



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Marlow Harmon, President

Barbara Huston

William Hager

LaPorte County Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting room #3.

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Commission President Marlow Harmon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m...

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission Member William Hager led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harmon, under "New Business" Mr. Hager would like to add under "F" Moving the 911 Center, second by Mrs. Huston.

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

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2006 as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

The Commission review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

PAYROLL

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Payroll Ending December 29, 2006, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

CLAIMS

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$730,465.55, second by Mr. Hager. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

COORESPONDENCE

Attorney Shaw Friedman/ Update Winter Warmth

Mr. Friedman, as you know the Commission has taken a very active roll in cases involving Northern Indiana Public Service Company and as you also know nearly all of the Counties fees and expenses and cost have been reimbursed. We are coming to you tonight on the Winter Warmth case, the Utility Regulatory Commission is expected to issue an order tomorrow, December 6th approving a five month extension of Nipsco Winter Warmth Program; LaPorte County is party to the settlement. The settlement agreement provides that various parties to this case would agree that the Winter Warmth Program is extended through May 31, 2007. Again, with the Commissioners assistance and LaPorte County's assistance the Winter Warmth Program will continue this winter to provide low income heating assistance.

Mr. Hager, thank you for getting it done.

Mr. Harmon, Mr. Friedman thank you. I appreciate the County Commissioners getting involved in this against Nipsco as we have over the years. I wish we could have gotten the other government entities of LaPorte County to support our cause. I think we did a fine job and people of LaPorte County are going to benefit from that and we thank you very much.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Al Ott, Stationary Engineer/ Bid Recommendation

Mr. Ott, are there any questions?

Mr. Harmon will you read them off

Mr. Ott reads them as follows: for Pest Control I recommend Terminix in the amount of \$390.00 per month, Trash Removal -Able Disposal \$1,496.68 per month, Telephones- Verizon in the amount of \$21,195.56 per year, Elevator- Kone Elevator in the amount of \$1,674.00 per month.

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

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/ Material Bid Opening

Mr. Hager, made a motion all bids be closed, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0

Mr. Young, these are our annual bids for crushed limestone, slag, sand, gravel, culverts, signs, diesel fuel and unleaded gas.

Attorney Szilagyi opens bids as follows:

Class I

Ralston Paving Corporation- Class 1, Vulcan Materials- Class 1, Hanson Material Services- Class 1.

Class II

Phend & Brown, Inc., Rieth & Riley

Class III

Levy Company

Class IV

Vulcan Materials Company and Rieth & Riley

Class V

Triple J-Mar Petroleum, Inc. and Rackham Service Corporation

Class VI

Hall Signs, Inc

Class VII

CPI Supply, Inc.

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

New Business

Shaw Friedman, LaPorte County Attorney/ Matt Reardon/ Redevelopment Commission request approval Beam, Longest & Neff-I – 94 /421 Development Work

Mr. Friedman, I am pleased to report that the County Redevelopment Commission is very busy in attempting to induce new jobs, create new business activity in the county. The sticker project at I-94/421 that the Redevelopment Commission has been very active in and is now seeking your approval for an expansion in the engineering work to accomplish the infrastructure at that intersection which will spur growth and new jobs. I would like to turn it over to Matt Reardon, who the county has retained as the Economic Development Coordinator.

Mr. Reardon, a brief 700 a of development of land developers and it is the south west corner and will develop assistant to the county and beam longest and Neff for development of sewer and water we have a financial commitment from this developer in this area. Worked with the city of Michigan City. Continue growth and development we received a proposal from beam longest and Neff.

The amount of the contract Mr. Larmore is \$154, 800.00 this is for the sewer and water design the road will be repaired after.

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

Mr. Friedman, Tim Gropp representing the Greater LaPorte County Economic Development Corporation is here tonight. They have put together an application for Shovel Ready for a site along 39 North Conservancy District and as the Commission is aware that also lays within the county. The Redevelopment Commission has taken an interest in helping them promote sites along 39 North. The Greater LaPorte Economic Development Corporation is asking for the support of the Commission in sending a letter to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. I have a draft letter for your consideration that would support inclusion of 39 North on the states list of Shovel Ready sites.

Mr. Hager made a motion to allow the President of the Commission to sign the letter and send it on to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager, for this Beam Longest & Neff, I would like to appropriate for the 400 North project 1.5 million dollars to keep this project going.

Mr. Harmon, we have a motion on the floor to appropriate 1.5 million dollars in corporation with the City of Michigan City in the development of 400 North from Ohio Street to just East of Woodland Avenue, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0. This would be taken out of the Major Moves Fund.

Barry McDonnell, Attorney at Law/ Petition for Rezone

Barry McDonnell, Bob Palm and owner of the property Ms. Kirchgatter. There has been no agricultural use for almost a decade. In general it will be no more than twenty-one (21) home sites on these 103 acres. We will be entering into an agreement with the DNR to reclassify that land as natural pasture forest land.

Mr. Harmon, I have set thru Plan Commission on this project and they have a tremendous idea here and were highly recommended by the Plan Commission. . Any question

Mr. Hager, this is a private subdivision and I am opposed to it at this time and one reason is because we are working on a master plan at this time. Every time we put in a private subdivision it has to have fire, police and ambulance protection out there and until we get our master plan. I am strongly opposed to private subdivisions going in where we still have to supply all the services. I am not in favor of this and until we get our master plan I am apposed to this.

Mr. McDonnell, we would have adequate provisions as far as fire vehicles. I see private road subdivisions differently; I see it as an opportunity.

Mr. Hager, I would like to wait until the master plan is finished.

Mr. McDonnell, my client is willing to invest and this is economic development.

Mr. Hager, you have three commissioners that don't have time to go out and look at the property and once we pass this, change the zoning it is out of our control.

Mr. McDonnell, I understand your concern we have a special meeting with the Plan Commission and the soil work to be done.

Mrs. Huston, is there going to be a monthly fee that the homeowners are going to be paying? And this fee will take care of plowing and keeping up the roads.

Mr. McDonnell, yes.

Mr. Palm, the curbs and gutters are not necessary do to the natural ridge line of the meadow areas. This is an ideal site for that situation. We have had walk through with the DNR.

Mr. Hager, I do not see the purpose of curb and gutters out in the County.

Mr. Hager, I will make a motion to approve, second by Mrs. Huston.

Mr. McVay, we need to come to consensus on roads with out curb and gutter and private roads as to what is acceptable. I think we could go with 10 ft for private and that would be my recommendations.

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

John Saylor, Surveyor/ Approval Wolf Creek Subdivision

John Saylor, explains the subdivision we have had the plat committee approval, we had one remonstrator but they were for the subdivision also explains the curb and gutter gives copy of covenants.

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

18th Street Sewer System/ Approval of Consultant

Mr. Hager made a motion to hire ACE Consulting Firm to get the 18th Street Sewer Project moving forward, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Approval of LaPorte County School 2007 Office Calendar

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

E-911 Center Move

Mr. Hager made a motion to move the E-911 Center to the main floor, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Public Comment

Frank Milzarek – the road was closed to the Dunes Summer Theater, this puts the public in danger.

Mr. Harmon, I will turn this over to the county highway engineer.

Mayor Morris, I would like to thank you for approving the 18th Street West and this will help the county.

Mrs. Huston, I think it is a good move.

Commissioners Comments

None

Adjourn

Commissioner Harmon adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m...

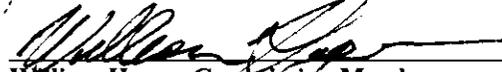
LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlow Harmon, Commission President



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William Hager, Commission Member

Attest: 

Teresa Shuter, LaPorte County Auditor