

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

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

The Special meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24th, 2023 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Laura Blaney, Barb Regnitz, Jim Biggs and County Attorney Scott McClure; Executive Administrative Asst. Melanie Massey and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Biggs, Good evening. Welcome to the Board of Commissioners' April 24th night meeting. We have one of these once a month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stormwater Advisory Board – Accepting Applications - 1 Appointment to complete the term of Andy Vasquez. (Residing in unincorporated Porter County.) *The deadline will be May 18th. The appointment will be made at the May 22nd meeting.*****

Com. Blaney, The Stormwater Advisory Board is accepting applications. We need one appointment to complete the term of Andy Vasquez. He was elected by caucus to take Mike Jessen's seat on the County Council. The applicant needs to reside in unincorporated Porter County and the deadline will be May 18th for an appointment on May 22.

COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation in support and gratitude of all of our Public Service agencies who went above and beyond during the storm on Friday, March 31st.

Com Regnitz, I had personal experience of our first responders on March 31st. Our house got struck by lightning in two different places and we had a fire that started in two different places. I definitely have an appreciation for our first responders and four different fire department agencies appeared and were there for like five hours or so. I can't tell you how much I recognize some of you from that evening and I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you. I would just like to read this Proclamation on behalf of all of the Commissioners.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Porter County Board of Commissioners wishes to honor the First Responders of Porter County who worked during the inclement weather that occurred on March 31st, 2023.

WHEREAS, The honorable tenants of the Porter County Public Safety first responders: Dedication, Teamwork, Compassion, and Integrity were displayed during a high call volume, high intensity, weather related event.

WHEREAS, Three hundred emergency calls were answered, dispatched, and serviced between the hours of 8:00pm and Midnight, averaging 1.25 calls per minute

WHEREAS, Three structure fire calls, thirty-one roadway obstruction calls, thirty-four trees down calls, and fifteen traffic accident calls with varying degrees of property damage and personal injury were dispatched during afore mentioned four hour period

WHEREAS, The Public Safety agencies responsible for assisting the citizens of Porter County are as follows: Porter County Central Communications, Porter County Sheriff's Department, Portage Police Department, Valparaiso Police Department, Kouts Police Department, Hebron Police Department, Ogden Dunes Police Department, Burns Harbor Police Department, Beverly Shores Police Department, Chesterton Police Department, Porter Police Department, Valparaiso University Police Department, Porter County EMA, Porter

County Animal Shelter, NorthWest Health EMS, Valparaiso Fire Department, Portage Fire Department, Beverly Shores Fire Department, Boone Grove Fire Department, Burns Harbor Fire Department, Chesterton Fire Department, Hebron Fire Department, Kouts Fire Department, Lake of the Four Seasons Fire Department, Liberty Fire Department, Morgan Fire Department, Ogden Dunes Fire Department, Pines Fire Department, Porter Fire Department, South Haven Fire Department, Union Fire Department, Washington Fire Department, Westville Fire Department, Porter County Highway, Valparaiso Street Department, and Portage Street Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Porter County Board of Commissioners comprised of Commissioner Laura Blaney, District 1 (South), Commissioner Barb Regnitz, District 2 (Center), and Commissioner Jim Biggs, District 3 (North) hereby recognizes those First Responders who worked during the inclement weather on March 31st, 2023 for their dedication, teamwork, compassion, and integrity displayed to the citizens and fellow Public Safety responders of Porter County. It is with great honor and appreciation that we acknowledge their service on this 24th day of April, 2023.

/s/Jim Biggs, Commissioner
/s/Barb Regnitz, Commissioner
/s/Laura Blaney, Commissioner
/s/Attest: Karen Martin, Auditor

Com. Biggs, It is events like we experienced earlier this month that really give you a better or a greater appreciation for what first responders really do. I mean looking out of my front window or my door when all that was going on I couldn't imagine being out in the middle of all of that. That is what you all get paid for, get trained for. We just want you to know that there are people out there that appreciate you. Thank you.

An Ordinance Creating a Non-Reverting Fund #4933 for Porter County Community Foundation/Porter County Historical Site Preservation Fund – 2nd Reading.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Ordinance for the Porter County Community Foundation/Porter County Historical Site Preservation Fund on 2nd Rdg., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, Opposed.

Resolution for Com. Barb Regnitz Temporary Living Arrangements.

Atty. McClure, As alluded to earlier Com. Regnitz' s home was hit by lightning and made unlivable. She is not going to be living in her normal residence but this resolution memorializes that that relocation is temporary and due to a natural disaster. She intends on returning to her former residence as soon as it's completed.

Com. Biggs, Currently you are in your district temporarily but for a year or so you are going to be a mile and a half outside the district.

Com. Regnitz, Yes.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Resolution for Com. Regnitz temporary living arrangements, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Opioid Funds –Discussion.

Com. Regnitz, I was hoping that we were going to have our meeting on May 9th so that we could bring those recipients that we were hoping to have them make a presentation. We'll just have to postpone that. Councilman Greg Simms and I have had three public meetings and have had several of the agencies that are looking for assistance in some way. Either in prevention or in recovery from drug addiction, opioid addiction. We have pretty much narrowed it down. We've also been visiting several of those locations. Have had phone conversations with a number of these agencies and we will just have to postpone bringing them in. Then after we have done that we're hoping that we'll get that on the Council agenda for approval. Just to recap we are hoping to spend a \$160,000.00 per year. \$100,000.00 of that has already been committed to our new Pro Coordinator in the Sheriff's Department. Every year we are looking to provide grants up to \$60,000.00 for several of these agencies.

Com. Biggs, When you and Councilman Simms gets to a point to where you're comfortable with what might be proposed that'll be brought up in front of the Commissioners.

Com. Regnitz, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Then we'll formally send it off to the County Council.

Com. Regnitz, We were hoping that at the May 9th meeting that we could have them just give a presentation and have a couple of weeks of interaction regarding any input that we could get from either the Council or the Commissioners. Then on the 22nd we were going to have a resolution. We'll just have to push (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, I appreciate all the hard work and time you put into this because it is not easy. Anytime somebody finds out you have money to spend it's just not easy.

Health/Wellness Initiative – The PoCo Wellness Connection – Discussion.

Com. Regnitz, Can we have everyone that is speaking come and sit up in front. At one of our early Admin. Meetings I had mentioned that we were hoping to launch this health and wellness initiative task force. What is really cool about this and we don't have everybody here today but we have a multi-disciplinary group of people who are interested in making health and wellness available in the county. We decided to launch this internally for the Porter County Government employees just to have them be our guinea pigs. This has been a really fund endeavor because we have people from so many different agencies who have had so many different creative ideas. Can I just say one person who couldn't be here is Kevin Pazour. He is part of our group as well. I will read his and then let all of you take a turn. Healness doesn't necessarily have to be you running a marathon. It can be just getting out. Social wellness, emotional wellness, physical wellness. One of our first things was before we even did our official launch tonight and by the way this is our official launch. That is our logo. We really want to thank the Health Dept. for their creativity and coming up with our PoCo Wellness Connection logo. We didn't even have the logo fully defined but we decided to have this as one of our first initiatives. Kevin couldn't make it tonight but he did a fire history guided walking tour on Saturday. I don't know how many of you were able to make it. He had 32 participants and two dogs, some of which were Porter County Employees. He made sure to plug the PoCo Wellness Connection and shared that they were a guinea pig event. The weather was crummy but the entire group stuck it out for an hour and then visited the museum afterwards. The retired Valparaiso Fire Chief Phil Griffith attended the tour and shared some fascinating information about the Lowenstein Department Store fire with the group. Everyone really enjoyed the history he shared. Of course he had to do a fire tour. That is really cool and we did broadcast that out to the Porter County employees in a general announcement encouraging them to participate. I'm so excited to have everybody speak and to talk about some of our initial efforts that we're going to be launching after today.

Ms. Paul, I'll start thing off. So as Barb said this was kind of her initiative and her idea to bring us all together. I think all of us are in agreement that it has been terrific and a great opportunity to just work together and find out where we are similar and where we can help build together a good community for our employees for health wellness. Then eventually brought her to the whole community. Annetta copied down this for me to say. Wellness is the act of practicing healthy habits to achieve physical, mental and social well-being and connecting a network of individuals who are focused on promoting physical, mental and social well-being. I think that is really just our goal with this group. I would say she's already talked a lot about how we brought all of these different groups together and eventually it is to roll it out to the whole community. As far as the Health Dept. we are offering employees help to quit smoking. That is a program we're offering to the whole community as well. Also we will offer regular blood pressure checks to any employees. Just stop by our office and we'll help keep track of that with you, monitor that with you and provide guidance. We're starting an employee walking club and we've mapped out some different walking routes within downtown and up at North Complex. Even out at the Expo for Animal Control and the Expo staff to walk. Then we are putting together the wellness newsletter that really everybody is contributing to and providing articles that will out to the employees.

Mr. McEvoy, Being in parks and outdoor recreation we have a unique infrastructure where we can have the programming, recreation and physical wellness portion of the program. We have trails, the fields. We have the experience and the expertise and building programs. Building these types of recreational activities and as well as working with building and facilities and finding out how we can bring some of that to the other buildings in Porter County. We're going to start with the government building here and try to figure out ways that we can use the

exterior areas and the common areas to bring in sort of league activities, sports activities and things that people can do either before work, on lunch breaks, on active breaks or even after work. In terms of leagues and just general. Easier access to outdoor activities that otherwise they may not have.

Com. Regnitz, Do you want to talk about a couple of ideas that we had for our courtyard here.

Mr. McEvoy, Some of the ideas that we have brainstorming now based on the survey that we took one of the main ones was volleyball. We're going to try to find a way to set up volleyball. We've talked about tetherball. Setting up corn hole bags. Things that readily and easy available to install, get set up and then can be played in a short 30 minute interval or 15 minute interval before and after work in a league format where people can get together. They are important not just for the physical aspect but they also bring important social wellness as well.

Ms. Howe, I would just like to say this has been a lot of fun. I really didn't know what to expect when Barb asked me to do this. I do not work in County government so I am not representing a department but I was asked to be a citizen representative to give maybe a different perspective than what the departments would be able to do. It has been a great experience. It's been really fun watching the departments work together. The ones that have been a part of it thus far. It's amazing to see the collaboration between them. I think that's one of the things that we've really enjoyed is to see that these different departments now can communicate and work on something in a positive light. Besides the things that may come out of this task force, this of Wellness Connection that might be kind newer things. We're also promoting things that the departments are already doing like within the library system. I think Willow is here and she'll share things. Like Barb said with the Museum the walks that happen or any type of programs on the Museum. There's the programs within the Health Dept., the smoking cessation program. There are things that are going on all the time in the county that people may not be aware of. This is a really good platform to put those things out there and make people aware of it. It's just been really exciting. One of the things I just wanted to share with you is the philosophy of how we came about with the logo and the motto to choose health for life is because we really want to encourage people and meet them where they're at. It's not like something where you know some people may not be mobile at all or they may not be active at all and this might be a way for them to just move a little bit further. Even if it's just like a social type of communication or connectivity. We have the motto choose health for life and that is where we came up with that. If you look at the tree with the people under it we really want promote with our Parks Dept. we have such a great park system we want to promote the connectivity not just with people but with nature because that is obviously really a positive thing. I appreciate you asking me to do this. It has been a great opportunity to see what goes on at County Government in a positive light. It's been fun. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jones, The Extension office is grounded in agriculture. So food is our business. What I brought for you today is a little bit of a sample of something. These are brownies and they are healthy brownies. They don't have sugar. They have a sugar substitute and then they have a surprise ingredient.

Com. Biggs, It's brownies without sugar. Like sucking on a rock.

Ms. Jones, What we plan to do is bring a couple of things to the table with this. The extension office has our agriculture resources and our Master Gardener. This is a brownie muffin with pecans. If you have a nut allergy you may not want to try that. There are apples and bananas. The Extension office our AG and Natural Resource person is available and we partner with the Master Gardener to do programs on all things growing food. Our Master Gardener's are doing programs on growing tomatoes in a bucket. We're going to start with container gardening right now. We will also help with any kinds of Community Gardener's. We talked about doing a community garden out in the parks as well. That is one of the resources and then as a health and human sciences educator I've worked with Christy before and at Community Health Partner Systems. Christy and I are going to work on weight programs that will help us be healthy for life. It is kind of based on the Mediterranean Diet but in doing that we really want to show tips and techniques that will help you to incorporate healthy eating into your life. So we have little techniques that we want to use. Did anybody taste this bread? Nobody did.

Com. Biggs, I ate mine.

Ms. Jones, It's very fudgy but I have to tell you our secret ingredients. Instead of putting the oil, eggs and water into your brownies you take a can of black beans drained, add water and mix it. They you use those with regular brownie mix. This happens to be a sugar-free brownie mix. That is what we plan to do starting in May. We will have Wellness Wednesday's out at the park at 10:00. We have a tasting at the library planned where we will try to sample these foods and others. Then we will just continue to add recipes to the newsletter as well as do additional classes.

Com. Biggs, Thank you for taking the time to do that. It was very nice.

Ms. Jones, Anyone in here can sample these. I will have them over here.

Ms. Cataldo, I'm Willow. I have the pleasure of working at the Porter County Library and we are just really happy to be a part of this committee. Our job is to connect people to things that make their life better. It is a really good fit whether we're hosting or whether we're marketing something that the government is already doing. We're super excited to be a part of the team.

Mr. Childress, Com. Regnitz asked if my department would provide a website for this initiative so that they didn't have to spend any money. I'll do it.

Com. Regnitz, Curt did you want to mention...Curt is actually part of our committee as well.

Mr. Ellis, It is just posting the information out to the employees and then to the public at large as well.

Mr. Ross, I'm Tim with Franciscan. We were brought in and it was just by coincidence. When I met Barb through a report from the HealthEAccess program that you're already doing us. So with that I think we'll help bring some things to the wellness committee that you already have available through the HealthEAccess program that you are already doing. One of the big things I think that we're going to be able to bring to the table is as part of the HealthEAccess program all your employees already have access to the porta. We give them access to a wellness portal that we have and we're going to be able to track all these. We can put points to all these great things that the committee is doing. Add some things like the yoga. One of the things that our HealthEAccess program offers to your employees already is yoga and you do have quite a bit of participation employees taking part of that but we'll be able to put points to that and track it in the system. Also, I think another huge benefit is we're already doing On-site Wellness event every year for biometric screenings and for blood draws. All of that information is put up into the portal, but we can associate points with that. If the committee decides some kind of incentive program to go along with the points then I think that could help increase engagement. We already have a good participation but I think this is going to help and then we can also get the clinic providers involved somehow through this with the wellness. I think there are some things that you already had provided that we would just now need to connect.

Com. Regnitz, What is going to be cool is we're going to be able to create leaderboards and have competitions. It will be cool from the employee perspective. We'll have to figure out if we roll this out community-wide how we're going to be able to replicate that at a community level. It is going to bring employees to HealthEAccess as well. If you're involved in the volleyball league and the only way you can track it is through this portal well then you can't help but see a couple of other things that are in the HealthEAccess portal. You might be intrigued to explore that a little bit more. I think that is just a great win, win where we get to use something that we already have and we get to amplify that as well as take advantage of some of the fun features and incorporate that with our task force initiative. Thank you so much Tim for being here. I really appreciate it. And Lisa last but not least.

Ms. Kiger, Hello. Good evening everybody. I am Lisa Kiger. I'm Director of Business Development with St. Mary Medical Center and Community Healthcare Systems. Thank you Barb and Commissioners for having us here this evening. I'm pulling the tail end together because as you've heard this evening we are all working together. I've been in medicine for 35 years of my career. I've done not only nationwide but international. I'm a resident of Porter County so coming here with this great team I have never worked in this type of environment as collaborative. I think that's the thing I really want to pull. I'm kind of coming in a little bit from the outside and Tim and I have discussed this. We are partners you know even though we work with different health care systems we are coming together. Not only is Porter County government employees as health care providers but it's truly about reaching not the government employees but hopefully to expand this to those county residents here. We are all

so busy with our jobs and our responsibilities and oftentimes we silo, we just get focused. I love what Barb's vision was able to pull really key stakeholders within our community. Some really creative people in all of our departments and companies. (Inaudible) thought leaders to come with ideas because we have all of these great technologies out right now to help us but we see that the health of not only Porter County and Indiana but our nation is not getting better. So through some of our resources I think the ideas that we have. We want to start small first of the Porter County Government employees and then take these ideas out to our residents. It is through these grassroots level there are programs that can really impact people. Just like Annetta, I love her ideas with cooking. We find that 75% of it is really what you eat. 25% is then your movement. We really want to meet people where they are at. So if and it's not financially dependent we heard about some tomatoes in a bucket folks who live in apartments can access these programs. People who may not be mobile will be able to access them. Our team is really taking a look at that broad geography of folks that live in Porter County who work with Porter County Government. We really want to get creative as far as the ideas that we have so we can bring these forward. So it's not separate health care systems. It's not separate departments within the government. Holly has been on our team giving us feedback too just from somebody who lives here in Porter County. It's bringing all this together. I know Annetta mentioned our health care system is very involved here in Porter County. We have Outreach nurses and that is our key. It's really about touching people where they're at in the life process. It's very confusing, health care can be. It's to meet those folks. Explain in a very simple format and then help them take those little steps and that is exactly what this is group is doing. I'm very thankful that you invited us. I think it's a great day for Porter County we've got the PoCo Wellness Connection and really today is our kickoff day so look forward to more. This is just the start. Thank you Barb.

Com. Regnitz, Thank you so much everyone. I really appreciate all your innovation ideas and caring. Thank you.

Com. Biggs, You said 75% is what you eat and 25% is movement.

Ms. Kiger, A lot of it is what we're eating. Our foods are processed foods versus natural foods.

Com. Biggs, I'm in trouble.

Ms. Kiger, You're not alone. You can't out exercise your diet.

Com. Biggs, That is depressing. Thank you all.

The RBI Group, LLC – Consulting Contract for the Porter County Public Safety Commission not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Com. Biggs, We put together a public safety commission to investigate, to gather information about what's going on public safety wise, county wise and every aspect of public safety. I'm talking about the fire, police of course, ambulance, paramedics, what's in the prosecutor's office, the jail and 911 of course. In order for us to do that we needed somebody who could devote the time during the day. Temporarily to help gather this information and put it into a report for to hand out to the public once we're finished not to exceed \$5,000.00. We have somebody that we are speaking to now that has a law and public safety distinguished background and we will announce that at a later day. What we need now is to approve or vote on the RBI Group, LLC Consulting contract itself.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the RBI Group, LLC – Consulting Contract for the Porter County Public Safety Commission not to exceed \$5,000.00, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Regnitz, We're actually hoping that we can have our consultant come to a Commissioners' meeting and present the findings as well where we are with the Public Safety Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Com. Biggs, We've met several times up to date and it's nearly every time we meet we learn something new. I've been in government a long time and Barb attends the meetings as well and keeps her ear to the ground. As a matter of fact my masters is in public safety administration. There is stuff that I'm learning through these meetings that I wasn't aware of before. I think the public is really going to be appreciative once we get all of this in a report form and if nothing comes out of this we're going to understand why we do what we do. And

we will understand if there's a better way of doing it. The public is going to understand what constitutes the entire public safety system. What props it up here in our county?

FACILITIES – DANIEL SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR

Re-Request for RFP's Requirements for Architectural Design Professionals. To support the Facilities Director in expanding the Health Department's Main Office at the Admin. Building. RFPs will be due by the end of day on June 12th. The Proposals will be opened at our June 13th meeting at 10am.

Atty. McClure, This is the re-request for the RFP requirements for the architectural design professional looking for this would be to help expand the health department here in the Administration Building. This would be looking for qualified firms for architectural design and bidding management with an alternative construction management. It will advertise the concealed proposals which will be due by Monday, June 12th at 4:30. There will be a scheduled project walkthrough held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 11th before those proposals are due. This will be out in the paper. We just need the Commissioners to approve the specs as presented.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve re-request for RFP's for Architectural Design for the Expansion of the Health Dept., Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

FULL-TIME SHERIFF SECURITY – DISCUSSION

Com. Biggs, Just one more matter that is not on the agenda. I have spoken to the other two Commissioners about getting security in our building full-time. Over the years I think the last two or three Commissioners they wanted to do the same thing but it has always been an issue of finding necessary funds in order to accomplish that. I had a conversation with newly elected Sheriff Balon and he actually came up with a process where we're going to be able to do that. To put a police officer in this building. A Sheriff's officer during working hours. I just wanted to thank you for making that effort.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Cole, My name is Natalie Morris Cole. I live at 279 South 150 East in Morgan Township with my husband. I'm here because I have some questions and concerns about the Malden Solar LLC project. We were at the meeting at the Porter County Fairgrounds where there was this project was discussed and had over 400 citizens present. Afterward a petition was circulated and we received over 2,000 signatures and over 400 signs have been placed in residence yards voicing disapproval of this project. A few days after the meeting I called all three after the meeting I called all of your offices and I talked with two of you and a third had a representative respond to my call. So I've talked to all of your offices. My concern was where the physical solar field was going to be built and the noise of the solar panels and the disruption to our way of life. I was told by all three that no application had been presented by NextEra so far and no information was available to where the field would be placed. Also in my discussion with Com. Biggs I voiced my concern and disapproval of the project. He told me that I need not be concerned until he was concerned, which put me at ease thank you. The Commissioners would not be approving street use permits that is required for an application like this one. Now it seems like the Commissioners are reversing their sentiment. Recently we have been made aware of the fact that NextEra has submitted an application on April 4th, 2023 to the Department of Development and Stormwater Management and a plan set showing construction submitted on April 12th, 2023, which by the way is right across the street from our home. A letter on letterhead from the Department of Development and Stormwater Management, Porter County Indiana dated April 20th, 2023 states and part quote "As of the date of this notice the Malden Solar, LLC submittal is being reviewed by department staff and has been deemed an incomplete application.

Once staff has completed the review of the documents dated above there could be additional material requested by Malden Solar, LLC. If additional material is requested new plan sets will be submitted to the office making the original submitted plans obsolete". My opinion it seems that NextEra has hurriedly submitted their incomplete proposal to possibly get in under the wire of the old eliminated United Development Ordinance on April 11th, 2023. My husband and I attended a Commissioners' meeting where the United Development Ordinance was eliminated after the Plan Commission review and a new ordinance is being reviewed and revisions made to be voted on in the future. So because of this it is my understanding that right now there is

no ordinance in place. My question is why is the incomplete application being reviewed and considered? Since it is incomplete you could have done nothing. If and when NextEra submits a completed application in my opinion it should be reviewed and considered with the new United Development Ordinance when it is completed and voted on.

Com. Biggs, That's your question?

Ms. Cole, Well my question is why is the application if it's incomplete, why is it even being considered?

Com. Biggs, When we spoke NextEra had not submitted an application.

Ms. Cole, Correct.

Com. Biggs, And when we spoke I told you I had no intentions of signing a road agreement and I don't. That's when I told you I'll let you know when you need to worry.

Ms. Cole, Yes you did.

Com. Biggs, Why we have to and I'm going to turn it over to Scott. Why we have to consider their application under the original ordinance. Scott.

Atty. McClure, No I'm not going to do that.

Com. Biggs, Okay well because they had gone out.

Atty. McClure, We need to be careful on what we're saying at these meetings. Anyone that submits an application it gets reviewed. If I read your letter my guess is that you asked for a copy of the application correct?

Ms. Cole, Correct.

Atty. McClure, So the letter you signed I approved which was only meant to let the citizens know that if you came up and got a copy which is everyone's right to that application through this process that we must go through that there may be plans changing or being modified. We just wanted everyone to know that on the day you received your Public Access request that file may be changing. So that is what that means. It's an incomplete application. There's a term of art for the Planning Department that means and it has to do with state statutes kicking in on when they must go to Plan Commission. When an application is deemed completed that means the department believes that it is meeting all of the requirements of the code. Therefore, it puts it on a timing then it must go to the Plan Commission for consideration. When an application is first dropped off to the department it is incomplete until it's reviewed. And it stays in that state in that standing until the department and all the different parts of that department Stormwater, Planning, etc. have had an opportunity to review and make sure that's a completed application. Anyone can come in and ask for rezones, use variances and those applications must be considered as due process. And then those boards have to be able to make their decision. That is why the information you received as far as it may be changing or it's an incomplete application. At this point in time we have not requested any additional information from NextEra. We have not made a determination that it's incomplete. It's incomplete upon them turning it in until we say it's complete. So it's not as if it comes in there's a determination that it's incomplete, now go fix it and it becomes complete. It shows up from the moment they file it's incomplete until the department has had an opportunity to review it all to deem it complete for it to move on through the process.

Ms. Cole, All right, if it doesn't have a road agreement is it incomplete?

Atty. McClure, No because it has to be we're talking about Stormwater and Planning. It has to have a road agreement and a letter of credit and guarantee and to have building permits to be issued.

Ms. Cole, Okay, does it have that?

Atty. McClure, No because we haven't deemed the application complete. It hasn't gone through the process.

Ms. Cole, So is it being judged or reviewed based on the original ordinance?

Atty. McClure, It is.

Ms. Cole, Okay, so if you have to have more information will that mean that it would be reviewed under the new ordinance?

Atty. McClure, No.

Ms. Cole, Okay, well I'm just here to thank you for your time.

Atty. McClure, You're welcome.

Ms. Cole, I'm concerned. I'm going to be looking at solar fields for the rest of my life and I'm concerned about that. And I think there's a lot of people concerned but thank you for listening to me.

Atty. McClure, Thank you.

Com. Biggs, Thank you.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jim Biggs

Barb Regnitz

Laura M. Blaney

Attest: _____
Karen Martin, Auditor