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# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAPORTE COUNTY

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Dr. Vidya Kora  
Member

## Minutes

### LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

To be held at 6:00 p.m. in the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  
3. **ROLL CALL**  
Auditor Joie Winski conducted Roll Call, all three Commissioners present.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
  
Commissioner Kora moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
5. **WEEKLY REPORTS**  
  
None
6. **CLAIMS**
  - A. **Miscellaneous Claims-----\$2,555,073.64**  
  
Auditor Joie Winski reads claims and payroll for Jan 4 and Jan 18.  
Commissioner Decker moves to accept claims as presented. Commissioner Kora Seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
7. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**  
  
Nancy Hawkins Laporte County Treasurer: We wanted to give you an update of where we are at with the tax situation. Yesterday Jan. 15, Mike Schultz and Judy Anderson from the County Assessor's office, Scott Bell and Paulina Pitra from Michigan Township Assessor's office, Darlene Hale from IT, Andrea Smith and Joie Winski from the Auditor's office and myself attended a reconciliation project meeting down in Indianapolis, there were also members there from the DLGF, the Department of Local Government Finance, including their new chairman Michael Vincent, there were representatives there from the State Auditor's Office and the State Board of Accounts and also present were our representatives from

Thompson Reuters which was formerly Manatron. Their new name is Thompson Reuters. So they are software providers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ongoing tax reconciliation process for LaPorte County as you know, we did send out the 10 pay 11 reconciliation bill last week, that was the last bill that had to be sent out under State Bill 19 directives. It had to be sent out before January 31<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid that Million Dollar penalty, so we reached that goal. I would like to thank everybody involved in doing that, all of our employees in the three offices worked really hard, long hours to get that done and I am pretty proud of them. What we were talking about yesterday was tentative calendar for reconciling the last bill which is the 11 pay 12 provisional that went out last year. We have a plan in place that puts us at sometime midsummer to reconcile that and then what we hope to do is just send out the one payment bill for this year's taxes without sending a provisional and we hope to get that out towards the end of the fall. That payment will probably be due around December 10, but it would be a one payment bill. That's our plan, two more bills this year and then we'll be caught up. Next year we should be able to adhere pretty close to the schedule of May 10 and Nov. 10 payments.

Commissioner Kora: People are going to get two more tax bills this year, in addition to what they got..Nancy Hawkins: In addition to the one we sent last week, there should be two more. One we think will probably be out in the mail in June and the bill for this year we hope to mail out in late October. Commissioner Kora: So the one in June will be a reconciliation of the previous years. Nancy Hawkins: Yes, last year's provisional, it will be the final reconciliation bill. But then the one that we send in October will be this year's tax bill so people need to start putting their money aside for that because it's going to be a one payment bill instead of two like we normally have, so that may cause some difficulties unless they start saving now. Commissioner Kora: You know there are so many people who have approached me about the difficulties of this tax reconciliation and also some assessment problems related so I've asked them to go ahead and file further appeals, they get confused quite a bit because of so many tax bills coming in and they don't know what their projected tax liabilities are and as we move along this year sometime maybe having an informational session for the public as to how to approach that and that way they can budget themselves for the rest of the year. Nancy Hawkins: Well I think as you know the Treasurer's office prints the bills and mails them, collects the payments, but we don't have a lot to do with the calculations and the values and that type of thing. So I think that would be something that we need to put together with all three offices, but it's a good idea and we'll take a look at doing that. Commissioner Kora: You know I know being involved in county government that you're not responsible for that but since the bill goes from you I think when people get the bill they probably look forward to you to find some solutions for their problems. Nancy Hawkins: Our office is treated as the messenger, everybody wants to come complain to us and so then we help them as much as we can, but there is only so far we can go, we don't presume to try and answer questions for the Assessor's office, or for the Auditor's office, we do as much as we can in our office because we don't like to have, they've waited in line at our office for 10, 15, 20 minutes sometimes longer, right now we've got lines out the door. We don't want to have to bounce them around to these different departments if we don't have to, so we try and help them as much as we can in our office, but there is a fine line there where, in some cases, we have to direct them to the other offices for help, yeah we are the messenger and we're the front line, we sent it to them, our number is on there, our address is on there and so, everybody comes to us first, and as I said we try and help them, but sometimes we have to refer them to the other offices. It is a very confusing process, it's a lengthy process, a normal tax cycle is a year. We've been cranking these out in 3 or 4 months so it's been hard on everybody I think it's especially hard on the tax payers because we thought that these reconciliation bills would

probably just be a small amount that might be owed and in some cases that's not true. Some people have bills that are in the thousands. I happen to be one of them, so it has happened that way, but there are some people out there that are getting bills that are over a thousand dollars and that's a hardship.

Commissioner Kora: We feel your pain.

Mike Yaculo: County Highway Engineer, we've been working with NIRPC to continue to maintain our eligibility for federal funds for transportation projects, as part of that, we have to complete our ADA transition plan and one of the first steps is to identify an ADA coordinator. We've had previous discussions to designate myself as that ADA coordinator and if it please the Board tonight I would request that designation. Atty. Friedman: Mr. President you want to make of record your designation of Mr. Yaculo as the ADA Coordinator for the County that way. Commissioner Kora: So Moved. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Rich Mrozinski: LaPorte County Council I want to thank Commissioner Decker for coming to the County Council meeting Monday night, I think it's very important as we go forward that we keep in close contact like that, keep an eye on what each other is doing so we can help each other out and he helped us out in a big way, we had had a rumor that our County Planner was no longer going to be here, and I know he was in the middle of a lot of grants, Mr. Decker straightened that out that he is still here and he is still working on the grants, that's important. I see the Sheriff is on the agenda tonight for Police cars there is a grant out there for E85 Police Cars I'd certainly, rather get cars for almost free, than have to spend tax payer dollars for them, so that's a very important grant that he's working on and I'm glad that we're still doing that. Phase II of the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project is another one this will give us more grant money to add more customers which will help pay back that major moves, all that quicker and save a lot of homes, that's another very important, he's got the stonewater grant the diesel replacement grant, these are all very important to the county and I know Mitch has been working very hard we work him to death. We really do. But I want to congratulate him he was asked to be the secretary for the Indiana Plan Commission, uh Plan Association, and I know his work has been very much appreciated here with the comprehensive plan, joint zoning ordinance, the building and plan commission, really, they work him pretty hard too. So, thanks for being there and we'll continue to work together onward and upward and uh...good things ahead. Commissioner Decker: Thanks Rich.

Commissioner Milsap: Rich in the future when you hear a rumor like that please feel free to come to the Commissioner's office or call and we will either confirm or deny it. Rich Mrozinski: That's what we plan to do. Commissioner Kora: I just wanted to comment for Mr. Mrozinski, first of all thank you for giving your input here, I appreciate that, and I had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Bishop this morning, we went over some of the things that he does and there are a variety of things he does and what we're going to be doing is we are going to streamline some of those processes and focus on some of his strengths, so some of the things like grants that you talked about, I think we will continue to work on some of those things, but we also want to engage in Economic Development activities so we're going to sit down with him and try to figure out a way that way we can streamline his operations and that way, but you rest assured the Rolling Prairie thing and some of the other key things that are there, that will be taken care of.

Rich Mrozinski: As far as I know, he's our only certified Block Grant Writer for the county and it's very important, it wouldn't be a bad idea if we send somebody else to those courses to be a grant writer because those grants are very important and I know they're not easy to do, they make you jump through hoops, but they're important. The situation with the county right now we are so far in the

red that anytime we can get grant money for anything we do it's a good idea.

Commissioner Kora: No I fully agree with you and we fully intend to take advantage of all the grant opportunities. Thank you.

(speaker did not state name) I want to report on a grant also, and just to correct Mr. Mrozinski, it's not a grant for squad cars Mr. Bishop wrote a grant for us, it's a \$90,000.00 fuel grant for E85 fuel that we were awarded, and Rackham fuel was awarded that bid, I'm in the process of waiting for Rackham to put in the card reader and the E85 fuel pump so that we'd be able to start using that E85, like I said it was a \$90,000.00 fuel grant, it's a reimbursement grant so that we will pay that out of my fuel budget and then when we turn the bills into the department of transportation, then they will reimburse us.

Jerry Cooley: I just wanted to make a few reports so you have them on the record, telephones, now they put it in our budget, we're controlling that. Nancy wanted me to let everybody know and the public know that the telephones are really busy and every call Nancy is getting comes through our switchboard, and believe me, they are working, we have every line lit up, when they call in and ask who they need to talk to, they have to figure out who to send them to to talk to, because some of them are the auditor, some are the treasurer, some are whoever, so they have to figure that out too. So the telephones are just ringing off the wall, believe me, going crazy. I was informed yesterday from our attorney, all ADA stuff needs to be finishing up in not too long, I told him I said "Well how bout the money?" it doesn't matter this is mandated to finish up, they are expecting I guess the lawsuit mandating that we finish this, I have no idea at this time how much it's going to cost. I just looked at some of the, just the doorknobs have to be changed, if I have to change a whole lot, I bet some of them for the ADA are probably about \$150.00 a piece, and look how many doors we have. It's going to cost a lot of money to do the ADA stuff for this county to finish it up. And the Courts want us to finish up real quick. The other thing that I'm working on and it's a big one too, is the water damage that happened in the jail. The back up, that needs to be done. I'm getting some proposals, there's over 600 yards of carpet that needs to be replaced because of the damage in the jail area, some of that's been sitting there for a long time, close to a year I think. That was the sewage backup we have some of the problem, the carpet layer told me that we're going to try to do is start using carpet tiles in areas that, if we have damage, that way we don't have to replace everything, because when we replace, the carpet tiles will allow us if there's damage of that nature, we just go in and replace what's damaged. Talked to Willie about this, the color of the carpet, we're going to try to go to a central color so that every room is not a different color and we'll try to streamline some of that, but I just wanted you to be aware of some of the cost factors that are going to come out.

George Watkins: I'm going to take much time, I do believe there are still veterans out there who do not know that there is an office in this county that they can come to for help and I want everybody to know that I'm there to answer the phone answer their questions. Be advised that sometimes it's best to call for an appointment because I do have people that come in and sometimes it takes 15 minutes sometimes 2 hours. I don't want anybody sitting in the hall waiting while I'm taking care of somebody, when I can tell them to come in an hour later and then they can come right into my office. And that's all I have, any questions?

Commissioner Milsap: Yes George, it might be helpful to let people know where you are located. George Watkins: Yeah I'm in the Annex Building which is

across the street at the corner of State and Michigan. I'm in Suite 105, of the 555 Michigan building, My phone number is 219-326-6808 and my direct extension is 2216 that way you don't have to go through the operator. Commissioner Milsap:

Handicapped accessible? Mr. Watkins: Handicapped accessible through the State Street entrance. Thank you for that. Commissioner Milsap: Thank you.

Commissioner Kora: Mr. President, I have a question, thanks for being here,

since I'm in health care a lot of questions do come up about veterans benefits what veterans are eligible for and sometimes they are also eligible for benefits like, depending on their service they can get benefits for assisted living. Mr. Watkins: Yes it's called aid and attendance for assisted living facility, there also could be eligibility for a nursing home, a home care service to come in, that's part of the aid and attendance that they have to be basically housebound in order to get the doctor to sign off that they need help with everything. Commissioner Kora: What I would appreciate, if you can do, is if we can just write up a one sheet paper as to what benefits in a simple, I know you have a lot of stuff in there. Mr. Watkins: I have a 250 page book that has the benefits. I have copies if anybody would like to look through, there's many websites listed there where they can get a lot of answers, probably some of them more clear than my answers, but I have been able to help several of them who thought they could get it themselves and they found out that it's a little more technical than they thought so, they come see me and we get them some help and we get the right paperwork sent in, that's the main thing if they get the right paperwork sent in to the right place with all the documentation, especially the medical documentation to prove their case that they do have a disability, it flies through down at the VA regional office much faster than if they have to contact your office or the hospital to get copies of bills or diagnosis, prognosis and all such as that. Commissioner Kora: What would help it if you had like a paper with some basic information, your contact information and I can try to get it out to most doctor's offices because the people who need this information are the staff who work in our offices for example the nurses, because they are in the front line and if they had this information and if a patient comes and talks to them and say's you know what I'm having a problem like this but I'm a veteran then we're to pull a copy of this and give it to them and say why don't you call this number and then they'll guide you through the full process. Mr. Watkins: Yeah very good. And also a lot of the IU Health Care, there are several of the young ladies who work there who contact me quite frequently, is this veteran entitled to something or, what does he need, and the main thing they need, other than the forms that I need to help them fill out or they can fill out online, is a certified copy of their discharge papers, the DD214, and we're in the process of working on something to get the word out to all the veterans that they need to record this at the recorder's office and I don't want to be stepping on Barb's toes, but we have discussed this and anybody that calls me I ask do you have it recorded, if you don't you need to get it recorded because you never know when a fire, a disgruntled spouse is going to burn all your paperwork or not know what it is and it just gets lost after time and I see you shaking your head Dave, anything further? Commissioner Kora: Thank you very much. Matthew Bernacchi: LaPorte County Council, Mr. Cooley did bring up a good point about the detective's bureau downstairs. Last year the Council asked for proposals Mr. Ott was supposed to go out also Mr. Ott was going to look into some drainage devices, the Sheriff is here tonight and we have 2 new Commissioners, I don't know if you know the ongoing problem with the jail not having drains and the flooding problems and the sewage going down into the detective's bureau, but the Council is definitely willing to look into resolving this problem and the Sheriff is here I don't know if they ever went out and got proposals or not I know there was a couple of contractors through the building last year and we're here to see those things and resolve that problem also.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

## 9. REQUESTS

A. Nancy Hawkins regarding contract for address verification service.

Nancy Hawkins: I presented last week a contract to you, we have found a software company called Experian QAS, that will check our addresses, we send out over 81,000 bills every time we send a tax bill out, everytime the assessor's office sends a formal letter out to people with their assessments. We get an awful lot of those mailings back and so we have found this software product from Experian that will check our addresses in our system and help us clean up quite a few of those it is also an ongoing program where when we enter an address, it will tell us if its' a good address through the post office or not. For instance we could put an address in and it will come back and tell us that there's no receptacle at that address, well it might be a new construction and they haven't got a mailbox out yet. It will tell us if we need a suite number, we've had things come back that we've addressed to a building that has multiple suites and if we don't have that suite number on there the post office returns it to us. So this software is going to help us with that and it's a two fold program actually, we can run our existing records through this part of their program and it will alert us to the ones that are bad that we need to go out and try to find a better address for, and it will also alert us when we are putting new addresses in. So it's a two-fold program it's going to be used by the Assessor's office, the Treasurer's office and the Auditor's office. So what we're here tonight to request is a signature on the software contract. Attorney Friedman: Yes I've had an opportunity to look at the contract, the terms look reasonable, we've also talked about the IT director taking a look at it and she's reviewed as well and feels particularly the technical terms are consistent with normal contracts of this nature, so yes, we recommend approval. Commissioner Kora: Is this already budgeted in your budget? Ms. Hawkins: Yes I have money to cover this first year. Commissioner Kora: Just one license and all three departments can use that? Ms. Hawkins: I believe the license gives us 10 stations that can actually use it and we will divide those between the three offices. Commissioner Kora Moves to sign the contract. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

**B. Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer regarding permission to seek bids for new squad cars.**

Chief Sosinski: I'm here to ask permission to seek bids for 18 new police vehicles, 15 are needed for patrol, 1 for our warrants division, and 2 for our detective bureau. The 2 old detective vehicles will then be handed down to process servers a total of 18 vehicles will also be traded in 3 2006 models, 2 2007 models, 10 2008 models and 3 2009 models. Police fleet rotation is a fluid process based on performance, usage, mileage, and liability concerns. All of these vehicles are near, at or over 100,000 miles with the lowest at 89,000 and the highest at 127,000 miles as of January 8, 2013. These vehicles are also accruing additional 10 to 12,000 miles by the time new vehicles arrive if granted. It's critical to replace these vehicles in order to maintain the health of our police fleet, in doing my due diligence on placement cycles, I found that the best practice to remove police vehicles is at the 100,000 mile mark. With the extreme to the 125,000 mile mark. This fits the industry standard. Police fleet manager magazine published in April 2012, states "the vast majority of police departments are taking their vehicles out of service between 90,000 miles and 120,000 miles for an average of 103,000 miles...the pattern and practice of well run fleets, even in tough economic times is to take these emergency vehicles out of service by then" also policeone.com news reported on March 5, 2012, according to Ford Motor company, every hour of idling is equivalent to approximately 33 miles of driving. So it's easy to see why a police vehicle with 100,000 miles on it could be comparable to a family

car with 200,000 miles on it. Given the extreme driving conditions, high idling times, excessive wear and tear on every component of that vehicle, along with the harsh year round change in climate in Northwest Indiana that that vehicle is subjected to. You also have to look at the cost associated with the vehicle, in identifying the point when, on average, a vehicle is reasonable depreciated but not yet incurring significant maintenance costs, by replacing vehicles at this point we can avoid escalating maintenance costs and optimize vehicle resale value. We are at this point with these vehicles. Police vehicles need to be reliable and expected to perform within specifications at all times, just like we expect our officers to react in a moment's notice, our vehicle needs to respond the same. It's critical to replace and rotate the police vehicles from service before they fail, not after. Police vehicles are more than a means of transportation, they are the lifeline of this community, and of the Sheriff's office, moreover they provide platforms to support mobile data terminals, in car video cameras, emergency lighting systems, radio's, weapons, and additional emergency equipment. They are mobile offices in which deputies spend a significant percentage of their working hours when we lose the use of one of these vehicles because of a failure, we actually use more than just the use of that vehicle. If a failure occurs during an emergency, the issue of lives and liability comes into question about that vehicle. Police vehicles serve a purpose that distinguishes their use from vehicles assigned to other offices in government. Because of the critical nature of policing, we cannot afford any weak links in our chain when it comes to our fleet. With all that being said, these vehicles that I'm asking to replace are in the end of their cycle, for their intended use with this department and I'm respectfully asking that I be allowed to replace these vehicles.

Commissioner Kora: These 18 vehicles, what does it represent in terms of percentage of all the vehicles, is it like 20% of our fleet we are trying to replace? Chief Sosinski: It's probably less than that, we have a fleet of 80 vehicles in the Police Department. Commissioner Kora: In the replacement cycle per year, is this the norm? The number you have here? Chief Sosinski: This is actually a little bit more than we usually obtain, through no fault of the Council, and the funds we have had to cut back a little bit on vehicle purchases in 2010 we didn't purchase any vehicles at all, in 2011 we purchased 17 and last year we only purchased 8. Commissioner Kora: Is this already budgeted in your budget. Chief Sosinski: I have absolutely no money for this. Commissioner Kora: So you'll need to go before the Council. Chief Sosinski: I will need, right, I will need, once we set out for bid and a bid is awarded, then I will have to seek Council funding. Attorney Friedman: The specs in terms of the request for bids are consistent with the normal procedure that you use with the form of notice that's listed here. Commissioner Decker moves to grant permission to seek bids. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Chief Sosinski: I would request that the commissioners accept bids until Tuesday February 5 at 3 p.m. and then the bids can be opened at your regular meeting on 10 a.m. on February 6, with the recommendation or approval of bids on your February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Decker adds the dates into the motion. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Chief Sosinski: Also in keeping with the law if the Commissioners would see that this gets to the Herald Argus and the Michigan City News Dispatch for publication once or twice in each paper, once on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> and on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Kora: So moved. Commissioner Decker: Second. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

C. Jerry Cooley, Building Maintenance regarding vendor proposals.

Jerry Cooley: This money has already been budgeted so we are not having to go back, this is just those that are new, and I'm new in the department, but my secretary told me how to do this, so you know you have to listen to them too, anyway, pest control is first, Hatfield's who we have been using I've met with them, I've met with several departments that use the service, they are satisfied with it, we've had some problems in the past with some stuff, they've addressed it they are a local company and they have been doing the service for a long time and that comes out of my budget, I recommend Hatfield. Do you want to do all of these at once or..Okay, Trash removal is able, they have been our trash removal for a few years, I don't know how long, I did meet with them with Clay Turner, yesterday because they also do our recycling. We pay for all recycle through the county here, but they did agree to give me an extra dumpster for recycling so we can start recycling more, they thought it was a good idea and they're giving that to me for the same cost that we're doing, and that cost was \$991.39. They were actually the lowest bid, and we use them and I recommend that we keep Able. The telephones is the same company is Front Runner, I'd like to have Kent come up Kent takes care of all of our telephones. Kent as you all know him, he does a great job for the County he's probably one of the hardest workers that we have, he lives in town here, he's been with the county for so many years, I think he's one of the longest employees here. He does a great job with the telephone company with the telephone service, he also works with data really well, I don't know how I'd do it without him. I don't recommend making any changes but I'd like to have him talk on the telephones so you are aware of what is going to have to happen in the future. Attorney Friedman: Jerry just one question on the phone service, it's the only one I have a question about whether it's at a threshold that we need to look at or have done in the past any kind of requests for proposals. You're showing it's 17 5 per month? Jerry: Yeah, we did have proposals and they were..Kent: \$17,000 per year Attorney Friedman: Alright so that's a typo on there. Okay, I mean you can understand... Jerry: I'm sorry, most of these are by the month I didn't know they put that by the year. Kent Carpenter: Yes, Frontier the local service with that was 7000 more I believe, 6000 more per year. Commissioner Kora: Is this for Maintenance? Kent: Yep. For our phone service. Jerry: Now this comes out of the Commissioner's budget. Kent: This is really your budget. Jerry: We control all of it, we do it for you, but it actually is out of your budget, you control all the telephone service. Do you want to tell them the future of what the telephone is and what's going to happen? Kent: Currently we have Nortel phones, and Nortel got bought out by Avia a few years ago. We are migrating to Avia, in maybe 2017 we will be all Avia for the project, I'm going to have our representative from FrontRunner come in and discuss that with Mr. Cooley and you guys if you wish, right now we're migrating with Avia now with our voice over IP phones. Everything is getting remodeled, it's probably going to be voice over IP Avia products. But it's going to cost a little bit we're trying to spread it out with the years instead of all of a sudden tomorrow do it. Jerry: I just wanted you to be aware of what's happening with the telephone, so that's a changing thing all the time, so I wanted...Commissioner Kora: One more question I had, I know it's 17,000 per year and we have been using this particular company for a while, have we looked at other companies, we have looked at other companies but have we looked at other companies recently? Jerry: Yes we had proposals, this came under Al Ott, Al Ott made the proposals, I reviewed them and we went over them again, so that's kinda where it's

at. Kent: We invite AT&T, Frontier, and any other, anybody that contacts us during the year, and we tell them to keep us in mind come I think it's October and then we send them a list of what we want. Front Runner has been 2 or 3 years, Verizon doesn't do it anymore and that's their choice, but we only received two proposals, one Frontier, our local and Front Runner. Jerry: The proposals came in last month, so it was before your administration, so the Commissioners approved the proposals, now we are just reviewing them and bringing back who we recommend, that's how this is working, that's why I wanted Kent to talk about it because he was here before all of us came in and he deals with them all the time so it's the way it is. The other one is the Otis elevators. They were our vendor before with the elevators, the ones we had before, I was told by the staff and Al, we had several problems with the last vendor, the cost between them and Otis and the one we had before was real close it was a matter of dollars, we actually had to call Otis in to repair last year because the other company couldn't even repair something in the elevator. So I'm recommending that we go back to Otis Elevators and I did meet with them and they came in and talked to us. That's my recommendations. Commissioner Milsap: Jerry I think you mentioned vending machines. Jerry: Oh I'm sorry, I forgot the vending machines and that's not a pay, that's uh...you actually control that, we do the proposals on that, we had only one vendor that made a proposal and that was Neil, that's who we have now. I did talk to them about we have an ice cream machine downstairs, it's not a machine, it's just a trustworthy thing where you, the county employees it's in the basement, and some money was missing out of the drawer, it's an honest thing, some money came up missing and I've asked Neil to look into having a machine where you put money in so it's not, I hate to say it, but it's not going to be a trustworthy thing, it's gonna be where you put your money in and you open the drawer and you get whatever ice cream, I know as a doctor you probably don't want ice cream around here, but, in the summer time we have a lot of people buying ice cream who told me. And that goes in where our employees take their breaks. Commissioner Milsap: Is that Neil vending is that a local company? Jerry: I think it's Chesterton. Commissioner Kora makes motion to approve the recommendations of Jerry Cooley. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

Jerry: I have the contracts here for the President to sign if he wants, Al signed some of them before, I have them here if you want to sign them, however you want to do it. Commissioner Milsap: Give them to Robin, our secretary.

**D. Rev. Billy Nickrand regarding closure of roads in Door Village for a 5K race on March 30, 2013.**

William Nickrand: Thank you for the privilege, I am currently serving at Door Village United Methodist Church and my request before you is that we can get road closures and/or any recommendation you would have, I have some visual aids here for the map may I present those to you?

Commissioner Kora: Sure. Rev. Nickrand: The event will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to noon, then at noon we will be having a worship service, then the event will totally be disbursed by 1 p.m. at that time, the specific request regarding the roads is from 10 a.m to noon, is when we are going to have runners out on the course, the course will be closed no later than noon, we expect it to be as soon as 11:30 a.m. but again, no later than noon, and as you can see, where to two dots meet on West Joliet Road, closest to Village road there, in Door Village park and Door Village United Methodist church is where the event will be, there will be

an Easter Egg Hunt, and other activities that will be going on, so the request will be to have some cones up there to caution drivers that will be going through Joliet Road and then during the event we are asking for the closure of the intersection of S. 350 W. at County Hwy. 325 S. intersection of 325 S to 300 W. also known as Long Lane and then, I know this one will be more difficult, but to also have the intersection of Long Lane and West Joliet Road be closed as well and if that is, because it is a busier road and it is a holiday weekend if that's not to be at least to have cones out to caution drivers on Joliet road. Commissioner Kora: Since Sheriff Mollenhauer is here, maybe can you comment on this Sheriff, is this manageable from a traffic standpoint. Sheriff Mollenhauer: Yes. Commissioner Kora moves to approve Rev. Nickrand's request. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

- E. Travel Request-Park Department; Discussion of Travel Policy. Commissioner Decker moves to approve Park Department Travel request, Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Attorney Friedman: Mr. President I had indicated that you may want to set up a policy for authorizing the President to fix signature to travel under a certain amount for in-State travel and over a certain amount always being brought to the public meetings, certainly out of State travel being brought to the public meeting, but the Commission may want to consider a policy because you get these travel requests all the time and sometimes they need to be moved on quickly so it's just something for the Commission to consider do you establish a policy to authorize your President to affix signature to a travel request under x amount for in State travel it has to come in for the public meeting for over x amount and certainly all out of state travel needs to be brought here. Commissioner Kora moves to create such a policy and bring it for consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

- F. Appointment of Member of LaPorte County Regional Sewer District. Commissioner Kora: Mr. President I nominate Matthew Hollander for this position. Commissioner Decker Seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- G. Appointment of Commissioner Liason for Health Dept. Commissioner Decker nominates Commissioner Kora. Commissioner Milsap seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- H. Appointment of Acting M15 Department Head. Commissioner Kora nominates Rick Brown. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- I. Appointment of "Alternate" member of Plan Commission permitted by statute and requested by County Surveyor. Commissioner Decker nominates Ron Hamilton. Commissioner Kora seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- J. Appointment of Level 2 Appraiser to PTABOA board. Commissioner Kora nominates Barbara Driener. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- K. Appointment of Library Board member for Wanatah Public Library. Commissioner Kora nominates Kelly Schulock. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

L. Appointment of LaPorte County Community Corrections Board Member. Commissioner Kora nominates Rick Nelson. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Decker: Mr. President you've had a resignation and I think we ought to accept that before we go any further. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the resignation. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0. Commissioner Kora again moves to appoint Rick Nelson. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

- M. Consideration of proposed contract of county's KIP project manager Dale Clingerman. Attorney Friedman: Mr. President, we've had an opportunity to review the contract as you indicated at the 4:00 Economic Development session held on KIP, Mr. Clingerman has been the onsite project manager designated by the County, to oversee the project and has proposed a contract for the balance of work to be applied on this work, we've reviewed the contract and we believe the terms are fair and reasonable and we are recommending approval. Commissioner Kora moves to accept the contract. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- N. Consideration of proposed contract of Financial Advisor Karl Cender Attorney Friedman: Mr. President as you recall the Commission appointed Mr. Cender as financial advisor at your first organizational meeting of the year on January 2, 2013. Mr. Cender's services are laid out, proposed services in the contract and I know this is welcomed also by our County Auditor we've discussed with her the benefit of having Mr. Cender's services and attempting to help establish updated financial status, actual cash balances, anticipated revenues from the various reconciliations, he will provide additional services as part of the contract to also be of assistance on the Economic Development side, there is, and I've made inquiry of our Auditor, there is sufficient funds in the Professional Services budget to cover the contract as indicated and we believe the terms are fair and reasonable as proposed. Commissioner Decker moves to approve. Commissioner Kora: I did want to make a comment before we vote on this, I have reviewed this and I feel as a concept for an entity like ours which is an 80 million dollar entity, having somebody of the caliber of Mr. Cender to look at our projected tax revenues, our anticipated liabilities and expenses is critical for us to make reasonable decisions based on data that is accurate and that is the reason why I think it is very important that we have somebody who can crunch the numbers at anytime that we need those numbers to make a decision so I second this and I am very supportive of it. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.
- O. Consideration of proposed contract of Economic Development Advisor Matt Reardon. Attorney Friedman: Yes Mr. President, again on January 2 at your organizational session you appointed Matt Reardon as Economic Development advisor to the County, Mr. Reardon had previously served several years ago and has been of assistance to the County over the years he's had tremendous experience in Economic Development in our region including was actively involved in the development of the Ameriplex Complex in Portage and looks to be hopefully the franchise player named to our Economic Development team and the terms are consistent with an agreement that Matt had previously with the county several years ago there will be initially money in the current professional services budget, my understanding is that Matt's

budget ultimately would be part of that Economic Development budget, the Office of Economic Development budget that you are going to take to the Council and that you are proposing be approved, and we are recommending approval of the contract as proposed. Commissioner Kora moves to approve the contract. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora: Mr. President thanks for conducting a very smooth meeting we covered a lot of very useful topics today but I am really pleased today about the fact that we had to hold this meeting, the meeting of the County Commission as well as the Redevelopment Commission and the Economic Development advisory board, it was a very very helpful meeting, the presentation was wonderful and a very good update on the KIP project and as we move forward we need to continue to have updates like this on some of our key projects that way we can keep the process transparent, let our other colleagues in the County Government know what is going on and also the public that way they see what is happening and then they can also participate and give their input into this process.

Commissioner Decker: I think we've learned tonight that after all these years our tax situation is finally getting to the point where we can see daylight. Through the work of our Auditor's office, our Assessor's office, our Treasurer's office and then we forget our IT director, these people have done a tremendous job in order to save us the million dollar fine that the state wanted to put on us. I can't say enough about these people and I know that I pay the same tax bills that everybody else does, mine went up too and I know there is a frustration on a lot of people and when you come in here the lines are long, when you call in it's hard to get through, but stick with us, if you need, do what you have to do as far as appeals or anything else and I also have to give a little credit to Robin Surber our secretary cuz she also volunteered to take the phone calls if they get busy and any excess so thanks Robin.

Commissioner Milsap: My final words would be today at 4:00 we had, I personally feel, one of the most productive meetings to set the new year off right for this new administration. Topic of discussion was the KIP project and all the key players were present and we now have a roadmap to improve the quality of life for all LaPorte County taxpayers so I would say buckle up your seatbelts LaPorte County is in for the best ride in a long time.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora moves to adjourn. Commissioner Decker seconds. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0.

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