



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## LAPORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

LaPorte, IN 46350

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229 - FAX: (219) 326-9103

*Ken Layton  
President*

*Barbara Huston  
Vice President*

*Willie Milsap  
Member*

### LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, January 17, 2012

The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3.

#### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Layton, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Pat Pease led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

All present

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 3, 2012, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### WEEKLY REPORTS

Commissioners review and sign the weekly reports during the meeting.

#### CLAIMS

Payroll Ending January 20, 2012, February 3, 2012, and February 17, 2012, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Miscellaneous Claims—\$992,555.92, Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve in the amount stipulated, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

Purdue University North Central/American Veteran Traveling Tribute

Mrs. Huston reads letter from Purdue University North Central. (Please see attached)

Mr. Layton, you have heard the letter of request from Purdue North Central for the county to participate. You have to know that I have a deep seeded interest in it. My only suggestion is, that if it is this board's pleasure to grant the request of Purdue North Central for the \$2,500, we do not do it from the CVB board funds because we have local units, Fish Lake, Hanna, Rolling Prairie, Westville and Wanatah that make their annual request for their \$500 stipend. We have a promotional fund that was set up for us by the LaPorte County Council, it would be my suggestion, if we approve this, that this request come from that appropriation.

Mr. Milsap, I agree with you on that.

Mrs. Huston, I totally agree and make the motion to have the \$2500 request gift come from our promotional fund, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Milsap, is the Wall Gang part of this?

Mr. Layton, the Wall Gang is part of it and the Guardian Riders are part of it, the Patriot Guard is part of it.

Mr. Rich Mrozinski, also the VFWs, American Legions, all the veteran's organizations in the state have been notified. We are looking for donations and also participation. I serve on the ceremony committee with Senator Arnold. There are sub committees that make up the main committee. It is expensive to bring this here. The ceremony itself will be huge. There will be a motorcycle escort here from Hammond. We are planning to have the opening ceremony on that evening, July 3, 2012, at dusk.

Mrs. Huston, if you need any help with the planning or if I can be of any service on any of the boards, please don't hesitate to ask. I think it is a great endeavor.

Jeremy Kienitz, Michigan City Park Dept./Road Closures for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Triathlon

Mr. Kienitz, Michigan City Parks Department, Recreation Director. We are in the process of planning our 4<sup>th</sup> annual triathlon in Michigan City on Saturday, August 11, 2012. We are seeking closure of the 3200 – 3600 blocks of Lake Shore Drive for the bike portion of the event. We have been fortunate to receive approval for the last three years from you and I would hope that we could have that again. The reason we are looking for the closure is for the safety of the bikers on the course. We will have volunteers stationed along the bike portion of the course on Lake Shore Drive. We do allow traffic; we just want to make sure there aren't 100 bikes in the way when a car wants to pull out. We don't want to restrict access we just want to limit access. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. in Washington Park with the swim portion; then they will jump on their bikes for a one lap course and it should end by 10:30 and then they still have to run.

Mr. Milsap made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mrs. Huston, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment to the LaPorte County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Mr. Layton, Mr. Lou Weber resigned for health reasons. We need a new appointment to fill his term.

Mr. Milsap, I would like to appoint Mr. Michael Mack to that board.

Mrs. Huston, I would like to appoint Jim Miller, Jr.

Mr. Hinchman, we will start with Michael Mack; Mrs. Huston, nay, Mr. Milsap, aye, Mr. Layton, aye.

Mr. Mack is the new appointment 2-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Pease, EMS Administrator/Additional Appropriation – Radio Upgrades

Mrs. Pease, I am here to request permission of the board to approach the council for an additional appropriation of \$17, 500 for the purchase of some new and upgrade our current radio equipment to meet the federal requirement for narrow band frequency. This is just to upgrade the three bases.

Mr. Layton, there will be no additional expenditures needed to take care of the ambulances, the transfer rigs, all of that?

Mrs. Pease, this is it.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Mr. Milsap, what time frame are we talking about if approved by the council?

Mrs. Pease, we are looking to get it done by April.

Purdue University Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Layton, this is the understanding that our IT Director worked out with Purdue University in providing the internet service and the IT service to the Extension Office at the new building. It costs the county \$100 a month to supply that and the University will pay that \$100 a month.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Personnel Policy Revision

Mr. Layton, there has been some discrepancies in our personnel policy involving the longevity increases for the employees and when those would be implemented. This language clarifies that. Instead of a person possibly waiting eleven months after obtaining their longevity increase every three years, it makes the increase take effect the month following the date of the increase.

Mrs. Huston made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Jeff Wright, Highway Engineer/Architectural Services Contract for the Department of Corrections Facility

Mr. Layton, we have had conversation with our council pertaining to this contract. We are going to set the contract aside until verbiage can be determined by council, the engineer and the firm of DLZ. More importantly, we are going to set this contract aside until after the council's meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. I will appear before the council for the funding issue pertaining to this contract. If the council sees fit to fund it; it will go forward with the verbiage changes requested. If the council doesn't fund it, it is a dead issue. We will have this at our meeting after the January 30<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Jeff Wright, Highway Engineer/Design Engineering Contract for the CR 400N Economic Development Project

Mrs. Huston made a motion to table, seconded by Mr. Milsap, motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

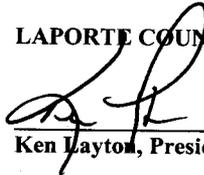
Mr. Milsap, I would urge all LaPorte County residents to contact their legislators to share their views on the Right To Work legislation. It is very important. Personally, I think it should be a referendum so we can make our opinions known since it directly affects us.

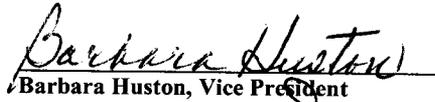
Mr. Layton, on February 7<sup>th</sup> we have a meeting of this body scheduled for 6:00 p.m. That meeting will be cancelled. We will only hold one meeting in February. The reason for that is Mrs. Huston will be on vacation and I am on the Association of Indiana Counties Board of Directors. The Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and the AIC Board of Directors meet the evening prior to that on February 6<sup>th</sup>, so we will not hold a meeting on February 7, 2012. All business will be taken up on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

ADJOURN

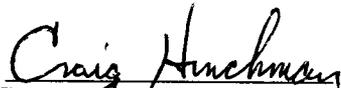
Mr. Layton, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Ken Layton, President

  
Barbara Huston, Vice President

  
Willie Milsap, Member

ATTEST:   
Craig Hinchman, LaPorte  
County Auditor

# PURDUE

UNIVERSITY  
NORTH CENTRAL

December 15, 2011

LaPorte County Commissioners  
555 Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 202  
LaPorte, IN 46350

Dear LaPorte County Commissioners:

Purdue North Central is proud to be hosting the American Veterans Traveling Tribute this summer, providing thousands of visitors an opportunity to experience an 80-percent scale version of the Vietnam Wall as its cornerstone. Across its 370-foot length, the wall contains all the names etched in the original wall in Washington, D.C. This project pays respect to the men and women who served our country and to pay specific tribute to those who gave all in that service: *veterans, active military personnel, law enforcement, firefighters, first responders and those lost protecting us from terrorist attacks.*

Purdue North Central along with the support of Rich Mrozinski, Commander, Post 9423 Rolling Prairie Indiana, and State Senator, Jim Arnold, District 8, are bringing the monuments to campus for all those who cannot travel to Washington, D.C. Other memorials and exhibits will include but not be limited to:

- "The Cost of Freedom Memorial" listing the names of those who gave their lives for our freedom since Vietnam, including Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom
- 911 Memorial, a stand-up exhibit with twin towers; each name and his or her location is recorded
- Walk of Heroes paying tribute and providing education regarding our country's history of conflicts which ensured our freedom. This represents the True Cost of Freedom in lives.
- Vietnam Remembered displaying art and original paintings and more for viewing, education and reflection
- World War II displaying pictures and information to honor WW II veterans
- Korean War providing information about the men and women who fought the "forgotten war"
- 1980 - 2000 conflicts, displaying each conflict that occurred during this period with a list of casualties
- Police and firefighter displays paying specific tribute to law enforcement and firefighters

Please accept the enclosed request for a gift of **\$2,500** from the *LPCCVB Community Event Promotion Fund* to support bringing the American Veteran Traveling Tribute to Purdue North Central July 3-7, 2012. We truly appreciate your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at 219.785.5274 or [mwestpha@pnc.edu](mailto:mwestpha@pnc.edu).

Sincerely,

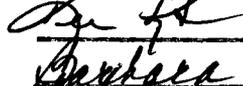
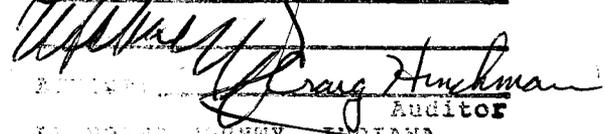


Melissa Westphal Benefiel, MS  
Grant Writer Development Coordinator

Enclosures

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA.  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Barbara Heston*  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA