



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

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William Hager,
President

Michael Bohacek,
Vice President

Barbara Huston,
Member

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

The LaPorte County board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte county Complex meeting room #3.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Huston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to remove under "Old Business" Al Ott, Building Maintenance Department from the agenda, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2008 as presented, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve Payroll Ending January 25, 2008, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$1,026,014.44, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

REQUESTS

Michael Mollenhauer, LaPorte County Sheriff/ Request CCD Funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 for Vehicles for 2008

Mr. Sosinski, this is our yearly request and we need to replace seventeen (17) vehicles and this request would cover the seventeen (17). Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the request, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Michael Mollenhauer, LaPorte County Sheriff/ Medical Insurance Request

Mr. Sosinski, this request is to do with one of our officers, Detective Shayna Mireles who was caught in that tornado and she had injuries due to that accident. We have been informed by the doctors that due to her injuries she will not be able to perform her duties as a police officer, so therefore we have

to pension Detective Shayna Mireles and give her a disability pension and then we are requesting that she be allowed to keep her medical insurance as part of the retirement benefit package. It is my opinion that on that day Shayna answered a call for assistance in LaPorte County when that call came out and just like any other officer they never think of their own safety, they think of everybody else and Shayna responded in that way. I think that the request for her to maintain her insurance is the least that LaPorte County can do for her since this incident.

Mr. Bohacek how old is Detective Mireles?

Mr. Sosinski, I believe she is in her thirties.

Mrs. Huston how many years dose she have on the department?

Mr. Sosinski I believe nine years.

Mr. Bohacek, Joyce are HR Director, can you give us some direction on this?

Mrs. Leon, at this time I would need more information.

Mr. Bohacek, I believe we should table this and let are HR Director look at this.

Mr. Sosinski, well Shayna is physically done with the department January 31st, she will be collecting her first pension check February 1st and we need to know to maintain her insurance as retirement coverage.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to extend her coverage for thirty (30) days and then make a final decision after it is reviewed by our HR Department, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Glenn Wallace, LaPorte County Courthouse Security/ Riverboat Funds Batteries for Security Alarms

Mr. Wallace this is for the little alarms that we have about 150 of those units throughout the Courthouse system, Michigan City at the new building, this building and at the Courthouse. They recommend that we change the batteries every three years, we have had the system in effect for four or five years and the batteries have not been replaced.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve the request, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Southtown Beach Property Owners Association/ Request \$500.00 Tourism Funds

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve \$500.00 in Tourism Funds for the Southtown Beach Property Owners Association, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Robert Szilagyi, LaPorte County Attorney/ Bid Recommendation County Farmland

Attorney Szilagyi, I have provided you with a letter that with the three bids you received and Lawrenz Farms was \$206.00 per acre for a total of \$25,750.00, Parker Farms for \$171.00 per acre for a total of \$21,375.00 and James Minich for \$144.80 per acre for a total of \$18,100.00. I have also provided you with a form lease which is for a two year period, payments are to be one half on the 1st of April and the balance on the 1st of November and whoever you give it to will have to sign the lease.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to award the bid to Lawrenz Farms, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/ Bid Recommendations

Bob Young this is some of our annual material bids that we do every year.

Class I Limestone

Hanson and Vulcan Materials and I recommend that we accept both with Vulcan Materials as primary and Hanson as a secondary.

Class II Cold Patch

Rieth-Riley was the only bidder and we will accept them as the primary supplier.

Class III Slag

The Levy Company only bidder and we will accept them as the primary supplier. Bid recommendations

Class IV

No Bidders for this Class

Class V Diesel Fuel and Unleaded Gas

We have four bidders Rackham, Co-Alliance, Triple J-Mar, Petroleum Traders and the reason I accepted all four bids is it was brought to my attention that we did not pick a specific date for them for them to go by as far as the price of fuel. What I intend to do this year is every time I order a load of fuel I will call each one of these companies and get their daily rack price and go with the lowest. Next year we will pick a specific date.

Class VI Signs

We have one bidder Hall Signs accept them as primary.

Class VII Culverts & Guardrails

We have two bidders CPI/Debco and Drew Corporations and Debco as primary and Drew as a secondary.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Engineer/ Emergency Appropriation 18th Street Sewer Project

Mr. McVay this is a request for additional funds for the 18th Street Sewer Project and it is mainly to get the County Home tied in quickly within the next three weeks so they will have City water and sewer and the amount is \$118,667.00 and it is an emergency.

Mrs. Huston, wasn't this in the original contract?

Mr. McVay, no it wasn't and this has become an urgent thing out there. They would possibly have to drill another well if they do not get this hook up.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to declare this an emergency to approve the change order in the amount of \$118,667.00, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Rick McVay, LaPorte County Engineer/ RFP'S for Bridge Inspection

Mr. McVay this is a request for proposals for the bi-annual bridge inspection and that is something that the state requires us to do every two years and it is federally funded, we end up paying 20% of the total cost of the project and from our last inspection we are in good shape we are in the top ten of the state with the bridge program.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to proceed with the RFP's for the Bridge Inspection for 09, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a voice vote 3-0.

John Saylor, Land Surveyor/ Hunt Lake Minor Subdivision Final Approval

Mr. Saylor this is the primary plat and this is a mile south of the gravel pit and is a wooded area. Mr. Saylor goes on to explain the surrounding area.

Mrs. Huston you have two three acre lots.

Mr. Saylor yes.

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

Attorney Robert Szilagyi/ Resolution Regarding Benefits for Employees on Active Military Duty

Attorney Szilagyi, I have given you three Ordinances, one is for individuals who are on military or national guard duty and they have been activated for military duty, all three allow them to be paid the difference between the County salary and the military salary so long as the military salary is less than the county salary. The other three all have to do with insurance and the first one doesn't apply to insurance, the second one does have that the County does pay for all of the insurance, and the last one is that if they do qualify once they are activated and what the military cost of Tri Care and allows for them if they want maintain there county insurance they are going to have to pay for the premium or they are going to have to use Tri Care. I think we need an answer from our insurance carrier on that one to make sure when they come back and they have been taken off the County insurance that they be qualified to come back. The thought that comes to my mind is what if they have been gone for a year and their family is covered by Tri Care and they had some kind of catastrophic illness and all the sudden they come back the County carrier says we are not going to cover you because that was preexisting when you were covered.

Mr. Bohacek because of HIPPA laws they would be covered because they had insurance during that time of illness, so they never had a break in coverage. And the insurance is the second one and if they want to maintain the medical insurance.

Mrs. Huston you are not clear if they come back and are being paid that they would be able to get our insurance again if we don't cover them.

Attorney Szilagyi I would like to have something from our insurance company that says yes it okay they are covered.

Mrs. Shuter they would be covered the day they come back.

Mrs. Huston no matter what happens Teresa?

Mrs. Shuter yes they are covered the day they come back to the County and they are picked up immediately.

Mr. Bohacek if they do elect to pay the insurance premium for county health insurance just there portion as if they were still employed.

Attorney Szilagyi it would be like having two insurances but what is going to happen is that the insurance carrier is going to treat Tri Care as the primary. Now, all three ordinances before he/she gets paid any benefits he has got to provide the HR Director with activation orders and his military

base pay is and if they are qualified and they need to notify HR when they come back. What will happen is that the first, you will notice it says sixty (60) days, so at least the first month they have been activated they would still be covered by the County insurance and after they have been activated they will start that month so their won't be a gap.

Mrs. Huston so no matter what, when someone is activated the family is automatically put on Tri Care?

Attorney Szilagyi, yes

Mrs. Huston and if we were to give him or to pay the second insurance and I have been told that our insurance is better because we have doctors here close by where Tri Care doctors are not as close.

Attorney Szilagyi, I have talked to the County Veterans Officer and he is suppose to be getting a packet to us as well as Joyce of what Tri Care involves.

Mrs. Huston in order to take the Tri Care the family would have to go down to Indianapolis or down to one of the bases to have there care.

Mr. Hager my grandchildren on that and they have to go to South Bend to a doctor but now they are telling me that they have a doctor here in LaPorte, our Veterans Officer is suppose to get us some information but we have not gotten it yet. I would prefer that we table this until we get that information.

Richard Mrozinski, LaPorte County Council Member, John did finally did get the information package and he just got it. I will be going over to talk to him and go over the information but you are right there are local doctors that handle Tri Care so you don't have to drive all over. There are local doctors and he has the packet and we want to set down with you and HR to look at all that and make sure everybody knows all of the information.

Mrs. Huston I think that we should look at it but what about is there an obstetrician is there a pediatrician or do you have to go to a general doctor.

Mr. Hager lets table this until next meeting once we have reviewed the packet.

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

Mr. Hager what about the ordinance on military duty?

Attorney Szilagyi they both are together.

Mr. Hager so they both are table.

Attorney Robert Szilagyi/ Resolution to Use Automated Receipts

Attorney Szilagyi this is a resolution that I was suppose to do for the Data Processing Office.

Mr. Bohacek, Teresa I know you had some concern with this after looking at it more closely, is it something that will work for your department as well.

Mrs. Shuter I have not seen the resolution yet.

Mr. Hager while she is reading that we will go down to the next resolution.

Attorney Robert Szilagyi/Resolution to Manage Project Accounts

Attorney Szilagyi again this is another request, what is, is that every time there is a project and there are funds appropriated then that project would be given a name and a number and the fund would be in there and when somebody uses that account that what ever claim order is going to go against that account you should be able to pull up that vendor for that account and that is what that vendor

is what has been paid from that account, right now if you pick up a vendor for instance Ziolkowski if you run Ziolkowski it will give us all the payments made to Ziolkowski but had we had Ziolkowski on more than one project we would have to back it out and separate, this will automate it.

Mr. Bohacek it will be tracked by the vendor number?

Attorney Szilagyi it will be tracked by the project number and it provides that it is a non-reverting account, so if at the end of the year its going to stay there and you haven't used it up and the project aren't completed and it is going to stay there once it is done then the money would go back into the account it came from if it be CCD or whatever.

Mrs. Huston this can be done on the computer, that's why we have computer programs,

Attorney Szilagyi that's the way its suppose to be done.

Mrs. Huston it seem ridiculous to take a step backwards and keep an account book, a hand written book when this can be done on the computer with a program.

Mrs. Huston I make a motion that we approve this resolution to manage project accounts on the computer, second by Mr. Bohacek. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager this will be known as Resolution #2008-01

Mr. Hager now we will go back to the previous proposed resolution.

Attorney Robert Szilagyi/ Resolution to Use Automated Receipts

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the Resolution to Use Automated Receipts, second by Mrs. Huston. Motion carried with a roll-call vote 3-0.

Mr. Hager this will be known as Resolution #2008-02

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Christen, Chairman of the Logistics Task Force, I would like to request that Chancellor Dworkin take the place of Dr. Sharon Jenkins that has resigned from the Task Force.

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

Ms. Short-Davis from Ken Herceg and Associates and I am here to present an award that the Courthouse received from Midwest Construction Magazine.

Al Ott, I had a request to get some quotes for upgrade the awnings at the 555 Michigan Avenue building and the quotes one is from Horizon and the other is from Thorp. The one from Thorp this is removing the existing and replacing with new covering and aluminum frame the bid of \$7,669.00 the second bid was from Horizon Awning this was replacing the fabric but not the framing for \$5,812.00 the graphics on it would be 555 Michigan Avenue and that would be included in the price.

Mrs. Huston the aluminum would hold up longer.

Mr. Ott the aluminum would last.

Mr. Bohacek did Horizon, when they submitted their proposal did you asks them to replace the frames?

Mr. Ott they recommended that we just cover what we have.

Mr. Bohacek I guess I would ask what they would charge to make frames for the project.

Mrs. Huston at the same time we were asking about the awnings we asked about the door.

Mr. Ott replacing the door in one would be and make it handicap accessible and the elevator we don't have a quote on that yet but I will get that for you.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



William Hager, President



Michael Bohacek, Vice President

Barbara Huston, Member

ATTEST: _____
Teresa Shuter, Auditor