



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350

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*Barbara Huston
President*

*Mike Bohacek
Vice President*

*Ken Layton
Member*

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Huston, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Attorney Braje led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Layton, under New Business, I would like to add "E" Joyce Leon, Human Resource Director, County Employee Handbook and "F", Change Time for May 5, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2009 as presented, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

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

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending May 1, 2009, Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims—\$1,030,042.53, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Regular Claims———\$ 595,112.86, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ed Muzyka, I was wondering if there was an update on the water issues on Welnetz Road, Longwood Drive, and Sunnyside Drive? Is there any progress being made?

Mr. Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent, what we have done up to date is look into the woods across the street from your home. There is a drainage system out there that needs to be reestablished, ditches need to be cleaned, there is a retention pond, there are avenues for that water to go to Coolspring Avenue. We are in the process of working with Michigan City to see whose

responsibility it is to do that. We did flush out some culverts. We found a drain at the corner of Welnetz and Woodland that relieves some of that water. We do have a plan. I cannot put a schedule on it right now. The weather has not been cooperating. There is an empty retention pond on the Salem Court property that runs to Coolspring Avenue. It is too wet to get any machinery in to work.

Mr. Muzyka, we have a resident on Longwood Drive that pumps his water out onto the road, is that legal? It is bothering other residents that live on that road.

Mr. Wright, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, I have not been out there. I can take a look & make a recommendation.

Mr. Muzyka, Mr. Bohacek made a comment that they were immediately going to start taking care of the ditches on Welnetz Road.

Mr. Layton, we had a meeting out at the Highway Department and we did talk about that. We were waiting to meet with Mr. Doyle from Michigan City because part of the remedy is a horseshoe type of drain system that will run by the Salem Court Complex on the Michigan City side, as Mr. Young referred to. They went down and cleared a beehive type structure at Woodland and Welnetz which relieved some of it. We believe the culvert that goes into Lorraine Estates is tilted the wrong way. One other thing that we discussed, going in between the property lines between Roeske and Longwood and making a ditch or drainage that would run south. We cannot get machinery in there now that would give you an answer to your problem. You are not forgotten.

Jeannie Voltz, I was wondering what you were doing with the easement? My problem is with that gentleman pumping all that water into the easement. Last night my sump pump burned up; I now have four inches of water in my basement. This gentleman is in Trail Creek and he is pumping into the easement in the county. Right now my house is under water.

Dennis Metheny, I am here to speak against American Structure Point. I have a short form agreement between the owner and engineer for professional services. This is one of the worst agreements I have ever seen written in favor of the county. This is ridiculous, there are contradictions on here. The engineer is not liable or accountable. Everything is on the county's back. This is dated April 15th from American Structure Point; Principal Architect or Engineer, \$160 an hour, GPS crew, \$225.00 an hour, Registered Land Surveyor, \$110.00 an hour. I was aware that the county has given American Structure Point \$450,000.00 for engineering services prior to today. They want another \$110,000.00. I think we need to revisit this contract. We need this contract in favor of the county not the engineer. I think it needs to be looked at by the lawyer and needs to put it in the county's favor. The engineer is not liable for anything. I think you need to fix that.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mike Mollenhauer, LaPorte County Sheriff, I would like to report on completing the project for the Metro Drug Task Force room downstairs next to our detective bureau. It is completed. If you would like to tour that today, I would welcome you down there. We have three county officers that are in that division and one LaPorte City officer. We appreciate your permission to utilize that spot, the old 911 center.

Bob Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent, I wanted to bring you up to date with the state salt bids. We have currently submitted all of our information that they required; quantities and delivery dates. We are looking at June 1, 2009, letting for the salt prices. I decided on a number of 4,000 ton, earlier we discussed 5,000 ton. What that 4,000 ton does; you pick your quantity then you are committed to 80% of that, so that lowers our commitment to 3,200 ton and we can also purchase up to 150% of that 4,000 ton so we can purchase between 3200 & 6000 ton. So far, we don't know the price per ton, I am hearing maybe \$65.00 a ton. That will put us in the range of \$208,000.00 to \$390,000.00. We paid more than double that last year.

Mr. Layton, do you think it would be advantageous to go ahead with the normal bid process?

Mr. Young, we have done that already. We did that about a month ago and have not received any reply.

Mr. Jeff Wright, LaPorte County Highway Engineer, Meadowview flooding, I am looking for direction on how you want to proceed. There are a few proposals on the table. It won't be cheap; it will be a lot of money. I have been back in there and water is moving closer to the homes.

Mrs. Huston, we could set up a workshop and discuss the situation.

Mr. Wright, we are submitting our first package for stimulus funds of 1.1 million dollars, this afternoon. I did get an email from Mr. Bohacek to check on the Michiana Drive Bridge. Bob and I are looking into that, we took Tony Hendricks out there with us.

Mr. Wright, Melissa, GIS Coordinator, is getting prices for Auto Cad 3-D software for me.

Mr. Layton, Darlene, is the fiber optics that you are running out to the highway going to be beneficial for Mr. Wright?

Ms. Hale, yes it will. It will be very important to him. This should be done by the end of the month.

Ms. Hale, I would like to let you know, in regard to the court system, I have been working with Judge Alevizos on getting our current court system, which is very unfriendly, converted over to the state Odyssey System. Eventually, the whole state will be on the Odyssey System.

Ms. Hale, also, we have completed one role from the Assessor's system into the Auditor's system for the 06 pay 07 taxes. We may have to re-role a couple of the bigger townships.

Mr. Layton, is there a time frame you are looking at for the 06 pay 07 for the reconciliation bill?

Ms. Hale, originally about 6 weeks for the Auditor to get their work done. We are working with the DLGF to expedite that.

Mr. Hinchman, we are looking at around September.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Pease, EMS Administrator/EMS Bid Recommendation

Mrs. Pease, we received three bids and after reviewing them with the bid committee, the lowest bid we threw out because they did not submit the proper paper work and their specifications were not our specifications. That was SJC out of Elkhart, IN. That left us with two bidders; AEV and Med Tech. The difference in those two bids was \$973.00 per vehicle after trade. We looked heavily at AEV because they were the lower of the two. This is what it boiled down to; Med Tech is an Indiana vendor who we have established business with and we know their support. We called many references from AEV and what kept creeping up was electrical issues. Our comfort level for the \$973 difference would be to recommend Med Tech.

Mr. Layton, due to the recommendation of Mrs. Pease, our director and the fact that Med Tech is an Indiana Corporation, I make a motion to approve Mrs. Pease's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol McDaniel, LaPorte County Assessor/Open General Assessment Bids

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to close all bids, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Attorney Braje, the first bid is from Nexus Group. I am unable to identify the actual amount because it is multi faceted, it will have to be reviewed to determine the amount. However, they show a grand total for the General Reassessment Component of \$2,076,500.00. Broken out as \$17,000 for Appeals and PTABOA Service, \$17,000 for Informal Hearings, \$7,250 for Training and \$1,940,250 for General Reassessment and Field Reviews, that number is subject to DLGF involvement in annual adjustments and a Performance Bond of \$95,000.00. The next bid is from Tyler Technologies, the proposed fee is \$1,377,900.00. Once again, there is significant language in the contract of their duties and fees, with an option of a walk around review fee of \$1,982,300.00.

Mr. Layton, I make a motion to turn these over to Mrs. McDaniel for her recommendation and also refer them to the attorney for the language structure in the contract as well, so they can work together. Motion seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Joyce Leon, Director of Human Resources/Retiree's Vision and Dental Insurance

Mrs. Leon, right now the retirees are only eligible to take the group health insurance. The vision and dental is not offered and I would like to offer it. There is no cost to the county. I would like to be able to offer it to them.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to offer retirees vision and dental insurance at their cost, seconded by Mr. Layton motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Layton, lets move item E up so Mrs. Leon can speak on that as well.

Mrs. Leon, I have reviewed the Handbook and made a few revisions.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to adopt the changes as recommended by Mrs. Leon, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Resolution #2009-04

Craig Braje, Attorney/Resolution to Adopt Acceptance for Pre-tax Voluntary Contributions

Attorney Braje, this is a resolution which will permit contributions to the retirement plan by employees. The Internal Revenue Service ruled to begin accepting voluntary contributions from active members on a pre-tax basis, subject to certain conditions.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to accept by title only, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Resolution number 2009-03.

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/2009 Buy out on Sweeper and Road Patcher

Mr. Young, this is the lease purchase agreement that the County Highway entered into two years ago to obtain a street sweeper and road patcher. We made our first payment last year, the next payment is due August 28, 2009 and this is the first year we have an option to buy out. You can see the savings there in the interest of \$18,000 if we opted to buy out. The life of this equipment is at least ten years. We are real pleased with the performance of the patcher. It is a very effective one man operation.

Mr. Layton made a motion to buy out the agreement for \$191,813.89, saving \$18,000 in interest over

the next three years and this amount would be advertised out of the two funds; CCD Fund and WIN Tax, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Change Meeting Time

Mr. Layton, due to the fact that the Association of Indiana Counties meeting is May 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Plymouth, I would like to change the time of our 6:00 p.m. meeting to 10:00 a.m. on May 5th so that this body can attend that AIC Northwest District meeting.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to change the time of the May 5, 2009 meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.


COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Huston, I hope everyone had a nice Easter and enjoy the nice weather that is coming this week.

ADJOURN

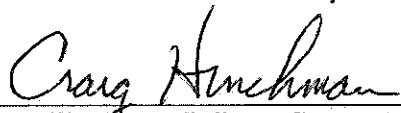
Mrs. Huston, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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Michael Bohacek, Vice President


Ken Layton, Member

ATTEST: 
Craig Hinchman, LaPorte County Auditor