



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

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Marlow Harmon, President

Barbara Huston

William Hager

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., in the LaPorte County Annex & Security Complex.

Present at the meeting were Commission President Marlow Harmon, Commission Vice President Barbara Huston and Commission Member William Hager. Also present were LaPorte County Auditor Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Attorney Robert Szilagyi and Executive Secretary Linda Arnett.

Commissioner Hager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harmon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. . . .

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, add under "New Business" "F" Resolution for Design Build for Public Projects and Mrs. Pease, EMS Administrator to Purchase Fuel from the City of Michigan City Maintenance Facility and under "Old Business" section "B" remove Ziolkowski Construction from the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Huston, made the motion to accept the minutes of July 5, 2006 as printed, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

The Commissioners review and sign weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve Payroll Ending July 28, 2006, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, made motion to pay the Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$6,782,941.19, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

REQUESTS

Del Ott, Chief Deputy LaPorte County Sheriff Department/ Request CCD Funds in the amount of \$23,100.00 for the purchase of a Squad Car

Del Ott, we are asking for \$23,100.00 out of CCD for a new vehicle. Recently, we had a vehicle involved in an accident and it has ended up in a lawsuit. There is one available for that cost and when the law suit is settled we will return to the CCD Fund.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Kenneth Layton, LaPorte County Treasurer/Tax Package Software Purchase (tabled)

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

Mr. Layton, we are here to see what the Commissions pleasure is as far Tax Package Software that was presented to both the Commission and the Council.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the contract with Manatron in the amount of \$182,000.00 from the Reassessment fund, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer/ Vineyard Hills Final Plat Approval and submit bond in the amount of \$13,187.50 (tabled)

Mr. McVay, I have been out there and everything looks acceptable and the final plat needs to be approved.

Mr. Harmon, we need a motion to accept the bond in the amount stipulated. 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, we need a motion to accept the bond in the amount of \$13,187.50.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the engineer's recommendation to approve the plat map and the bond, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Sheridan Beach Property

Mr. Szilagyi, it was tabled the only question is if you want to advertise this or leave it on the table.

Mr. Harmon, we agree to leave it on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

LaPorte County Commission Appointment of LaPorte County Highway General Foreman

Mr. Harmon, the general foreman is retiring as of August 8th 2006, and Mr. Young, Superintendent has requested an appointment as an interim foreman until the August 8th date and then after the August 8th date that person would become the fulltime General Foreman for the Highway Department. Mr. Young has submitted a name of Bryan Batchelor.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to go along with Mr. Young's recommendation, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer/ Proposal for County Extension/Soil & Water Building

Rick McVay, I gave you a final floor plan for the building, that would house the Extension Office, Soil and Water and the Solid Waste Offices.

Mr. Harmon, these were drawn up with the different departments involved?

Mr. McVay, yes and with final approval of the plan we would proceed with final bid documents.

Mr. Harmon, are you able to send that down state for final approval?

Mr. McVay, yes and what I would like to do is to bid it while it is down state for approval.

Mr. Harmon, it's around \$850,000.00 is there anything we can take out of there; I was hoping it would come in around six or seven-hundred thousand.

Mr. McVay, it is figured at \$80.00 a square foot and that is bare bones.

Mrs. Huston, have you talked with the different departments involved to see if they need this much room. How much room do they have now compared to what this drawing shows?

Mr. McVay, according to the Extension Office this is pretty much what they have now and Solid Waste has a bit more square footage but to get the layout to work we had to add another five foot to the end of the building.

Mrs. Huston, so you are saying we can't cut this down to bring it in under six-hundred thousand? You're estimating this at \$80.00 a square foot; maybe you could lose some offices.

Mr. McVay, we could lose some offices if they didn't need that many offices.

Mr. Harmon, I talked to some of the people at Soil and Water, we need to see how much financial we could get from Solid Waste, this is higher than what I thought. I would like us to have a work shop with the offices and the county council and the commission.

Mrs. Huston, could we have him try to cut down on the square footage.

Mr. Harmon, talk to the offices and see what can be cut back then bring it back before us.

Mr. McVay, you want me to try to centralize some of those areas?

Mr. Harmon, you could discuss it with them.

Mr. Hager, what about a Morton Buildings have you look into it?

Mr. McVay, I was looking at metal building.

Mr. Harmon, Mrs. Shuter please set a workshop with the council and the offices involved next week.

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

Eric Yandt, Community Corrections Executive Director/ Work Release Facility

Eric Yandt, letter submitted to you to obtain a new facility for Community Corrections

Mr. Harmon, do you have any numbers?

Mr. Yandt explains that the state is willing to participate financially with no commitments yet. We would propose a 150 bed unit but it would need to be built to specifications with the equipment necessary. We did have a proposal prepared with the cost to us could be as much as four-million dollars, I think the facility could be built substantially less but that is the proposal that we have in hand. The facility we have on Monroe Street we are busting at the seams in terms of space and to do the effective programming like the Department of Corrections expects us to and for them to participate financially in the LaPorte County Community Corrections Program. Then there are physical problems with the building and the cost to stay there the cost could be as much as two-hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Harmon, we have discussed it on different occasions on bringing Community Corrections over to this complex building and if you look into the feasibility of cost and size, is it feasible to do that at this time.

Eric, I have and the last time there are eighty (80) beds available at the jail, with our current growth and expected growth eighty-five (85) would not be enough beds for us. I have not looked into the cost of converting space or how that could be structured. I had a previous discussion with Sheriff Arnold about this, we had discussed bring the overflow inmates into the jail, at that time Sheriff Arnold indicated that while he was willing to discuss this he felt if that was the case he would be responsible and he would run the program and oversee it. The thing I have to tell you and continue to be told by representatives of the Department of Corrections is that if the program goes to the Jail they will no longer be willing to participate financially.

Mr. Harmon, what kind of dollars do we get from the state now?

Mr. Yandt, this year we are receiving five-hundred and thirty thousand dollars which represents forty percent of our operating dollars.

Mr. Harmon, this property that you have given us is this something you have been looking into.

Mr. Yandt, we have looked at a couple of building sites.

Mr. Harmon, have you considered going out to county property?

Mr. Yandt, absolutely there are a couple of sites that have been looked at, one is behind the Juvenile Center and that might be the best site and the other property that the county owns is just west of the County Home.

Mr. Hager, I will not support us going out in the county, if we do we are going to have to have a kitchen facility and in my opinion Community Corrections is getting out of hand because we are going to have to have all those extra employees. The Sheriff's Department and they have to have more for their staffing. I think we should sit down and talk this over, if anything KIP would be a great area it would be away from everybody but I think we need to have a work shop to talk this over because I think we are going to have room on the third and fourth floor of the complex and the Sheriff's Department could be involved in it. I think we need to have a work shop to discuss all of this.

Mr. Yandt, Mr. Hager to make sure I understand the comments you made, you don't want it going out in the rural part of the county. I do agree but I want to make a point as far as location and the Annex facility it is important for us to keep the facility in proximity to the City of LaPorte or towards the City of Michigan City just because the greatest number of our work release inmates are working in the City of LaPorte or Michigan City.

Mr. Hager, how much is this costing the county?

Mr. Yandt, forty percent comes from the state, forty-two percent comes from incoming fees paid by the inmates and eighteen percent comes from the county general fund.

Mrs. Huston, you said you have a waiting list where do they come from?

Mr. Yandt, they are in Jail some are at the Department of Corrections finishing a sentence there are some in their homes waiting to come in.

Mrs. Huston, 150 beds does not sound like enough.

Mr. Yandt, I think we can do it with one-hundred and fifty beds.

Mrs. Huston, if you were to move into the jail then they could be transferred to you.

Mr. Yandt, the problem here is the parking, if moved to the jail there would be additional problems and other issues.

Mr. Harmon, I want to get with you and the council to set up a workshop.

Mr. Yandt, we did speak to the Department of Corrections they indicated or they asked us to submit a letter requesting their financial assistance in this project.

Mr. Harmon, we will get a workshop set up next week.

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

Paul Young, Director Emergency Management Agency/ Request for Additional Appropriation from Riverboat in the amount of \$600,000.00

Paul Young, we have three-hundred and forty-four thousand dollars on hand but if we don't use it we are going to lose it. The grant committee and I worked together and decided we needed to do something that would encompass all of us and we decided to put it into one project. This is a good project layering of communications.

Mrs. Huston, Mr. Young is this 900 MHZ is this the system that if one of the officers were in LaPorte they could talk to an officer in Indianapolis?

Mr. Young, we can talk to them by way of e-mail it's not a voice over.

Jason Kintzel, from Michigan City Police Department basically what this would do is to give the whole county the capability for mobile data transmission system, which would also supply another layer of communication which is meeting the requirements of Homeland Security.

Mrs. Huston, this is a computer in every car.

Mr. Kintzel, yes

Mrs. Huston, and ambulance and fire trucks. This additional money plus the three-hundred and forty-four thousand would assure better protection for everybody in the services and also the county.

Mr. Kintzel, absolutely it's the first joint Emergency Management –Law Enforcement project that I know of, LaPorte County where we all have sat down and had a couple of meetings and agreed that this is the way to go for the future of all the services.

Mrs. Huston, if this is passed and the money is appropriated how long before this will be on line?

Mr. Kintzel, it would be a step by step process.

Mr. Harmon, you have asked for an additional six- hundred thousand which is roughly nine-hundred forty four thousand, the project is seven-hundred and eighty-two thousand, what is the extra for.

Mr. Young, it is a modular program and as we get funded our 06 funding then Homeland Security will then push that in to that system.

Mrs. Pease, it will be well over a million dollars.

Mr. Harmon, how much over a million do you think it is going to be?

Mr. Young, we don't know, we think it will get everyone off the ground.

Mrs. Huston what about later? This will get everyone off the ground but what they.

Mr. Kintzel explains the upgrades they have done and this is what they need to do for the future for all agencies.

Mrs. Huston, will anyone else be contributing money to this or would it be all county money.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve the request from Emergency Management in the amount of six-hundred thousand dollars for phase one and two and the money be taken from Riverboat money, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Tim Gropp, Greater LaPorte EDC Corporation

Tim Gropp, we are here to ask for special use permission for Lewis Bakery to use Severs Road until the Boston Street is finished.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to turn over to the County Highway Department to research.

Mrs. Huston, we had said before no truck traffic on Fail Road and one of the reasons is because we had several people remonstrate against that and I am going to stick to that.

Mr. Harmon, I would support the temporary use if the liability was held by the city.

Mr. Gropp, we could draft a letter that it would only be temporary use and send it out to the property owners.

Mr. Hager, the property owners are going to be very upset and you know the county is liable for that road.

Mrs. Huston, table it until the homeowners are notified.

Mr. Gropp, they are shipping from the Whirlpool Office.

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to table, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a voice vote 2-0 with Mr. Harmon voting no.

Resolution for design for public projects

Mr. Harmon, we have a Resolution before us by title only, hearing no objections:

RESOLUTION TO UTILIZE DESIGN BUILD FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

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

Mr. Harmon, this will be known as Resolution #2006-10

Pat Pease, EMS Administrator Requesting Fuel from Michigan City Maintenance Facility

Mr. Harmon, Mrs. Pease is requesting to purchase fuel from Michigan City Maintenance Facility and they will bill us on a monthly basis.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Grand Kankakee Hunt Club Remonstrators:

Kathryn Jackson, David Horne, Linda Wyckoff, Teresa Strubel, Sara Alum, Peggy Wyckoff and Shawna Horne

Each of the remonstrators above gave several reasons why they are against what is happening at the Grand Kankakee Hunt Club as described: the fear for their children, grandchildren, the noise and the uncertainty of when the next shot is going to go off and in which direction. Also, this group has indicated that the shooting range was not done legally and they want it stopped.

There were no other remonstrators present at the meeting.

Attorney Szilagyi explains that he is looking into all details of the Grand Kankakee Hunt Club. Attorney Szilagyi also explained that he needs to investigate the permits and ordinance and review all of the records from the BZA and the Plan Commission before he can make a determination then and only then he will advise the Commission of his findings.

Mr. Harmon, we will inform you all, at a public meeting the results of Attorney Szilagyi findings.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

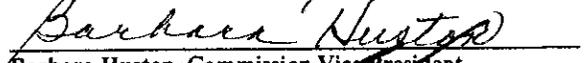
None

ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m...

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Marlow Harmon, Commission President


Barbara Huston, Commission Vice President


William Hager, Commission Member

ATTEST: 
Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor