



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 REORGANIZATION MEETING TUESDAY, January 5, 2010

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Hinchman, LaPorte County Auditor, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Craig Hinchman led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All present

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Hinchman, I will open nominations for President.

Mr. Bohacek, I make a motion to nominate Commissioner Huston, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mrs. Huston, I need nominations for Vice President.

Mr. Layton, I nominate Mr. Bohacek, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

County Attorney

Mr. Layton made a motion to reappoint the attorney firm of Braje, Nelson and Janes, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Insurance Agent of Record

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Swanson and Swanson and Apex as our insurance agents of

record to the respective policies, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Switchboard Operators

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to reappoint Mary Bishop, Shirley Oberholtzer, and Eleanor Schnable, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Department Head Appointments

County Home Administrator

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Kay Felton, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Veterans Service Officer

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint John Wantuch, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Museum Curator

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint James Rogers, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Asst. Museum Curator

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Susan Richtor, seconded by Mr. Layton.

EMS Administrator

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Patricia Pease, seconded by Mr. Layton.

E-911 Director

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Brent Soller, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Asst. E-911 Director

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Beth West, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Animal Shelter Director

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Jane Bernard, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Stationary Engineer

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Allen Ott, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Emergency Management and Disaster Director (Civil Defense)

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Paul Young, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Inspector of Weights and Measures (By affirmation only – State Appointment)

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Mike Quinn, seconded by Mr. Layton.

County Highway Engineer

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Jeff Wright, seconded by Mr. Layton.

County Highway Superintendent

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Robert Young, seconded by Mr. Layton.

County Highway General Foreman

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Rick Webb, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Garage Foreman

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Steve Cox, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Bridge Foreman

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Dillard Lawson, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Rolling Prairie District Foreman

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Lee Wuthrich, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Hanna District Foreman

Mrs. Huston, we are going to have the interim foreman stay until the board can decide on a foreman for Hanna.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to table this appointment, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Utility Inspector

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Richard Dombrowski, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Right to Know Director

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Jeff Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Layton

All the appointment motions carried by voice vote 3-0.

Commission Liaison Positions

County Highway

All Commissioners

Regional Bus Authority (RBA)

Mr. Bohacek

County Home

Mr. Bohacek

Plan Commission

Mr. Bohacek

Right to Know

Mr. Bohacek

NIRPC

Mr. Layton

Animal Control Board

Mrs. Huston

Kankakee Valley Workforce Development

Mr. Layton

Northern Indiana Commuter Trans. District

Mrs. Huston

Drainage Board

Mr. Bohacek

E-911 Board

Mrs. Huston

EMS Board

Mrs. Huston

Data Board

Mrs. Huston

Juvenile Services Board

Mrs. Huston

Solid Waste Management District Board

All Commissioners

Local Planning Council (Kankakee Valley Job Workforce)

Mr. Layton

Fair Board

Mr. Layton

Community Corrections Board

Mr. Layton

Mr. Layton, the commissioners have expressly notified the Community Corrections Advisory Board that the Director, Eric Yandt, is currently serving without an express appointment by the Community Correction Advisory Board, Mr. Yandt's contract having expired. The Commissioners intend to appoint an interim director until such time as the Advisory Board takes the prescribed legal action of appointment pursuant to I.C. 11-12-2-3.5 and seeks the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

Board Appointments

Michigan City Public Library

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Edward Frank, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mr. Layton made a motion to appoint Mr. Roger Wolff, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

LaPorte County Animal Control Advisory Commission

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Dr. Gerald Wagner, Patty Shively and Barbara Hooper, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Board of Construction Review

Mr. Layton, I ask that this be tabled.

Board of Health

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Dr. Rakesh K. Gupta, M.D. and Sherry K. Waters, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Convention/Tourism Bureau Board of Managers

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Dave Decker and Dennis Borrousch, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Mr. Layton, we were contacted by a gentleman out of Michigan City, Robert Pollack, that had interest in the board.

Data Board

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Barbara Huston, Johnny Stimley, Mark Yagelski, Carol McDaniel, and Melissa Mischke, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Drainage Board

Mr. Layton made a motion to appoint Michael Bohacek and Mr. Rick Knoll, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

E-911 Advisory Board

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Barbara Huston, Lois Sosinski, Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer, Patty Pease, Dave Lamb, Robb Sabie, James Imes, Jeff Hamilton, Paul Young, Mayor Kathy Chrobak, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Bob Sulkowski, Ben Neitzel, Terry Scherer and Brent Soller, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Emergency Medical Service Council

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Chuck Gries, John Parrett and Dr. Natalie Painter, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Pioneer Cemetery

Mr. Layton made a motion to reappoint Pat Harris, seconded by Mr. Bohacek.

Plan Commission

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Rita Beaty Kelly, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Property Taxes Assessment Board of Appeals

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Dean Uminski and Joie Winski, seconded by Mr. Layton.

LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to appoint Mike Gonder, Tony Wintek, Sam Ferguson, Don Przybylinski, and Jim Roy, seconded by Mr. Layton.

Mrs. Huston, we do have to appoint a non voting school board member and we will do that at a later date.

All approval of the board appointments passed by voice vote 3-0.

DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION—LEGAL NOTICE-COMMISSION MEETINGS—
AGENDA NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Huston reads the Designation of Publication.

Mr. Layton, I would also like to include the Westville Indicator and the Regional News.

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

Mrs. Huston reads the Legal Notice-Commission Meeting.

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

Mrs. Huston reads the Agenda Notice.

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

Mrs. Huston reads Board of Commissioners Notification.

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

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending January 8, 2010, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims—\$13,797,967.03, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

LaPorte County Home Farm Ground Lease

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the amount of Rob Lawrenz for \$24,084.70 it was \$7,000 more for the annual contract than the next closest bidder, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/Bid Recommendations for Class 1-7 Material Bids

Mr. Young, 1st class is crushed limestone, we had two bidders, Hanson & Vulcan, my recommendation is to accept both bids with Hanson as the primary. Class 2, is patch material, one bidder, Reith & Riley, accept them. Class 3, crushed slag, Levy Company, accept them. Class 4, no bidders. Class 5, unleaded fuel and diesel fuel, 4 bidders, Co-Alliance, Triple J-Mar Petroleum, Rackham Service Corp. and

Petroleum Traders Corp., we will accept all four of the bids, when we need fuel, we call each bidder and see who is the lowest that day. Class 6, Signs, Hall Signs, only bidder, accept them. Class 7, guardrail and metal culverts, James H. Drew Corp. and Debco, accept both.

Mr. Layton made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Highway Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Bohacek, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Young, LaPorte County Highway Superintendent/Review Asphalt Bid Extension Prices

Mr. Young, Reith and Riley made an offer to extend their 2009 bid into the 2010 season. You asked me to research this and see what the asphalt prices were going to do. I have talked to asphalt salesmen and different people throughout the state. The price that Reith and Riley has given us over the past few years has been a good deal. Asphalt prices have either stabilized or gone up. I don't think we would be hurting ourselves by accepting their proposal. When they offered this, we notified Rowe & Sons and Walsh & Kelly to give them an opportunity to extend their bids as well. Reith & Riley are still low by about \$7-\$8 a ton. Rowe & Sons bid is considerably higher but that is because he is bidding on small jobs.

Mr. Bohacek, on some of these small projects, could we extend these prices to the other smaller municipalities in the county?

Mr. Young, they haven't asked. We could ask these companies if they would extend these prices to any smaller municipalities. I will contact them and see if we can get that written in.

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

Carol McDaniel, LaPorte County Assessor/Open Bids for LaPorte County Reassessment

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

Attorney Braje, the Nexus Group, \$1,688,780.00 plus reference to our litigation. Ad Valorem Solutions, \$2,660,252.00.

Mr. Bohacek made a motion to turn over the bids to the Assessor for review, seconded by Mr. Layton, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Layton, I also would like our attorneys to have copies or their review as well. Mrs. McDaniel, how long is this contract for?

Mrs. McDaniel, it is for the reassessment, for however long it takes.

Tim Gropp and John Regetz/LaPorte County Economic Development Alliance Proposal

Mr. John Regetz, you have in front of you a contract for the LaPorte County Economic Development Alliance which is a joint venture between the county and LaPorte's and Michigan City's Economic Development Corporations. We have been working on this for almost a year. We have spoken to the commission and council and have had two workshops on this. We would appreciate your support and your signatures on the agreement.

Attorney Braje, I have no legal objections.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dick Reel – Topic, Extension Office Location, please see the attached.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Layton, I would like to thank the men and women from the LaPorte County Highway over this past week. They have put in enumerable hours for us this week. They need kudos for what they have

accomplished.

Mrs. Huston, I would like to address Mr. Reel and Purdue Extension. We are fully aware of the parking problems that we have. One of our councilmen talked about putting Purdue Extension in the Courthouse. I see a great deal of problems with that. We know this has been ongoing for a number of years. We are very supportive of Purdue Extension, we know our future is in 4-H. The council and the commissioners do not want to pay rent. Mr. Layton does have an idea that could be productive for that. When we are ready, we will tell you what that is. We have very little options in moving the office and only want to move them once. We want to remodel the inside of the courthouse, we have proposals and that would take about \$6,000,000.00. We are looking at other options everyday and are working on it.

Mrs. Huston, now ALCO TV. We are aware of the problems. If they are not corrected, we will have to search out another avenue.

Mrs. Huston, the next thing we have is road closings. The city of LaPorte is going to close Bach St. from Belden St. to Larson St. and Boston St. from Bach St. to Factory St. from January 2010 through June 2010. The second phase, they will close Larson St. from Bach St. to the northerly project limit cited above from July 2010 through November 2010. Phase three, closing Boston St. from Factory St. to Lincolnway, from March 2011 through June 2011. That will be about 18 months. The alternative routes will be Lincolnway to Fail Road, Fail Road to Severs Road and Severs Road to Genesis Drive. We are asking that the people who live on Severs Road understand that this is going to be a long hard road for you to endure but it is needed to better get the traffic in and out of the Thomas Rose Industrial Park. We are asking for your patience.

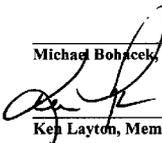
ADJOURN

Mrs. Huston, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

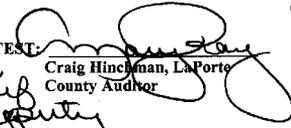
LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

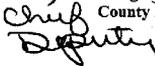

Barbara Huston, President


Michael Bohacek, Vice President


Ken Layton, Member

ATTEST:


Craig Hinchman, LaPorte
County Auditor


Craig Hinchman, LaPorte
County Auditor

1. We were the first office to move into the complex in 1977. The museum wasn't started at that time. We had a small meeting room that held 25 people attached to our office.
2. We were told that the meeting rooms on the main floor were for our use and to schedule them in the maintenance office. We scheduled all our meetings for the whole year. Usually about 150 meetings. This was policy for many years.
3. When the platform was built in rooms 1&2 for the commissioners and the counsel we were told those rooms could not be used in the future. Also at that time parking downtown had become impossible. Our staff did a lot of programs out of the office. When they returned to work their parking place was taken. This happened pretty much daily.
4. Trying to schedule 150 meetings for rooms 3&4 became impossible. Sometimes the commissioners took the room as priority after we had sent out mailings for a scheduled meeting.
5. At this time the prosecutor started using our upstairs room for pretrial hearings. We did share this room and scheduled around each other.
6. Finally we gave up trying to use the facilities in the day time because of the parking problem. This hurt our office because we were no longer available to our clients. This was when the new phone system was put in place. The phone would ask what office the caller wanted to reach. You can guess how confused the reality operator became when the answers were all different: Purdue University Office, County Extension Office, 4-H Office, Agriculture Office, etc. We never got that one fixed.
7. There was a proposal to put the Solid waste office and the Extension office together in 2001. We worked on this for two years and thought everything was set and then the Landfill was closed and everything stopped. This was right before I retired.
8. Two important points:
 - A Build Indiana grant was submitted for an Extension office. It was awarded for \$75,000. This money is still available and in the Treasures office. I don't know if we were to get interest earned or if the County was to get the interest.
 - The Extension office was given to the Prosecutor. It sat empty for 14 months before the office was remodeled for the Prosecutor.

I think you understand the problem. The Extension Office is only effective if the clients have access to their services. This can not happen in the basement of the Complex with out available parking.

As a tax payer I also believe that we need to use facilities available, but only when they are accessible to the public. The Extension Office has much to offer and could do more if allowed to be the asset that it is. Many programs and county problems were begun in the Extension office. Examples include: the County Parks Department, Leadership Laporte County, The Juvenile Center, Solid Waste District, Laporte County Bike Way System, and the Pioneer Land at the Fairgrounds.

The future of Laporte County will be in the Agriculture sector, whether it be Confinement livestock feeding, Intermogals, alternative fuels with Ethanol Plants, or Landfills. The Extension Office can play a big role in helping provide Purdue research information on these topics. Agriculture is still Laporte County's number one product.