

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016
1:00 P.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners John Evans, Laura Blaney, Jeff Good, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Rhonda Young and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

Call to Order/Pledge

Approval of Payroll – April 19th, 2016

Com. Blaney moved to approve the payroll of April 19th, 2016, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Approval of Claims – March 31st, April 7th and April 14th, 2016

Com. Blaney moved to approve the claims for March 31st, April 7th and April 14th, 2016, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Appointment to Tourism Board

Com. Evans, The South District Commissioner has an appointment to the Tourism Board. Are you prepared to make that?

Com. Blaney moved to approve Cathy Brown an owner of Valpo Velvet, a lifetime Porter County Resident, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, I would like to do a little deviation from posted agenda and Curt Gillans from the Valpo Chamber to come up.

Mr. Gillans, Good Afternoon, I'm actually representing the arts community for the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission today instead of the Chamber. For the past four years have done the heart walk by the YMCA on Cumberland Drive. As part of the ABC America's Best Community Competition and the Arts District moving that down to Indiana Ave. between Napoleon and Morgan St. One of the things we thought about doing this year is moving a few of those pieces down from the Art Walk to Indiana Ave. and two of them we would like to put on County Property, one being in front of the building here and one in front of the Porter County Museum. I did speak with Kevin at the Porter County Museum and he is okay with it there. I brought pictures of the two pieces that we would put. The first piece was chosen specifically because it's called rescue me and I thought with the tie in to the new Animal Shelter that is in the works it would be a great addition. We would like this one to go on the concrete pad in front of the building here on the corner kind of facing the Amphitheatre. It is about 4' tall and 8' wide and it would be on a cement pad that is brought in.

Com. Evans, Where would the other one go?

Mr. Gillans, The other one would go in the lawn in front of the Porter County Museum on the east side of the sidewalk. They have an exhibit that they're putting on the west side so he said it would be great as long as it was on the east side.

Com. Blaney, You don't have any problem with that do you Scott for the Opera House being on the east side?

Mr. MacDonald, No.

Mr. Gillans, The installation of these would be in the next two weeks and it would be up for a year.

Com. Blaney moved to approve putting art pieces on County Property, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Atty. Dave Hollenbeck

Approval of West Porter Township Fire Protection District Creation of Cumulative Fire Fighting Fund

Atty. Hollenbeck, Good Afternoon, with me is Chuck Murray who is the chairman of the Fire Protection District of West Porter Township. As I indicated in my April 11th letter to you the Fire Protection District fell victim of two problems that developed as a transition as a none elective board, you make the appointments to the board. They are now required to have their budget, tax rate and levy approved by the County Council. As that transition occurred through the previous Auditor's office somethings fell through the cracks and to make a long story short the Fire Protection District for one year had no tax rate at all. The DLGF would not approve it and they survived that. They now have reinstated for this year their General Fire Fighting Fund but for many years going back to 2000 have had a Cumulative Improvement Fire Fighting Fund where they accumulate money to buy equipment and other things that they need for fire protection in West Porter Township. In order to get that reinstated we have to come back to the Board of County Commissioners under the law and ask you to approve us going forward to create the cumulative fund. We're not asking that anything change other then they get reinstated and it has been in place for 14 years and we're trying to get that reinstated. It's obviously critically important that providing adequate fire protection to the Lakes of the Four Seasons side of the Porter County side of the Lakes of the Four Seasons.

Com. Evans, What's happened to the funds in the interim, are they just sitting in the bank?

Atty. Hollenbeck, No we were denied. We got no money at all two years ago, not a dime. We had to survive without any money. This year now we've been able to reinstate the General Fund. We didn't need County Commissioner approval to do that under the DLGF guidelines, but to reinstate a Cumulative Fund which we had for 15 years we have to go back recreate it. We're going to start doing that at a May 9th meeting that we're going to have, but in the interim DLGF wants the appointing authority to acquiesce in the recreation of what had been there for 15 years.

Com. Blaney, This is just creating the fund right?

Ms. Urbanik, Reestablishing the rate for the fund that is already in place, but doesn't have a levy or tax rate, the CUM fund.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Evans seconded, motion carried. Com. Good did not approve.

Atty. Hollenbeck, I provided with a (Inaudible) resolution. Hopefully you got that and we can execute it because I need to send that down.

Com. Evans, We'll do signatures at the end of the meeting unless you have it on top there Rhonda?

Ms. Young, I have it.

Com. Evans, We can let you have it now.

Atty. Hollenbeck, Thank you.

**Stephen Kromkowski, DLZ Indiana
Animal Shelter Update**

Mr. Kromkowski, Good Afternoon, I just want to give a brief update on the Animal Shelter. We've gone through two portions of the process so far (Inaudible). The qualifications we've dwindled that down, there was three that we ended up pursuing with the Request for Proposal. That information has been received; it's in the process of being reviewed. We conducted interviews of the three firms of the design builders. It was Core Construction, Garriup and Larsen Danielson are the three teams. The Technical Review Committee is in the process of providing the criteria and the rating for them. After that is completed then we open up lump sum bid proposals that they have. It is a mathematical formula to find out the lowest adjusted price. So basically you're getting the best value from the qualifications and then also the best value for the cost itself. That process is underway. We do need to have 7 days public notice when you are opening up the bids. So probably at the next Commissioners' meeting we could potentially be doing that. So we do need to know when that next meeting is because it does need to be advertised and (Inaudible) those firms 7 days in advance that's what the State statute permits.

Com. Evans, With the schedule of the next meeting being on Election Day we're going to back up and our next meeting will be May 10th.

Mr. Kromkowski, That will be find once we have all of those we'll notify the design builders that that will be the day we will be reading those (Inaudible). That's the next step so once we have that we will award the contract to the design builder and then we'll enter into final negotiations before a final signed contract (Inaudible) with parameters that each design builder will have (Inaudible).

Com. Blaney, The three designs look good, it's exciting. We have some good choices.

Mr. Kromkowski, (Inaudible) they were able to present their approach and their design elements that they felt were important to the project. It's exciting to be here. We're not moving ground yet, but we're close.

Lorelei Weimer

Indiana Dunes Tourism Update

Ms. Weimer, First of all I just want to thank you for allowing me on your agenda today. Like I did last year I just wanted to present a year-end review and also take a peek at what we're doing in 2016. Just to remind people that tourism is the economic driver for our area and a lot of people don't realize that there are 6.3 million people visit annually. 3 million of those visitors are going to the Indiana Dunes and we import \$386 million annually because of that visitor spending, which is significant. Our job is to track new and repeat visitors and extend their stay. The goal is to get the visitors to stay as long as we can, get them into our communities to spend money. We have four key strategic goals that drive everything we do it's Branding and Marketing, Internal/External Communications, Product Development and Finance and Administration. Last year we tweaked our brand, its Indiana Dunes Beaches and Beyond. The Beaches and Beyond is what has changed. The beyond is critical because people are coming for our beaches and that dunes experience but we need to get them into our communities. So the beyond part was critical so we tweaked our brand and that has been the launch this year. What's driving visitors and putting us on the map is clearly the Indiana Dunes. Like said earlier 3 million people are coming to the dunes 80% of those are from outside of Northwest Indiana, 60% of those are from outside of Indiana. So we are truly driving visitation because of the dunes. This gives you an over view of our advertising is basically 100% digital. Digital allows us to get people to our website to request publications, to watch videos, to go to our landing pages and it's very trackable. What you see at the top are the different campaigns that we had. We are doing search engine marketing, we are retargeting ads, we are doing Facebook prospecting ads, we're doing banner ads and we are doing retargeting banner ads and then we're doing content advertising. What's great about digital is if a campaign is not working we literally can change it and put those dollars elsewhere. This just gives you a couple of samples, one of the things that we are actively involved with is TripAdvisor. Our destination wasn't on TripAdvisor it is Park, Pay to Play. So we are on TripAdvisor and then it also has a lot of user content that comes to that, but before we were there our destination was not being presented on TripAdvisor. This gives you an example of one of our (Inaudible) advertisements. Cornell Lab of Orth ology a lot of birders watch this. What is critical about this is any bird that they're looking for if it's a bird that can be seen in our destination that is when our ad will pop up. So our ad will not pop up on any birds that are not known to our area either through the migration or permanently that come here. Just to give you an idea of the advertising we spent \$48,000.00 on advertising. We had almost \$22 million impressions, 81,000 clicks to go to our website and the average was \$.59 per click that we got out of that as a return on our investment. A lot of people know that we do publications but what people don't realize is that digital advertising is just to get people to peak their interest about our destination. Normally that's not going to drive them to visit and plan their trip. What is really critical is our website and our publications so you see that we put a lot of energy into producing quality publications. At the end of the day we need to get these publications in their hands or get them to our website. Those are the two main objectives for our advertising. Here are the results from our website last year. We had over a half a million visitors to our website. That is an increase of 15% over 2014, a 60% increase mobile users. Our website is a responsive design so regardless of how you go to our website it will adjust to your phone or you're desktop. This is interesting people are still wanting destination guides, 16,785 people went to our destination guide page. They are either downloading the guide, looking at it electronically or requesting the guide. So that tells you how important those guides are. In our world photography is critical and in the days of not having a professional photographer on our staff it's very costly to get photography. It's hard to find somebody that can do good travel and tourism shots. Since we've had a professional photographer on our staff we now have 30,000 images in our collection. We added 10,000 last year. We provide a lot of the images for businesses and a lot of magazines contact us. If you go to the Applebee's in Chesterton they're using our photography on their walls. So we are the

go to people for the County in terms of photography. Just as important is photography is also videos we have invested heavily in video production. You can see the statistics on our video views, 81,906 views which is up 3% from the previous year. Again our goal is to get people here. The dunes is the driver but we want to get them to shake up the sand south of the dunes. We have a dunes deal coupon program. 40,000 are printed 35,000 are handed out at the State Park gate. If they're not a pass holder those are considered visitors. We had 22 businesses participate, the redemption was anywhere from 15 to 300. We had a Valparaiso restaurant that said it was the best coupon program that they have participated in. So again we're trying to drive visitation through the businesses doors. Many of you know about the 3 day challenge, I know Laura has taken it with her family. We launched this in June of 2014. The challenge for us is it's not our product so we still have to figure out the success of it. One of the things that we've said to people if you do it and come in to our office you'll get a free decal or sticker. Since 2014 we've passed out 6,177 decals. In 2015 there was 9,000 video views and almost 12,500 people that went to the landing page. On gross sales for t-shirts just in 2015 it was \$24,000.00. One of the best marketing tools that we have is the Visitor Center. That is where we have an opportunity to actually interact directly with those visitors that are in our destination. It was by far a record breaking year for us. We had 88,653 visitors that is a 14% increase. I'm not so sure we're going to be able to beat that this year and then you can look at the number of business calls that our front desk staff is answering. We had 46 countries in our Visitor Center and the number one international country that is visiting year after year is Germany. Each year we work with the University of Florida to do a conversion study because at the end of the day I don't have a cash register. I'm not selling our activities guide; we're not making a sale to be able to use our visitor's guide. So how do we track the success of what we're doing and the only way we can do that at this point is through a conversion study. 64% of visitors traveled to Porter County after they received our information. 74% said our information was essential or important in planning their trip. 16% increased the length of their time because of our information. 17% increased the amount of money they spent and 30% of visitors added an additional attraction or activity because of our information. 16% of the visitors used our information to select a hotel. 27% of those stayed 2 to 3 days and 20% stayed 4+ days. When you look at our website statistics is the number one page that visitors are going to is our lodging pages and another way we can track that is that we've had some hoteliers look at the back end of their hotel on their website and they can see that people are coming from our website to their website. We have other ways that we can track the success of the hotel site of it. Another important factor is for us to get free publicity on Porter County. In 2015 we had 367 articles and broadcast on our destination which equated to \$1.3 million. We reached an additional of \$6.4 million people in the previous year. That is much more valuable to us. When we get articles written in U.S.A. Today or Midwest Living or Fox News so that is what we're always striving to do is to get free publicity. So what does the future look like taking a peek into 2016? We are doing a lot of different research. Most of our research is done collaboratively and so we're continuing to do our conversion study. This is the first year we're doing a website conversion study to see how our website is converting economically for our area. I just came back from the University of Florida doing a research on smart technology for marketing and product development and that is the future in terms of what we're doing. We've also worked with IUPUI on a quality of place study. 2016 as most people know is a huge for anniversaries. Our State is having an anniversary, national parks, state parks and we're having our 30th anniversary. What we have decided is our role is to communicate all the great events that our going on around these anniversaries so we have a special anniversary page on our website. We are the ones that have been working with the State on anything that they're doing in all 92 counties we have been the group that they go to. So there will be a big torch going in October and we have been coordinating that project with the State. Another project that they're doing in honor of 200 years that they have life sized bison. We have purchased one for the Visitors Center and that will be painted in August and it will be in honor of Native Americans and it will be permanently on display outside the Visitor's Center. The Dunes Kankakee Trail, the State Park, the part of the trail that is from the State Park to the Visitors Center is being completed in April. Porter is doing their final leg of the trail and that will be dedicated hopefully in July. Hopefully most of you have been following the new sport resort that is going to be developed in the City of Portage. The developer has read the CSL Study and understands how valuable outdoor fields are to Porter County and they are willing to operate and maintain the outdoor fields as outlined in the CSL Study. This is a real game changer in terms of a project and how it's going to impact us economically. Our final thoughts are our job is to bring in visitors and extend their stay but we want the residents to be excited about what they have in their own County. A lot of the materials I showed you, the visitor guides, the website we encourage our residents to take advantage of us. So when their friends and relatives come into the area they will show case our area first. We also remind residents don't let your friends stay with you. Make sure they stay at a hotel. This book summarizes a lot of what I just talked about so I hope everybody did get a chance to get that. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Com. Evans, Thank you Lorelei. Questions?

Joe Kuchak, (Inaudible sitting off mic)

Ms. Weimer, You know it's year round, but I will tell one of the things that we'll have done, because so many interactions (Inaudible) into 9 languages. Right now we have German, a Spanish piece, French, Chinese, Italian all of those are on board to be done in the next couple weeks. So one of the things we're trying to do is make sure that we have the resources in other languages, which is going to help them with their stay. Already we are seeing the benefits of that.

Mr. Kuchak, (Inaudible)

Com. Evans, Thank you Lorelei and I think one of the best things that has helped the Tourism is coordination of the Center with the National Park and you guys and everyone works in harmony. It really is a great place.

Ms. Weimer, We really do and I don't think people realize that it's a one stop shop. Hopefully we can secure the funding to redevelop the Visitors Center and that is another project we're working on. Thank you so much.

**Matt Wellsand, Fair Board President
2016 Fair Re-cap**

Com. Good, Congratulations Mr. President.

Mr. Wellsand, Thank you. Before fair season heats up here in the summer I thought I would come in and introduce myself. My name is Matt Wellsand. I was involved with Fair Board and 4H for the last 10 years. I was actually (Inaudible) President. The last two years I continued on (Inaudible) for Fair Board and it is definitely one of my passions. Today if you have questions let me know, but I just wanted to give you a few updates on maintenance issues and projects that we're doing and tell you a little bit of what's coming up for the Fair. Fair dates are July 21st through the 30th. The first weekend we have three big concerts of Chris Jansen and Locash, for Thursday Cole Swindell is the 22nd and then Alabama will be the Saturday concert. All sales are doing very well right now. All the concerts are family oriented. With that we have an estimated budget of around \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00 to be putting back into the Fairgrounds this upcoming maintenance season April thru July 20th. We have concrete work to be done, road work and (Inaudible) areas. We upgraded a few spots last year and we're going to be continuing that. The sound system in the show arena working with the Expo Center to get upgraded for auction use and for the shows we are also going to be remodeling the Buggy Wheel restroom, behind the Buggy Wheel. Putting glass doors on the Expo Center and possibly finding a solution for the air conditioning in the 4H building making that permanent. We are going to starting next week painting the 4H building and all of the livestock barns and the horse arena tower. So it should start looking a lot brighter out there. With that I'm working well with Lori Daly and the Expo Center, 4H Council hopefully future projects possibly a campground expansion and the improvements with that. Also with the livestock show arena creating more office space and making improvements for other events throughout the year using that space. Other than that if you have questions, please let me know. It's a pleasure working for the Fair and for everybody in the County to come and enjoy it. Thank you!

Com. Good, I just wanted to point out we're sort of moving forward getting closer to the Animal Shelter. We are going to be going down by where the campground is, that is where we have to go grab the sewer and bring it up. We also have to grab water and bring it up. So before you guys do anything out there in that campground area we will be getting with you to talk about timing, but you might want to hold off on anything over there until we...

Mr. Wellsand, That wouldn't be until June until we really know what roads, it's just minor patching and making sure that the roads are level.

Com. Good, We hope to get our utilities and everything run before the Fair and we have plenty of time to repair whatever we need to repair, but we're getting to the point in the next 45 days where we should have some schedules and then we'll be sitting down with you and working through the timing of everything so we're all on the same page and working together out there.

**Vicki Urbanik – Auditor
Workshop on Tax Abatements**

Ms. Urbanik, I just wanted to give you an update on two projects that the Auditor's office is involved with. This coming Friday we're going to host a tax abatement workshop here in this room. Our guest speaker is going to be DLGF Examiner Steve McKinney. We're going to go

over all of the changes in tax abatements, how tax abatements work, how they're calculated and some statistics about Porter County's abatements.

Money Smart Week

Ms. Urbanik, Beginning on Saturday is National Money Smart Week. This is a national campaign that was founded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago that promotes fiscal literacy and personal finance responsibility. The Auditor's office is a partner in Money Smart Week so we have these posters that we have put up. As a partner we are to present programs. We decided to start off small this year so we're sponsoring an art contest for kids called "Saving Money Is" and the kids are supposed to submit a drawing either an original one or they color in our piggy bank design and then fill in the blank with what saving money means to them. Later on this week you should start seeing lots of piggy bank designs down on that wing of the hallway. It's all part of Money Smart Week.

Tina Rongers OCRA Collier Lodge Grant

Ms. Rongers, We're here because we were successfully awarded \$15,000.00 to support planning of the historic preservation of the Collier Lodge, we are the Kankakee Valley Historical Society. You have three documents to review and approve today and sign. Those are one the grant agreement sent to us by the Indiana Office of Community Enroll Affairs. The second is the architect contract with Schmidt and Associates. They will be leading the planning (Inaudible) for the project as well as the grant administration contract for the services of my firm Karnerblue. So with that I will answer any questions you may have.

Com. Evans, I think it's great.

Mary Hodson, Mary Hodson and my husband John Hodson who is president. We are co-founders of Kankakee Valley Historical Society. I just want to say thank you for working with us all of this time and for supporting us and partnering with us. This is the first step and our ability to be able to restore what I call the Grand Old Lady that has been standing all of these years to her formal glory. We see it as a keystone of South County. It will be a lovely draw as Tourism was talking to begin to draw to that part of the County. So just thank you so much on behalf of all of our volunteers that work.

Com. Evans, We thank you for what you're doing for the people of Porter County .

Mr. Hodson, I want to thank you for your patience. It's been a long haul, we finally got our grant rider and finally success after all of these years. I just want to thank you for working with us and not giving up.

Com. Evans, Good things are worth waiting for.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

A Resolution Concerning Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate to The City of Portage

Atty. McClure, We're just cleaning up a little bit here, taking the additional tax cycle on this tax certificate that we're signing to the City of Portage. Just ask for you to approve it and we get this over to Portage and it can become their problem.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Office Holders/Dept. Heads

David James – Highway Supervisor Award Bids – Asphalt and Liquid Bituminous

Mr. James, We're here because we rebid the asphalt plant mix and we got better numbers. On both I recommend that we accept Reith Riley and Walsh and Kelly for the bituminous plant mix. We're probably going to be able to do another mile and a half to a mile and three quarters with the re-bid so that really helps.

Com. Good moved to approve, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Mr. James, The second one we opened at the last meeting was the liquid bituminous for the chip and seal process. We had two bidders, Bid Mat Products out of Ashley, Indiana and

Asphalt Materials out of Warsaw, Indiana. Asphalt Materials came in with the lowest bid and I recommend that you accept Asphalt Materials for our chip/seal.

Com. Good moved to approve, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Mr. James, Thank you very much, I believe you all have a copy of your road lists and whenever you would like to meet just let me know.

Com. Good, I wanted to take this opportunity Mr. President to throw out there for discussion. I know that when we were going through the budgeting the funding for the paving portion for the Highway Department was taken out Major Moves, we moved it from CEDIT. Because of the pricing that is coming in and where we're at in the oil cycle right now I would really like to have us discuss taking another \$1 million out of the major moves to do more paving this year. I think it's advantageous for us with the pricing and everything, but I just wanted to throw it out to you two for discussion. If not that is fine too. Vicki what do we have in the Major Moves fund.

Ms. Urbanik, \$6.4 million is the balance. \$6,421,705.00.

Com. Evans, Just as a way of a little history, the Major Moves money for those of you who aren't aware came to us from the sale of the Indiana Toll Road. Porter County was one of the few counties in the whole seven county district that said we're not going to throw that money away. We put the money in the bank and called it Major Moves money and we assigned \$1 million a year to be used for the roads and that is what we've done. I think Commissioner Good has a great idea for this year especially because of the decrease in the petroleum prices and where we are with what we can do with what we have. I would endorse that, we're obviously going to have to take it to the Council for their approval but I think it's a very worthwhile idea and I think we can go a long way to make some (Inaudible). They're going to be here set up and working anyway so there is some economy to scale to gain there too.

Com. Good moved to approve do an additional for \$1 million from the Major Moves account for additional paving this year, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Com. Good, Now David we still have your other additional from the budget that you need to come in front of us too, so let's get that on the agenda for the next time. Then we'll start working on our list again and now we have a meeting to meet about for our roads.

Com. Evans, Just as a way of pushing them when you talk to these people that just got the contracts if we do increase it by that much are they willing to maybe increase their prices downward a little bit?

Mr. James, We can try it, we can always try it.

Sundae Schoon – Voters Registration Emergency Polling Location Change

Ms. Schoon, I remembered to show up today. We received a phone call last week from the National Guard Armory, which I'm sure you've seen in the papers regarding the lead problems. They had a meeting with the State and they thought everything would be cleared up and ready to go before the May election. They found out last week that there is no plan of action according to the State and they have no idea when they're going to have that taken care of. They can't allow anybody in that building because of the lead so we lost a main location. We've got a new location which is the Hampton Inn & Suites, which is only a mile from the National Guard Armory. It is still in the Center 17 Precinct location. We have the letters ready to go. The Election Board said yes take it to the Commissioners so here I am. It's about 1200 voters that it will affect so we needed this approved as fast as you can so we can get the letters out and mailed to the voters and notified.

Com. Good, It's not my precinct.

Ms. Schoon, No it's not you just helped me with phone numbers and tracking people down.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Matt Stechly – Facilities Director Tree Proposal for Animal Shelter

Mr. Stechly, I know we did this two weeks ago. I reached out to the three vendors even though the scope of work was the same there was one key word that changed and that was manageable size wood. So we're delivering the wood to the Valpo compost site that way the community can also come and get free firewood. The word manageable size is where the variation came in. One vendor said he is cutting it to 16" it will literally be able to fit in a fireplace they just have to split it. Another vendor said five 6' sections, so I went across the board to all three vendors nothing changed but accept quote your price for 3' sections. After that everything came in all said and done. Glovier's originally was cutting 16" his price originally for 20. I told him to bring it up to 3 so now we have the three final quotes and Glovier's Tree Service is the lowest.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, When are they going to do that do you know?

Mr. Stechly, We are literally meeting tomorrow and they are going to start it. They know let's go.

Com. Blaney, Don't forget to let us know before the demolition starts.

Mr. Stechly, I've been in contact with Dave and Andy, we'll coordinate.

Mitsubishi Quote - Battery rental for Sheriff's Department

Mr. Stechly, With the help and assistance of CJ, Director of 911. He reached to Mitsubishi by the way. I have the proposal for new batteries, but we're going to put that on hold there is some other possible direction we could take that is going to work out better for the County long term. For now this is in regards to the Jail shutdown that is coming up. It is schedule for May 13th with Lionheart. The issue was we were afraid 911 would not be able to carry the two 45 minute shutdowns. CJ reached out to Mitsubishi and they're bringing in a trailer full of batteries that will power 911 during the shutdown. They insure there will be no interruption in service. They have an option in there for \$1118.00 but we're not going to go with that option. That was for an after-hours installation, we're doing this normal business hours. \$5759.00 I reached out to two of my local vendors to source this battery trailer and they were unsuccessful so I still tried to get a better price and this is what it is. Upon approval CJ has been notified that this is his baby. He will be responsible for calling Mitsubishi before May 13th having this installed and making sure that his world and the 911 Center is good to go.

Com. Good, To expand on your conversation you're also going to be looking for an alternative to move away from the batteries to where we can use a.....

Mr. Stechly, Correct batteries can last 3 hours brand new. We're looking to for 911 have their own generator. The proposed (Inaudible) from CJ I believe for these batteries was \$47,000.00. I'm looking for a small generator to power 911 separately from the one that powers now the Sheriff's the Jail and 911. I think in terms of investment every dollar into a generator that could run 24/7 it's better to put the money into something like that than batteries that only last 3 hours.

Com. Evans, Natural gas fired?

Mr. Stechly, Correct. It's just the right way to go and under 911 terms that is kind of the benchmark standard.

Com. Good moved to approve the temporary batteries from Mitsubishi Electric, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, Before we vote who's budget is this coming from?

Mr. Wittmer, I can see if I can.

Com. Evans, Well the other thing we ought to look at is Building Maintenance because it is a maintenance issue. Hopefully you guys can come to some kind of agreement. Maybe 50/50 or 60/40.

Mr. Stechly, I'm on board now 4 months and as time goes forward my budget will become more clear where those funds come from so that is something that I'm going to really improve on as we go forward knowing where it's coming from.

F.E. Moran Life Safety Inspection – Expo Center

Mr. Stechly, We are already contracted portfolio wide with F.E. Moran to do our fire (Inaudible) safety. Annually testing of the sprinkler systems, Expo was one of those that was the stepchild, they were doing it on their own, paying for it on their own. Their vendor went out of business so we brought F.E. Moran in they quoted us. We used the same leverage that we get for the rest of our portfolio. This is simply on paper to state that we're going to start doing the Expo as well. When this agreement comes up for renewal we will tuck this one into the master.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, Again, this one will come from the same place it did before Lori? Who was paying them before?

Ms. Daly, I was paying it.

Com. Evans, And is the dollar amount about the same as it was?

Ms. Daly, Yes.

Com. Evans, Go ahead and keep paying them.

Fire & Security Proposals - Jail Ansul System

Mr. Stechly, Met with vendors on site. I actually met with them together that way the three of us were looking at the same thing. Proposals came back, I had some questions about Fox Valley with their initial proposal. Once they were onsite with us all of a sudden it changed. Koorsen was the lowest at \$9941.36 all of them quoted the same it's apples to apples for that ansul system and to get rid of the water suppression system that I discussed last time.

Com. Blaney, It's a huge difference.

Com. Good, So we have \$9900 bid and a \$45,000.00 bid.

Mr. Stechly, F.E. Moran was just going to sub it out, they didn't even want to deal with it.

Com. Good moved to approve Koorsen, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, Again, where is the money coming from? It's okay to put these things out there but we got to be able to pay for them.

Com. Blaney, Building Maintenance.

Com. Evans, Or I wonder if the Jail or the Sheriff has any funding. He still has money in the refinance bond that might be used here. We have a motion and a second and we'll make it contingent on arriving at the appropriate fund.

Kole Digital - Audio Project for Commissioners' Chambers

Mr. Stechly, Not only for this chamber to renovate this one due to the speaker and sound issues but also to install a new system in 102A. It's a whole new audio system and then renovating and updating this. We're on a really old system. I invited three, only two responded, Van Ausdall and Kole Digital and Audio. Sharon put a lot of time into this we needed her signature and for her to sign off. Rob Kole is the person that is walking around the room while the meeting is going on to make sure he really has a feel for the deficiencies currently. What it comes down to is I believe Sharon is 100%, I'm 100% with this. Kole does a lot of big jobs, universities, stadiums, churches you when you looked at this it was no big deal. The only concern that Sharon and I have that we want to bring before you is that the people that enter minutes things are going to change. It's new technology so we may get kick back, they may have to learn something new, but technology wise the outcome it's really solid. Everyone is going to notice a huge difference. I know I want to get going on this for the May 9th meeting.

Com. Evans, Sharon do you have any reservations about this?

Ms. Lippens, I met with Matt and Kole Digital it does appear that Kole can meet the needs that we have. I did have concern as Matt brought up that the users were not part of this. Any issues that they currently have or any needs that they may have may not have been addressed. Honestly because it deals with audio and mixing and microphones and fade and

gain and all of those types of technologies that are not real familiar to most people. I was concerned that we couldn't do any kind of software demo with the users to even evaluate if they're even capable of using this, so that is a big concern that I have. Also, training and support going further because there wasn't anything in the contract about it so. Other than that I knew there was only two quotes so I didn't know if that would become an issue with the Commissioners but that's not really my ultimate concern.

Com. Evans, There are a number of meetings held in these chambers and you're right most people want to come in and flip a switch and be done with it. Then you have the tinkers you are going to sit there and play with everything for the whole meeting.

Mr. Stechly, I addressed that Commissioner Evans, actually this system will be set up. We've got unlimited support built in to this. They will be here once the system is installed, what we're planning on doing is tailoring and tweaking it. They'll be here for one Council meeting, one Commissioner meeting because it's a different format, more mics and more people. The goal and what I'm being told is that (Inaudible) that we might need to raise this mic or lower this mic but it's not, I'm being told that this is going to be set up where it is turnkey. There shouldn't be all this messing around with it.

Com. Evans, You got the Plan Commission, the BZA, the Alcohol Beverage Commission, you've got a lot of other boards that meet in these Chambers. I think the challenge is going to be to get all of those people together to educate them to how to use the system.

Com. Good, How did we do it in the past?

Com. Evans, Well that's what happened people did whatever they wanted to do.

Ms. Lippens, The problem is staff has come and go and there has been no additional training done so the new staff comes in and they're just winging it and we have a mess.

Com. Evans, Maybe if we can get a list together from all of the users and say we're going to have training this day and this day and please if you want to use the system come in and get the training. Otherwise we need some way to lock them out. It goes from great to garbage can in no time.

Ms. Lippens, If we get too many fingers in the pot we're going to have a problem especially if they don't know what they're doing.

Atty. McClure, And this also opens up the classroom downstairs to have meetings that we can record that is one of the things that we're lacking right now.

Ms. Lippens, (Inaudible) if they were trained on one they could use the other because they are both the same.

Com. Good, That is a whole question for the Commissioners to decide do we even want to do that room downstairs.

Com. Evans, I think it's a good idea because it does give us an alternative place that we can have a meeting. There have been times when the Election Board or somebody has this room scheduled already and we can't do anything then we have to go to someplace else and 307 is not going to be an alternative anymore.

Ms. Lippens, One of the things that I discussed Scott brought to my attention and I brought up with Kole is the possibility of a mobile type unit so that once the storm water construction is finished they may want to have a meeting that needs to be recorded. Or in the past when the Council or the Commissioners go on the road to have town home meetings and they need to be recorded and they are at a park or something Kole Digital's product does have a component to it. We would have to buy some additional hardware but it's built in to where we could go to that type of mobile unit. Obviously it wouldn't be as robust as the units here but it would at least be able to capture that audio so that those could be shared with the public.

Com. Blaney, I'm guessing that is not available with what we have now.

Ms. Lippens, It is, there is nothing available with what we have now. What we have now needed to be upgraded about 4 years ago. The company that did give the additional quote that is available with them as well, but it wasn't part of their original quote.

Com. Blaney, I think we should go for it. New technology I'm tired of listening to the microphones and tick and hum and people not being able to hear each other.

Com. Evans, Yes and it's been band aided and band aided for a long long time. So it's more than due.

Com. Blaney, Where should we take this out of Building Maintenance or CCD?

Com. Evans, In the past where did we take this from Sharon?

Ms. Lippens, This system was put in when the building was built.

Com. Good, I'd like to make a recommendation Mr. President that may be the Storm Water Advisory Group split this with the Commissioners.

Com. Blaney, That's a good idea for the downstairs.

Com. Good, Because that whole room down there is going to be set up for Storm Water. We're going to be having maps on the walls, that is going to be sort of our nerve center so to speak.

Com. Evans, Yes and that board is interactive and it's really a nice feature. It really works well.

Com. Blaney, That room is perfect for that board.

Com. Good moved to approve Kole Digital for both venues, Com. Blaney seconded, motion carried.

Scot MacDonald – Opera House Director Respice House – Venue Rental Agreement

Mr. MacDonald, With Respice House they had a concert on Saturday for a fund raiser. I do know that in their contract it said that we would be taking a proceed of \$1,000.00 for them and I just want to make sure you have that report in front of you. So we will be cutting them a check for about \$6,000.00 as per their contract.

Com. Evans, Very good, keep them coming.

Com. Blaney, It's a good place to have a fund raiser.

Mr. MacDonald, And Mitch was very very happy with how everything went there. The staff took good care of them and they made some money which is great.

Duo Sequenza – Venue Rental Agreement

Mr. MacDonald, That is Deb Silvert she does classical music in our venue. We did the same thing we cut her a check based on ticket proceeds and remove her rent from that. We owe her \$449.53 from her March concert.

Tanya Moore – Venue Rental Agreement-Wedding

Mr. MacDonald, Our other one is for a lease of the Opera House for a wedding on October the 1st. They have their rehearsal scheduled for September 17th and it's \$1,000.00 revenue coming to us, for the wedding she already paid her deposits.

Andrew Wolverton – Artist Service Agreement

Mr. MacDonald, Our final contract Andrew Wolverton who led the Spring musical camp with about 13 kids and he was contracted at \$600.00 by the previous director.

Com. Blaney moved to approve the contracts presented by the Opera House, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, Scot is our Interim Director now.

Correspondence

Highway Department Annual Operational Report - Filed.

Request for approval of Official Bond for David C. James, Porter County Highway Supervisor. The bond is in the amount of \$8,500.00.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Request for approval from the Courtside Ministries to pray for people at the diagonal sidewalks leading to the Courthouse door on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon. They will also be handing out books, bibles and daily devotional booklets. The City of Valpo has already given their permission to use the sidewalks.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Request to Additional Appropriation – Commissioners.

Fund 1172.2294 \$317,197.00 To Acct. 3950 Contractual

To replace additional appropriation earlier approved by council out of hospital interest for the County Airport Grant.

Com. Blaney moved to approve, Com. Good seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, Once again we want to make sure that everyone understands that our next meeting will be on May 10th not May 3rd. Anyone wishing to address this body. Yes Sir.

Unknown Gentleman, (Inaudible not sitting near the mic.)

Com. Evans, We would love to but we can't. It's inside the corporate city limits of the City of Valparaiso and they're responsible for their own roadways. If we did that we would be in everybody's backyard trying to fix every problem in every city and town in the county. We have to limit our resources to those areas that we have jurisdiction over. Sorry! Anyone else wish to address this body.

Atty. McClure, The Commissioners have been working with the H.R. Department, Pam and the Auditor's office. I'm asking the Commissioners to approve a letter, I think I got all of you to take a look at. Basically just to the department heads and the elected officials clarifying with some issues when employees are no longer with us but we're dealing with their payoffs and their health insurance and how those things are worked out. Just a heads up for the department heads and elected officials that I will be asking for the Commissioners to approve a memorandum or a short letter on making sure we are doing that all consistently across the board with all of our employees.

Com. Evans, Anything else? Last time anyone wishing to address this body?

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was recessed at 2:05 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

John A. Evans

Laura M. Blaney

Jeffrey J. Good

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor