



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

Circuit Courthouse

813 Lincolnway, Suite 301

LaPorte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 229 – FAX: (219) 326-9103

Marlow Harmon, President

Barbara Huston

William Hager

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 22, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Commission President Marlow Harmon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m...

Commission Vice President Barbara Huston led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, removal under New Business section "C" Attorney Ralph Howes request that this be removed at this time. No other changes or amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2006, 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 September 22, 2006, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$288,742.26, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/ Salt Quotes

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

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Highway Engineer/ Appropriation Cumulative Bridge Fund in the amount of \$120,000.00

Mr. Harmon, the funds are being requested for the CR 650 North East of SR 39 over the Tributary to Galena River.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve, second by Mrs. Huston.

Mrs. Huston, I have a question Mr. President. It says, please advise if you feel that this is a viable project and desire to proceed with the replacement process. It says existing abutments are critically undermined and the concrete/steel superstructure is spalled and deteriorated are we replacing the bridge if so it does not sound like enough money or we just replacing the abutments.

Mr. Hager, I believe this is enough to replace the bridge, so it will be a safe bridge.

Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Allen Ott, Stationary Engineer/ Additional Appropriation from Riverboat

Mr. Allen Ott, LaPorte County Stationary Engineer sodding, seeding and sprinkler system we have three quotes and I believe you all have copies of those.

Mr. Hager, to me this is something that should have been done a long time ago but now is the time to do it.

Mrs. Huston, I was under the impression that this was included with Ziolkowski.

Mr. Ott, the landscaping from Ziolkowski was a credit of \$3,500.00 off the price and that is what they allowed for replacement or getting the lawn back into condition and we will receive credit for that \$3,500.00.

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

Mr. Harmon, this to be taken out of Riverboat or CCD.

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney/ Resolution of Joint Cooperation with Solid Waste District Regarding Construction Building Costs

Mr. Harmon, we have a Resolution before us by title only.

RESOLUTION OF JOINT COOPERATION WITH SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION BUILDING COST

Mrs. Huston, made a motion to approve, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0. This will be known as Resolution 2006-012

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Glenn Wallace, Chief of Courthouse Security

Glenn Wallace, Chief of Courthouse Security. I am here to let you know how things are going on the security part of the courthouse, we were advised yesterday that we have received a grant from the Homeland Security to fund the whole amount of money we asked for which was a little over \$74,000.00 . This will cover the cameras and also the door systems so, we did not have to go before the council and ask them for the money. So, under the terms of the grant money we have to have the system installed by October 31st. The other thing we are going to need from the commissioners is a sub-grant and all that is saying that we will spend that money from Homeland Security for that project only.

Mr. Hager, made a motion to approve and have the president sign the sub-grant when ready, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Wallace, I want to thank Krista McLennan for the help with the grant and Judge Gilmore.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Delco

Mr. Delco wants ditches cleaned out.

Mr. Hager, that is on the agenda for the Drainage Board

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney

Mr. Szilagyi I sent you a letter on Inter-Local Cooperative Statute regarding political subdivision and thought you may want to talk with the mayors and town councils on.

Mr. Harmon, we have to read that Inter-Local.

Mr. Szilagyi, it's just a statute.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

EMERGENCY MEETING

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Szilagyi I have a question. We need to appropriate two million dollars for roads to pave an additional 13 to 15 miles of roads this year, now I know we need to go in front of the council but we have a time schedule of three to four more weeks that paving can be done, can we declare an emergency situation in this issue?

Mr. Szilagyi, if you declare an emergency but then the question becomes if you don't have the funds how are you going to pay for it. In most cases when you declare an emergency it's based on trying to get something done fast but you already have the funds that exist.

Mr. Harmon, there are funds available but its something the council appropriates.

Mrs. Huston, can we ask the council for an emergency meeting to appropriate the money.

Mr. Szilagyi, I would like to double check that as far as, when you normally ask for an emergency you have the funds in an account now there funds that are in the general fund or the riverboat fund not designated for road improvement. I would like to double check the statute to clarify and we can have a special session with the council, you can set an emergency meeting today.

BILLBOARD

Mr. Harmon, we have a billboard sign out there that is a problem and has been a problem for years, Mr. Hager asked that it be removed once before, I have asked that it be removed before. I would ask the board to consider having it removed again, we have a private business man making money off those signs and using the counties property to generate dollars for himself and nobody else, so I am going to ask that the sign be removed immediately.

Mr. Hager, I am going to go along with that because now we are getting ready to do the lawn, we are getting the courthouse done and it is such a beautiful place now and this sign has not a good looking sign and I don't think we should have anything to detract from the courthouse. I will make the motion that the sign be removed immediately, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Johnson Road Project

Mr. Harmon, I am very upset with the fact that the council in their infinite wisdom again have done a tremendous, tremendous disservice to the people of LaPorte County in turning down the Johnson Road Project. That project was going to take about five (5) years to complete, it is a very in-depth project of rebuilding Johnson Road, the engineering firms for years knew that that road had to be redone and rebuilt to stop spending the dollars that we are spending on it, ten or twelve years ago

they did a study on what needs to be done to Johnson Road. What has happened here now, is the council, the council has decided that the safety of the public driving Johnson Road is less important then a couple dollars that they think that somebody is getting or overcharging for a project of that magnitude. We have Pahs Road and Johnson Road a very dangerous intersection, we have 450 North and Johnson Road a very dangerous intersection, we have 400 North an intersection that needs to be redone and redesigned, we have 500 North and Johnson Road where we have a three way intersection, four way intersection, five way intersection that need to be redone. We have a road that disintegrating down thru the center of it because the water has built up under those roads and the drainage. There are so many safety issues here and I don't know what it takes for some people to understand what kind of project this was but I don't know how many people have to be killed on that road and I mean innocent people that have been killed on that road and I don't mean the drivers of the car so much but the passengers because of that and it is sad that our County Council took the attitude, well it's a power issue and we control the money so we are not going to approve the project and I think it is a shame and I think that the council better sit down and open up their eyes and think about what they are doing.

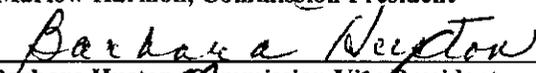
ADJOURN

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m...

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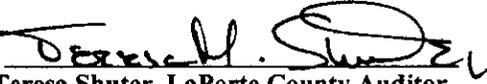
Marlow Harmon, Commission President



Barbara Huston, Commission Vice President



William Hager, Commission Member

ATTEST: 

Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor