



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350

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*Ken Layton
President*

*Barbara Huston
Vice President*

*Willie Milsap
Member*

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Ken Layton, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ken Purze led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Layton and Mr. Milsap
Absent: Mrs. Huston

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Layton, we have two additions under Requests, A., Melissa Mischke, GIS Coordinator/Sidwell Contract and B., Scipio Township/Purchase Used EMS Vehicle.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve as amended, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 20, 2011, Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

CLAIMS

Payroll Ending October 14, 2011, Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Misc. Claims ----\$5,739,215.40, Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve in the amount stipulated, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by roll call vote 2-0.

Mr. Layton, for the audiences edification, \$5,000,000 of those claims is an in house transfer, there was no expenditure in that amount.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mr. Tony Hendricks, LaPorte County Surveyor, I would like Ken Purze to present a request for tourism funds.

Mr. Purze, I have with me tonight Nicole Messacar who is the education coordinator for the Soil & Water Conservation District. On behalf of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts public outreach as well as the mission of the Kankakee River Basin Commission for recreation and tourism, we are here to request \$500 from the Commissioners discretion for visitors and tourism fund. The use of that money will be to purchase t-shirts, water, pop, for an upcoming float on the Kankakee River which is scheduled for October 23, 2011. The Soil and Water Conservation District and the Drainage Board through Mr. Hendricks recently went on a float that was sponsored on Trail Creek through the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Assn. It was very well received to see what kind of work we have been doing related to water quality in our water sheds. This upcoming float is for the Kankakee where we have spent a lot of effort to maintain the river and provide good drainage for our farmers and the economy and this request is for the tourism and recreational uses, again, fulfilling our mission. We ask today that the Commissioners approve the request. Again, the float is on October 23, all are invited. We will be floating from English Lake to Dunns Bridge and this is being initiated through the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Assn.

Mr. Layton, I again thank you for your efforts for what you have done, not only for the citizens of LaPorte County, but for the 3 county drainage board that you represent us on. I think that your request is a valid request and I entertain a motion to approve.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Melissa Mischke, GIS Coordinator/Sidwell Contract

Mrs. Mischke, you should have a letter in front of you to request to actually suspend the services of one of our providers that provides parcel maintenance software. We have had that contract in place since 2006 and we would like to cancel that contract. At your next meeting, we will be presenting you with another contract for a current vendor that would save us a significant amount of money.

Mr. Layton, I have talked to the auditor, after talking to you, and he is supportive of it. I didn't get a chance to talk to Mr. Schultz, but it is my understanding that he is also supportive of this.

Mr. Milsap, is there a penalty for getting out of this contract?

Mrs. Mischke, there is not. I worked with attorney Willoughby and we went through the existing contract and we did not see any stipulation on penalties, time allotted.

Mr. Milsap, other than the financial savings, what are the other qualities of this contract vs. the other contract.

Mrs. Mischke, one of the things we looked at is the individual who does our parcel maintenance right now evaluated several other software companies, including the one our current contract is with, she determined that the new selection for the software was actually easier to use and the cost is less. It is going to work a little bit better with the Beacon site; we are going to have some better integration there. One of the tools that we are going to include in the new contract is tools that allow the Auditor's office, the Treasurer's office and any of the mapping areas to compare reports on each parcel. We will be able to find discrepancies internally a lot faster and identify how we can quickly fix those.

Mr. Milsap, is this new vendor local?

Mrs. Mischke, they are in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Sidwell Company is out of Saint Charles, Illinois.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Scipio Township/ Purchase Used EMS Vehicle.

Mr. Layton, we have a letter from the Scipio Township Trustee, Scipio Township would like to purchase the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban for the township volunteer fire department's use. We understand that the purchase price would be \$3,200.00 and the vehicle would be available when EMS receives their replacement.

Mr. Rip Ludlow, EMS representative, that vehicle is the one that will be replaced in probably two months when we receive the new support vehicles. Scipio Twp. has wanted to purchase that vehicle for the last two years. Eric Fenstermaker is the chief of Scipio and is one of our supervisors also.

Mr. Fenstermaker, in speaking with Mrs. Pease, that is the number we came into agreement with based on value, condition and depreciation. Mrs. Sampson is aware of all the conditions of the vehicle. I know that was a concern with the council.

Mr. Cunningham, there was a concern with the council members that there should be a statement clearing us of any liability because it is a used vehicle and they are buying it "as is".

Mr. Layton, Mr. Braje assured me he will take care of that.

Mr. Milsap, the medical gloves; when a volunteer department responds to an emergency and they use their gloves, do you guys replace them?

Mr. Fenstermaker, no, we have been instructed not to. That would be a question for Mrs. Pease. I can't comment on that.

Mr. Milsap, you would agree that it would be important to replace the gloves.

Mr. Fenstermaker, I cannot comment on that.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to transfer the ownership of this vehicle when the new ones are in service, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

LaPorte County Health Board Appointment (Tabled)

Mr. Milsap made a motion to remove from the table, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Milsap, what is the makeup of the board?

Mr. Sandy, President of the Health Board, we have seven, no more than four of one party; so many in the medical field, it is all set by state statute.

Mr. Milsap, how many are male?

Mr. Sandy, two.

Mr. Milsap, how many are female?

Mr. Sandy, four and a vacancy.

Mr. Milsap, this vacancy is from an African-American female from Michigan City, right?

Mr. Sandy, yes.

Mr. Milsap, she resigned on July 22, 2011.

Mr. Sandy, correct.

Mr. Milsap, she recommended the individual that I made a motion to approve at the last meeting, Miss Gillard.

Mr. Sandy, I am not privileged to that information. I have two people's resumes but I don't know who recommended them. I can't tell you that.

Mr. Milsap, one that was recommended was Monique Gillard, an African-American female from Michigan City who Doretha Sanders recommended replace her. Are we on the same page? That was done in July. We are in October, what is the problem?

Mr. Sandy, it is up to the commissioners to make the appointment, the board has no say in it.

Mr. Milsap, we had one individual apply when this was addressed in August. Now we are in October and another individual has come on board.

Mr. Milsap, my motion is to replace Mrs. Sanders with the person she designated to replace her which is Monique Gillard.

Mr. Layton, I don't know that the Health Board received the letter that we received from Mrs. Sanders.

Mr. Milsap, with due respect I would follow Mrs. Sanders recommendation which is Monique Gillard, who is from Michigan City, who is an African-American female.

Mr. Sandy, she is just as qualified as anybody else. It is the commissioner's appointment.

Mr. Milsap, I just wanted to educate you on her and if I am not mistaken she is an ex county employee. She use to work in the commissioner's office so she is no stranger.

Mr. Layton, I don't know if that has any bearing on whether that would make her a good board member or not.

Mr. Milsap, I am just trying to put everyone on the same page.

Mr. Sandy, any person that is appointed to the board is treated with respect.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to replace Mrs. Sanders with Monique Gillard, the chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

Mr. Layton, let me apologize to you for your grilling here this evening. The reason it was tabled was that I asked for permission to table it so I could go back to the Health Board and get their input on it. He is right, we did have only on application originally which was Moniques. In the interim in getting together with both of you is when Mr. Pahs came forward. I also know Mr. Pahs and he is a respectable individual of the community and an RN. We are not slighting one person over the other. I do believe you were unjustly treated here this evening and I apologize.

Mr. Milsap, I was under the impression that you had the same documentation as we did. With that being said, I apologize.

NEW BUSINESS

Autumn Halaschak, Attorney/Petition to Vacate Roadway

Mr. Layton, this is going to be tabled, Ms. Halaschak is not fully prepared.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to table, chair seconded the motion, motion carried by voice vote 2-0.

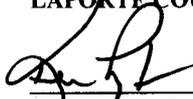
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Milsap, I apologize for being late, I had an emergency incident in Michigan City and as you know service calls.

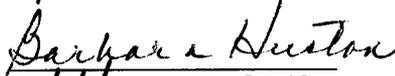
ADJOURN

Mr. Layton, President, adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Ken Layton, President

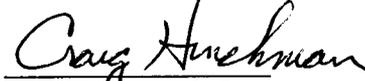


Barbara Huston, Vice President



Willie Milsap, Member

ATTEST:



Craig Hinchman, LaPorte
County Auditor