LaPORTE COUNTY ORDINANCE NUMBER 97-9

ORDINANCE DESIGNATING LOAD LIMITS ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Board of Commissioners that vehicles of excessive weight are using County roadways;

WHEREAS, overweight vehicles are causing excessive damage to County roadways;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners recognize the need for exceptions in the case of farm implements, local delivery vehicles and permit exceptions; provided, they follow a route minimizing the use of County roads.

WHEREAS, the damage to the roadways is an inconvenience the traveling public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

I. That Section 7-30 of the LaPorte County Code, County Road Weight Limits, be and it hereby is, repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"Section 7-30 County Road Weight Limits.

a) The load-carrying capacities of various County roads are insufficient to accommodate excessive loads.

b) Vehicular wheel loads that exceed the load-carrying capacity of road pavements and road foundations can produce serious destruction and damage to the road pavements and road foundations, causing inconvenience to the traveling public and necessitating excessive and expensive road repairs and maintenance

c) The Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County desire to reduce the road damage and destruction, to reduce the inconvenience to the traveling public, and to conserve the repair and maintenance funds for the general improvement of the County highway system for the benefit of the traveling public.

d) It shall be unlawful to operate, or cause to be operated, any vehicle having a total gross vehicle weight, with load in excess of the following:

i. **Five (5) Ton Limit:** On County Road 300N between Highway 39 and County Road 100W (Com. Rec. "G", pg. 422, 8-11-69).

ii. **Twelve Ton Limit:** Unless otherwise posted, or set forth in this Section 7-30, the load limit on all County highways and roads shall not exceed twenty four thousand (24,000) pounds or twelve (12) tons gross vehicle weight, other than road and highway maintenance equipment; farm implements and vehicles making pick-ups and deliveries on the most direct route, minimizing the use of County roads.

iii. The County Highway Department, with the approval of the County Engineer can issue, a upon proper application, a permit for use of specific County roads by an overweight vehicle for a specified period of time. The application fee shall be fifty dollars and 00/100 ($50.00).

iv. On roads passing over a bridge the gross vehicle weight limit shall be the same as the posted weight limit for the bridge between the intersections closest to the bridge on opposite sides. In no event shall the total gross vehicle weight exceed that set forth in Section 'd' ii above.

e) The LaPorte County Highway Department is directed and ordered to post all of the roads listed in Subsection 'd' with maximum gross weight signs as indicated.

f) After the roadway has been posted in accordance with Subsection 'e', the penalties for the violation of this Section shall be those as made and provided for such cases by the laws of the State of Indiana and the Federal Highway Administration.

II. That Section 7-32 Load Limits In Subdivisions, be and its hereby is, repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 7-32 Load Limits in Certain Subdivisions.

a) It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle other than road and highway maintenance equipment having a gross weight in excess of twenty thousand (20,000) pounds or ten (10) tons on roads, streets and highways in any subdivision containing roads dedicated to the County, including Garden Circle and Lilac and Tulip Lanes in the Town and Country Estates subdivision of Springfield Township, except for the purpose of making delivery or picking-up a load, in which case such vehicle may be driven on such street for not more than the minimum distance necessary for the purpose.

b) Any person, firm or corporation violating this Section shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars and 00/100 ($ 500.00), for each offense; and, a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues."

III. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect beginning the 8th day of July, 1997, and after its enactment and publication as prescribed by law.

ATTEST:

KENNETH LAYTON, Auditor

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CLAY TURNER, President

RICHARD J. KRUSE, Vice-President

H.J. "BUD" KINTZELE, Member

Dated: July 8, 1997

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