

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
October 19, 2017
Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Executive Board members present included Geof Benson, Anthony Copeland, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Justin Kiel, Greg Stinson and Jim Ton.

Commissioners present included Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid, Don Ensign, Will Farrellbegg, Mark Krentz, Tom Schmitt, Brian Snedecor, Mary Tanis and George Topoll.

Guests present included Matt Deitchley, David Wright, Randy Strasser, Jonathan Kruger, AJ Monroe, Ismail Attallah, Jill Murr, Nick Barbknecht, Justin Mount, Val Gomez, Jim Nowacki, Andrew Steele and Tim Zorn.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, Stephen Sostaric, Jody Melton and Mary Thorne.

Report of the Executive Director

Ty Warner gave a brief overview of the Indiana MPO Conference hosted by NIRPC in September. Various mobile tours which highlighted the region were offered. The next NIRPC meeting will be held on December 14 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Public Comment

Jim Nowacki, resident of Gary, commented on the flooding situation in Gary over the weekend. He said at the Gary City Council meeting, the Council President said he wished he could attend today but will follow up with a letter to the appropriate parties. Karen Freeman Wilson responded that a very large amount of rain fell in a 24-hour period and receded the next day. She met this week with INDOT representatives to discuss solutions and the work is not finished. Karen Freeman Wilson said she did not receive any indication from the Council President that he wanted to be here today.

Minutes

On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by, the minutes of the July 20, 2017 Full Commission meeting were approved by the Executive Board.

Finance & Personnel Committee

Karen Freeman Wilson reported that the committee met this morning. Procurement #17-20 provides for purchase of one replacement vehicle for North Township, three for Opportunity Enterprises, two for South Lake County Community Services with local share from the agencies in an amount not to exceed \$360,040 in federal funds. On a motion by Karen Freeman Wilson and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to adopt Procurement #17-20.

Procurement Recommendation #17-21 is to purchase one pick-up truck support vehicle for LaPorte TransPorte in an amount not to exceed \$44,000 in federal funds. On a motion by Karen Freeman Wilson and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to adopt Procurement #17-20.

The Committee reviewed and recommended the contract for legal services by and between NIRPC and Blachly Tabor Bozik and Hartman for 2018 with an annual extension provision. David Hollenbeck will continue on as our

attorney. On a motion by Karen Freeman Wilson and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to adopt the contract for legal services as presented.

Environmental Management Policy Committee

Geof Benson said the minutes from the last meeting were in the packet. The next EMPC meeting will take place on November 2 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Technical Planning Committee

- Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met last Tuesday and heard a presentation on the increased mobility, accessibility goal of the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan* and an update from staff on the TIGER grant application for the Marquette Greenway.
- Stephen Sostaric overviewed the public comment report for FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #4. One negative comment was received and staff responded that the projects are already in the current and previous Transportation Improvement Programs. The amendment is minor and was exposed to public comment for five business days, with no public meeting required, vetted through the Interagency Consultation Group and the Lake-Porter Transportation Resources Oversight Committee.
- Stephen Sostaric explained Resolution 17-22, Amendment #4 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for local projects as recommended by the TPC. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 17-22, FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment #4.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee is scheduled for December 5 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Indiana Department of Transportation

Matt Deitchley reported that wire theft is occurring again and the thieves may target local road lighting as well. INDOT is replacing the copper with aluminum, as much as possible.

Other Business

- In answer to a question by Mary Tanis about the next meeting of the Legislative Committee, Ty Warner responded that the committee meets on call and he will relay her query to Tom McDermott.
- Kevin Breitzke noted that residents should keep the drainage grates clear of leaves and debris in order to help with flooding issues.

Announcements

- Geof Benson announced that Justin Kiel has offered to represent NIRPC on the NARC Board, replacing Blair Milo. Bob Carnahan said OneRegion is holding their annual luncheon on October 5 at Avalon Manor.
- Bob Carnahan announced that Cedar Lake is looking for another judge to join Ty Warner, Michael Griffin and Karen Freeman Wilson at the Parade of Lights on November 18 at 7 p.m.
- The Valparaiso Chamber Business Expo is tonight at Porter County Expo Center at the County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment

On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Anthony Copeland, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

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