County Health Plan/ Mail Order Program

Mr. Harmon, we have been trying to find ways to cut our insurance cost in the county I would have to say that our employees have done a tremendous job in trying to keep those cost down. We have our insurance provider working to find us ways to save money and one of those ways is to go with a prescription drug program and a

few months ago we asked employees to use the mail order program. We have found that only about 30% of the employees are using the mail order so at this time we are going to have to make it mandatory that you use the mail order on your long term drugs. You will save dollars and you did receive this notice in your pay envelope and this would have been voted on prior to that but it is here today and it will save the county about \$50,000.00 between now and the first of the year.

Mr. Hager, I understand I use this and I believe in saving money but I made a commitment to the employees that there would be no changes in the policy until 2006. At this time I have no problem with the program but at this time I cannot support until 2006.

Ms. Huston, I don't see this as changing the program, however it's a difference between \$10.00 and \$12.00 now you get a prescription and pick it up its \$10.00 if you mail in you get a 3 month prescription for \$12.00 so that is a savings of \$18.00. I see this at a cost saving to the employee and a cost savings to the county. This is for long-term drugs only.

Mrs. Huston, I make a motion to adopt as mandatory as of July 1, 2005, the Chairman made the second. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 2-1, with Mr. Hager voting nay.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

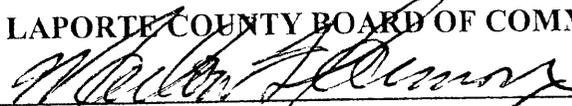
#### COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

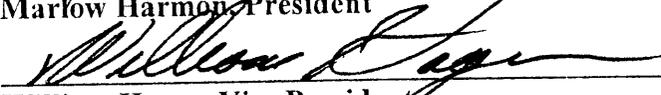
None

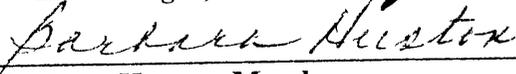
#### ADJOURN

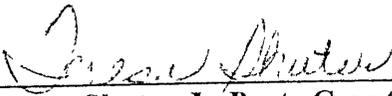
Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m...

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Marlow Harmon, President

  
William Hager, Vice President

  
Barbara Huston, Member

Attest:   
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor *if*

(Approximately 22 people in attendance)