



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 - FAX: (219) 326-9103

*Barbara Huston  
President*

*Mike Bohacek  
Vice President*

*Ken Layton  
Member*

## LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

The LaPorte Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Huston, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Layton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Mrs. Huston, present  
Mr. Layton, present  
Mr. Bohacek, absent

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the agenda as printed, the chair seconded, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Layton made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2010, seconded by the chair, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

### WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

### CLAIMS

Payroll Ending October 15, 2010, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Misc. Claims ----\$54,724.83, Mr. Layton made a motion to approve, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Keith Harris, Michigan City, IN. This is for informational purposes, on October 21, 2010 there is a tour bus traveling across the state with three Republican state level candidates, Richard Mourdock, Tim Berry, and Charlie White that are going to be making a stop here in LaPorte at the Court House, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Earl Cunningham, 6311 W. Shiva Drive, LaPorte. I would like to commend President Huston, Commissioner Layton and Executive Secretary Reathel Noveroske for the fine work you did last week at the AIC Conference. Besides the work you did there, it was all the preplanning. I believe Mr. Layton was the chairman for that committee. All the comments I heard from people as far south as Evansville were very positive. I appreciate your efforts. On a second issue, do we have a county policy on per diem spending for food and on how many days a person can stay before and after a conference at the county's expense? Is there a written policy to that effect?

Mrs. Huston, there is on the per diem. As far as the days, I don't think we have anything like that.

Mr. Cunningham, so if someone were to go to a three day conference and charged the county for seven days, do we handle that on an individual basis? There is no written policy for charging excessive days for a conference?

Mrs. Huston, normal procedure is, if a department wants to go to a conference, they will write a letter to the county commissioners for approval to go to the conference. In the letter they will put down whether they need meals, hotel accommodations, and cost of the conference. A lot of departments already have the cost in their budgets. If they don't, and we can afford to, we will pick up all that. They have to bring us back receipts, the conference registration form and that is usually all handled per department.

Mr. Cunningham, it seems to me that you might give a night before if it is a long trip to the conference. It hardly seems that you would give two or three nights before or after.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### REQUESTS

None

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Jason and April Chantos/Meadowbrook Subdivision

Mr. Layton made a motion to table, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

##### Pat Pease, EMS Administrator/Ambulance Bid Recommendation

Mrs. Pease, after reviewing the sole ambulance bid submitted and finding all of the proper paperwork in order, I would like to recommend the 2010 ambulance bid be awarded to Crossroads Ambulance Sales & Service for the purchase of two 2010 Chevrolet G3500 model ambulances in the amount of \$213,532. In addition to the trade in allowances, they have also provided a multi unit purchase discount in the amount of \$6,000. In an effort to keep costs low and continue to follow our projected ambulance purchase schedule, we have solicited bids this year for two model G3500's in lieu of our normal purchase of model G4500's. The G3500's are a somewhat smaller and less expensive unit, thus saving the county approximately \$40,000 in the purchase price for these two vehicles should we be given the appropriation by the council.

Mr. Layton, motion to concur with the directors advice, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Layton, question please. At the previous meeting, Mr. Bohacek asked me to ask this of you today, have you put out the first responder vehicle for bid?

Mrs. Pease, no. What we have been directed to do is sell it out right by the commission. I received a letter that I forwarded to the Commissioners that there is an intent of Scipio Fire Department to purchase and we discussed dollar amount. That is as far as we got because we were not given the money yet from the council to purchase our other support vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

Atty. Chris Willoughby/Ordinance Re: Classification Voter's Registration Office Employees

Mr. Layton made a motion to table, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Lynn Spevak, LaPorte County Clerk/Approval of Absentee Voting Hours,  
Election Pay of Poll Workers and Approval  
Of Polling Places

Miss Spevak, some of this is just formality but to let you know what has been requested by the election board to have extended hours on Friday nights from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on October 22 and October 29. We will pay for security in both courthouse buildings. The regular Indiana code 311.10.26 requires us to be open seven hours on the two Saturdays prior to the election which will be October 23 and October 30. In the past they have only worked 8-3 and I would like to extend it one more hour to work 8-4 with a lunch. Currently we are working Monday through Friday 8-11:30 with a ½ lunch and starting up at noon again until 4:00 p.m. We will be closed on Columbus Day. Last day for early voting is Monday, November 1, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Mr. Layton, is there a change in the pay?

Miss Spevak, it is all the same.

Mr. Layton, I will make a motion to concur with the clerk's wishes to extend the polling hours and approve the pay, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Miss Spevak, I do have some changes in the polling places I would like to announce. These are all handicapped accessible. The First Christian Church on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, there is some construction right by there and the First Christian Church is not using that building currently. They will allow us to go in and use it as a polling place. I am a little concerned with the heating and prefer not to use a closed building. I would like to move that precinct into the IBEW/NECA Center which is still in the first ward. We also had a change with Michigan City 5-2 which was at the DeVries Firestone Tire building. We thought it would be in the best interest for the business, poll workers and voters if we moved that location also. We want to move it to the Michigan City Training Center which will combine it with Michigan City 5-1 and have two precincts in one building. We have one change out in Prairie Township. We would like to move it to the William Pryor building at 2019 W., 1800 S., Hanna, IN.

Mr. Layton, I will make a motion to approve the polling places for the 2010 general election with the changes made by the clerk's office, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Miss Spevak, Prairie Twp. will have an additional public question on their ballot only and the public question for them is "Shall Prairie Twp. School Corp. be consolidated with Dewey Twp. School Corp." I have approval from the state to place it on the ballot. Total number of voters right now stands at 76,757 out of that 21,000 are inactive. The only expansion that I am looking at is the Westville/New Durham area. Right now they have 3,300 voters with only two precincts. That might be one change we will look at next year. As far as absentee voting, we have 264 mail out ballots right now and 100 walk ins.

John Regetz, Economic Development Alliance/Transfer of Recovery Zone  
Bond Allocation

Mr. Regetz, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 counties throughout the nation have been given, through their states, the ability to enable projects to borrow money. \$6,898,000 was allocated through the state and as we have no projects at this time to use that up, we can transfer that to the state and designate projects we would like that bond volume cap to go to. A project has come forward in Porter County and they have requested that these dollars be directed

towards them. Jack Arnett is here to tell us about that request. We would ask that you authorize the transfer of the Local Volume Cap.

Mr. Arnett, LaPorte County Convention and Tourism Bureau, we have been approached by the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Porter County and our regional group across the northern part of the state has been asked to support this project. I am here to let you know that we are in support of this. Several other counties have been asked to do the same thing. The project itself, if it comes about, will be a very, very, good move for tourism across the region.

Mr. Layton, please read the Resolution by title only for approval.

Mrs. Huston, Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County Indiana, A Resolution exercising the Home Rule powers of LaPorte County, Indiana and other matters connected therewith.

Mr. Layton, I make a motion to approve, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

This will be known as Resolution 2010-10.

Mrs. Huston, I hope this goes through.

Miss Spevak, we approved the 2010 Primary Election polling places, there has been a typo, this needs to say General Election.

Mr. Layton, we have a request to approve a proclamation, a community planning month proclamation.

(Please see attached) I make a motion to accept the proclamation, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

#### COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Layton, I would like to publicly thank Jack Arnett and the members of the Convention Bureau for their support and efforts during last week's Association of Indiana Counties Conference. It could not have been carried off in the style and elegance that it was without your support and those of your staff. Jack, we truly appreciate every effort that was made. Secondly, as you know, we received a letter from Sergeant Mike Kellems from the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office in reference to the sale of substances containing synthetic marijuana. You made mention of the fact that we were looking into the matter. We have requested and have received draft ordinances from the counties of Porter, Noble and Vigo, from the state of Indiana and I would like you to join me in sending these to the county attorney for the drafting of an Ordinance for LaPorte County on the same topic.

Mrs. Huston, yes, sir, I concur.

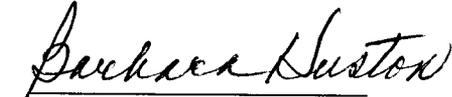
Mr. Layton, in the thank yous that we had for the AIC conference, we had a 17 year old girl from Michigan City High School, Cynthia Grant, that led the singing of the National Anthem. She did her family and our county proud.

Mrs. Huston, I also want to thank Jack Arnett. Anytime we had a problem, the Convention Bureau stepped up to help us. They were very diligent and always there. We appreciate it; there was a lot of effort on their part and a lot of effort on the committee's part. I heard nothing but great things as far as the AIC conference; everyone had a good time and was impressed. Thanks to everyone that helped. It came off well.

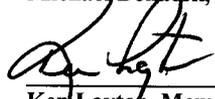
#### ADJOURN

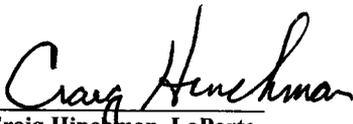
Mrs. Huston, President, adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Huston, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Bohacek, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Layton, Member

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Hinchman, LaPorte  
County Auditor

# COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, boroughs, townships, rural areas, and other places; and

**WHEREAS**, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

**WHEREAS**, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

**WHEREAS**, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories, and

**WHEREAS**, The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of our settlements and environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of National Community Planning Month gives us the opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning commissions and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the (State, City, or County) of LaPorte (insert name of state, city, or county); and

**WHEREAS**, We recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners of the County (State or City or County) of LaPorte (insert name of state, city, or county) and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the month of October 2010 is hereby designated as **Community Planning Month** in the County (State or City or County) of LaPorte (insert name of state, city, or county) in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month.

Adopted this 5th Day of October, 2010.

Barbara Huston  
Chief Elected Official

Craig Hinchman  
Clerk

