

**LA PORTE COUNTY
COUNTY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2007**

The La Porte County Council met for the Reorganization meeting on the 8th day of January, 2007, in the assembly room of the La Porte County Government Complex. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by La Porte County Auditor, Teresa Shuter.

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call followed.

Mrs. Layton:	Councilman Yagelski:	Present
	Councilman Garner:	Present
	Councilman Cunningham:	Present
	Councilman Cooley:	Present
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Present
	Councilman Jones:	Present
	Councilman Ludlow:	Present

All members were present.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT: Mrs. Shuter asked for nominations for the office of President. Mr. Yagelski nominated Jerry Cooley as President. Mrs. Shuter asked if there were any other nominations for the office of President? As there were none, the nominations were closed and Mrs. Shuter congratulated Mr. Cooley. Mr. Cooley thanked the Council for their support of him as President.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Jones made a motion to nominate Mark Yagelski for Vice President which was seconded by Mr. Garner. Mr. Cooley asked if there were any other nominations? As there were none, the nominations were closed. The motion for Mark Yagelski as Vice President carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mr. Cooley asked that all in attendance stand in a moment of silence for one of the County's lost leaders, Marlow Harmon, whose funeral was today. Mr. Cooley stated that Mr. Harmon was of real service to the County and even though he lost the election, he was a good friend and worked hard to do right for the County.

COUNCIL ATTORNEY: Mr. Yagelski made a motion in favor of Jennifer Evans as counsel. Mr. Cunningham made a motion in favor of Don Baugher. Mr. Jones seconded the first motion and stated that he would also second Mr. Cunningham's motion. Mr. Cooley asked if there were any other nominations? Mr. Cooley commented that Krista MacLennan had also submitted a letter. Mr. Cooley asked for a show of hands for Jennifer Evans. Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Jones and Mr. Cooley were in favor and Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Ludlow were opposed. Mr. Cooley then asked for a show of hands for Don Baugher. Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Ludlow and Mr. Jones were in favor and Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Cooley were opposed. Mr. Cooley stated that Mr. Baugher would be the Council Attorney.

(After this meeting, it became apparent that former Council Attorney, Krista MacLennan, had sent an e-mail dated January 5, 2007, and asked that her name be removed from consideration for the position of attorney for the LaPorte County Council.)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION: Mr. Cunningham nominated Bob Miller for reappointment to this Board. Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Cooley asked if there were any other nominations? Mr. Jones nominated Lois Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski seconded. Mr. Cooley read the names of those that expressed an interest of sitting on this Commission: Bob Miller, Lois Sosinski, Patrick Dougherty, Hassan Dabagia and Joseph Mrozinske. There being no further nominations, Mr. Cooley asked for a show of hands for Bob Miller. Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner and Mr. Ludlow voted in favor of Mr. Miller. Mr. Cooley then asked for a show of hands for Mrs. Sosinski. Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Jones, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Cooley voted in favor of Lois Sosinski. Mr. Cooley stated that Lois Sosinski is appointed to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA): Mr. Jones nominated Melissa Mischke to the BZA and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Cooley asked if there were any other nominations? Mr. Cooley commented that John Sullivan is currently on the Board and interest was also shown by Scott Proud, Dennis Metheny, Hassan Dabagia and Joseph Mrozinske. Mr. Jones asked if there was a letter of interest from Mr. Sullivan? Mr. Cooley responded “no” but Mr. Sullivan did leave a message for him. The motion to appoint Melissa Mischke carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF APPEALS (PTABOA): Mr. Cooley stated that there are two members to be appointed, one Democrat and one Republican. Mr. Cooley commented that Dave Scarborough did call and ask to be reappointed. Mr. Scarborough is a Republican and holds a Level II. Mr. Cooley stated that a letter from Sherry L. Ritter-Banic expressing her interest in being reappointed to this Board has been received. Joseph Mrozinske also submitted a letter of interest in appointment to this Board. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to reappoint Dave Scarborough. Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Cooley asked if there were any other nominations? The motion in favor of reappointing Dave Scarborough carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to reappoint Sherry L. Ritter-Banic. Mr. Mrozinski seconded and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD: Mr. Cooley commented that Brian Root’s term is up and he has submitted a letter of interest for reappointment. The Park and Recreation Board also submitted a letter asking that Mr. Root be reappointed. Mr. Jones made a motion to reappoint Brian Root and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Mr. Cooley received a recommendation from Jack Rosenberg to appoint Sylvia Smith to this Board. Ms. Smith also submitted a letter of interest on her behalf. Other letters of interest were received from Joseph Mrozinske and Jan Kostielney. Mr. Jones made a motion to appoint Sylvia Smith to the La Porte County Public Library. Mr. Ludlow and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

MICHIGAN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Mr. Cooley reported that the only letter received was from current Board member, Joseph Ramion. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to reappoint Joseph Ramion to the Michigan City Public Library Board and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

PLANNING FOR THE YEAR 2007: Mr. Yagelski asked if there were any changes from the prior Plan? Mr. Cooley commented that the only changes made were to work with the Auditor to have minutes ready for the next meeting and to work with the Commissioners regarding a Human Resource Department and to support Department Heads and employees in improving delivery of service while maintaining the current workforce. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve “Planning for the Year 2007.” Mr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES: Mr. Cooley presented the meeting dates for 2007. With the exception of February 20th, May 21st and December 17th all meeting will fall on the 4th Monday. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the meeting dates as presented. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with meeting dates as follows: January 22, February 20, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26 and December 17.

LIAISON & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Cooley asked that these appointments wait until the next meeting. Mr. Cunningham made a motion that those still in office serving on these committees continue to do so until further appointments are made. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

NIRPC, NICTD AND SOLID WASTE: Mr. Cooley stated that he has been advised to make the NIRPC and NICTD appointments. Mr. Cooley commented that he sits on NIRPC and Mr. Yagelski sits on NICTD. Those appointments will remain the same. Mr. Cooley will also sit on the Solid Waste Board.

COUNCIL BUDGET ADVISOR: Mr. Cooley stated that Auditor Teresa Shuter would serve in this position.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Attorney Don Baugher will serve as Parliamentarian.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL: Mr. Yagelski stated that after four (4) years of working on the 200 and 300 East Bridge project, a completion date of April 2008 has been determined. Due to variances, there is a two-mile square area in both places where land is needed for drainage. Public notices have been sent by the Highway Department to those affected landowners. Federal money was received on this project, thereby making it necessary to go along with IDEM for a project number. The public meeting will be held on January 16, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in this meeting room.

Mr. Yagelski thanked the citizens for getting involved and expressing an interest in serving on the various boards. He also thanked the newspapers for getting the information out.

Mr. Cooley also thanked everyone who submitted letters. He thought it appropriate to advertise that the Council was making appointments to let the citizens of La Porte County know what is being done.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.