

**LAPORTE COUNTY  
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 2007**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2007, in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Government Complex. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Jones, Council President.

**ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Cunningham led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Cooley asked that roll call be taken:

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

Mrs. Shuter stated, "You have a quorum, sir."

**MINUTES:** Mr. Yagelski asked if Mrs. Sosinski and Ms. Spevak had received the minutes to review? Mrs. Shuter responded that Ms. Spevak had received them but Mrs. Sosinski had not. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to wait until next month for approval since some of Mrs. Sosinski's and Ms. Spevak's work was involved in the minutes. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.

**LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no reports.

**REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

***CIRCUIT COURT:***

Circuit Court Judge, Thomas Alevizos, was present to follow-up from the last meeting since the numbers presented were a little different than he thought. Judge Alevizos stated that apparently we hadn't been paying the \$5,000.00 stipend between the two (2) deputies. He reported that he has done a few things to remedy this situation. First of all, he is willing to "give back" \$1,000.00 appropriated in the Extra Hire account and he has discovered that Juvenile Probation had continued to pay a lease way past the expiration date which represents an additional savings of \$1,200.00. \$2,000.00 for mileage in traveling between Michigan City and LaPorte will no longer be needed, as each entity will have its own Co-Chief Probation Officer. He also added that because a position is being created that will be assisting the Family Court and the Juvenile Court, \$2,000.00 from User Fees will be used to make up that difference. It will also be necessary to transfer \$20,100.00 from MC Circuit Court Probation salaries to the Circuit Court Budget for the new position. Judge Alevizos commented that the Salary Ordinance would need to be amended in order to include the change from one Chief Probation Officer, which has been eliminated, to reflect the new supervisory structure (splitting \$10,000.00

between the two Co-Chiefs as per the State guidelines) and include the new position in Circuit Court.

Mrs. Shuter reported that funds were not advertised until the Council makes a decision as most of the money is already in the budget. She stated that the Council can address the transfers at the next meeting.

Mr. Ludlow asked if the \$10,000.00 was always there for the Chief Probation Officer? Judge Alevizos replied that the Chief Probation Officer's salary is pursuant to State guidelines and in a department of that size, the Chief Officer would receive \$10,000.00 in addition to where they would be on the matrix. Mr. Ludlow asked if giving up \$2,000.00 in mileage would use up all of the money that has been appropriated? Judge Alevizos replied that he would still have mileage money in place for expenditures.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the changes as presented with the Auditor following up with the appropriate transfers at a later meeting. Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Cunningham asked if he understands correctly that these proposed changes will result in a net savings to the County of a little over \$500.00? Judge Alevizos responded that it depends upon who is taking what benefits. If the benefit package changes, he would make sure in next year's budget that he would "find" these funds.

Mr. Garner commented that he was at the Personnel Meeting when these changes were proposed and that Judge Alevizos reported that he was eliminating one head position but at that time it wasn't mentioned that there would be a raise in the deputies' salaries. Judge Alevizos responded that he thought the deputies were already receiving \$15,000.00 as per the guidelines but they weren't. He commented that he thought there were three (3) people in supervisory positions and that wasn't the case. When Judge Alevizos discovered that the structure wasn't what he presented the first time, he drafted the letter that is before the Council tonight.

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**TREASURER:**

Treasurer, Ken Layton, referred to a letter that was presented to the Commissioners about ten (10) days ago and that was e-mailed to the Council Members. A copy of the Investment Report was provided for review by the Council Members. Mr. Layton commented that he is available for any questions that the Council may have.

Mr. Yagelski asked about the investment of the toll road monies. Mr. Layton responded that the \$430,000.00 reported is off of the \$23,000,000.00 that remained after distribution from the \$25,000,000.00 received. Mr. Yagelski asked how many months was this money actually invested? Mr. Layton replied, "October, November and December." Mr. Yagelski stated that this amount was more than anticipated since he and Mr. Layton had first talked. Mr. Layton commented that when the RDA meetings were being held, the forecast was between \$1.2 and \$1.6 million. He stated that it looks like the amount will be right at that for an annual income figured on \$25,000,000.00.

Mr. Cunningham commented that one of the newspapers, when relating to how much money was invested, gave a high figure and that is mainly because we invest over and over. Mr. Layton responded that this is correct as the amount reported was \$936,000,000.00 and the County doesn't have that much money. Mr. Cunningham just wanted to make sure the public understood the high figure. Mr. Layton explained that \$936,000,000.00 was invested over the course of the year but it was either on thirty (30), sixty (60), or fourteen (14) day investments. He reported that towards the end of the year, prior to settlement when the funds are dispersed, they were down to seven (7) day investments.

Mr. Cooley stated that the great work in investing for the year is appreciated. He also commented that he told Mr. Layton that if it wasn't for the Council saving money, he wouldn't have anything to invest. Mr. Layton commented, that to be perfectly honest, if it wasn't for the taxpayers of LaPorte County, we wouldn't have the money.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Gene Parrett was in attendance to discuss the Pioneerland building that was previously proposed. Mr. Parrett commented that a couple of men that have been lost, Al Pontius and Marlow Harmon, were real supporters and advocates of Pioneerland and they will be missed. Mr. Parrett reported that Pioneerland started in 1995. The idea of the building was also started in 1995 and they have been fighting for it ever since. There were three (3) stages planned. The first stage was to go to the LaPorte County Fair Board and get approval of the plan, which was accomplished. The second stage was to go before the County Commissioners and they approved the plan and monetary support in the amount of \$364,000.00. Mr. Parrett stated that the third stage was to come before the Council and explain the plan. He was in the hospital when this matter was previously addressed before the Council. Mr. Parrett is in attendance to answer any questions the Council may have. He stated that the building will be built but Pioneerland needs the County's help.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to return to the agenda and Reports by Department Heads.

### **REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

#### ***SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3:***

Judge Paul J. Baldoni, Superior Court No. 3, explained that Roxann Justus is now the part-time Program Director of L.A.D.S. He stated that L.A.D.S. is a statutory drug and alcohol program certified by the Indiana Judicial Center and is run by the presiding judge. L.A.D.S. is funded by money paid by the people sent to L.A.D.S. who take the classes and pay various fees.

Judge Baldoni commented that over the years there has been a full-time Coordinator based upon how much money is being made. There have been years where there wasn't enough money for a full-time Coordinator; therefore, they went to part-time. In Judge Baldoni's opinion, there are now sufficient funds to hire a full-time Coordinator. He reported that \$21,000.00 would need to be added to Ms. Justus' part-time salary for a full-time position. Judge Baldoni stated that this would not be an exceptional salary based upon the amount paid to Coordinators in this area and around the State of Indiana for a position of this type.

Mr. Yagelski asked why the amount of User Fee money and the numbers will continue as reported? Ms. Justus replied that she actually feels the numbers will increase because L.A.D.S. is working very closely, not only with Superior Court No. 3, but also with Circuit Court. Mr. Yagelski asked about referrals. Ms. Justus responded that the referrals come from the Courts and are court-ordered as a part of the sentencing. Judge Baldoni added that referrals come from outside of the County as well.

Mr. Garner asked about the transfer of part of Judge Baldoni's caseload to the Circuit Court. He asked if this proposal ties into part of this? Judge Baldoni stated that the referrals from Circuit Court are coming from "D" felonies. Judge Baldoni explained that there is an evaluation first and then the program is assigned based upon the evaluation. He stated that Ms. Justus makes these evaluations and they may not all end up in L.A.D.S. Mr. Garner stated that part of the caseload transferred would then tie into this program. Judge Baldoni replied that it would. Ms. Justus commented that even though they don't actually oversee each case, such as the ones that are transferred to another facility, they are still in charge of monitoring those cases.

Mr. Ludlow asked if what is listed later on the agenda regarding Adult Supplemental User Fees is different from L.A.D.S. as L.A.D.S. has a free-standing budget. Judge Baldoni responded that this is correct. Mr. Ludlow questioned the additional amount requested. Judge Baldoni stated that \$21,120.00 would need to be added to the amount appropriated for the part-time Coordinator which is \$36,880.00. Therefore, the proposed salary requested for a full-time position would be \$58,000.00.

Mr. Ludlow asked if there would be any expense to the taxpayers? Judge Baldoni responded that the County had helped out L.A.D.S. before on payroll when the money wasn't coming in, and the position was part-time, but he doesn't foresee any increase to the General Fund. He stated that someone is needed full-time to do the job as two days a week for the workload isn't enough time. Judge Baldoni reported that there is one other employee, the full-time Secretary/Office Manager, who does everything and that is a lot to ask someone to do. Judge Baldoni said that these cases are time sensitive. Mr. Ludlow stated that he understands that these cases can be labor intensive sometimes. Judge Baldoni commented that sometimes they can also be language intensive.

Mrs. Shuter stated that the additional appropriation will be advertised for the February meeting in the amount of \$21,120.00 from the Alcohol and Drug Service Fee Fund for Council approval.

Judge Baldoni, with approval by the Council and since he was already at the podium, proceeded with the request for additional appropriations from Superior Court No. 3 Adult Supplemental User Fees listed later on the agenda. He stated that these are not tax dollars but Probation User Fees used only pursuant to State statute. Mr. Cunningham thanked Judge Baldoni for advising the Council about the use of this money since it is actually being done as a matter of courtesy. Judge Baldoni responded that this is something that has always been done as it is a lot of money. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Cunningham seconded. Motion carried 7 – 0.

***PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:***

Prosecutor, Robert Beckman, stated that Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele recommended reclassification from a COMOT IV to a COMOT V for Jerilyn Favia and Jennifer Harmon. Mr. Beckman commented that the money required for these positions was put into the budget but the Council rejected the recommendation and the upgrade at their December meeting. Mr. Beckman stated that he is willing to explain the duties required of these positions and he isn't sure why these two employees were singled out and removed when he thought they had been approved. Mr. Cooley asked how the Council handled anything regarding this matter in December? Mrs. Shuter responded that the reclassification recommendation was actually denied at the final budget hearing on September 18<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the motion was made to deny all of the requests that came before the Council that evening and these two were part of that motion. Mrs. Shuter reported that these two positions were included in the Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele recommendations to be upgraded from a COMOT IV to a COMOT V.

Mr. Beckman explained that when he first came into the office eight (8) years ago, these two (2) positions were basically receptionist positions. He stated that they have long since moved well beyond that. The need for an upgrade was brought to Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele's attention when more State dollars were gained for Adult Protective Services last spring. The Prosecutor's Office was requested to hire a data entry person for Adult Protective Services. Mr. Beckman stated that it was better for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to allow Ms. Harmon to take on the data entry responsibility.

Mr. Beckman stated that there is no question that these two positions are COMOT V positions, and they will continue to be COMOT V positions as far as work production and job responsibility, regardless of what wage classification they are in. He stated that if the County of LaPorte is as poor as the City of LaPorte is, then his office has the money, \$6,000.00, to provide for these raises.

Mr. Cunningham asked approximately how much was spent with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele to provide this analysis? Mr. Cooley thought around \$35,000.00. Mrs. Shuter commented that it ended up being closer to \$70,000.00 and Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele isn't finished yet.

Mr. Cunningham referred to Mr. Beckman's letter regarding the Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys and potential savings. Mr. Beckman responded that another deputy has stepped up and offered to try and run two (2) Courts with a modest increase in pay which would, in essence, realize a larger savings to the County if he doesn't have to replace an employee. Mr. Cunningham commented that the \$6,000.00 would be offset by a \$26,000.00 savings to be addressed later on in the agenda. Mr. Beckman reported that there hasn't been a year that his office hasn't returned well in excess of \$50,000.00 from any annual budget back to the General Fund.

Mr. Beckman stated that the Council has always treated his office with respect. He commented that occasionally his office is able to generate sufficient revenue to give a quarter of a million dollars to the park systems throughout the entire County and occasionally, like this year, his Child Support Division reaches a point where they collect \$9.05 million dollars for the kids in this County with the exact same number of employees that were here eight (8) years ago when he started. Mr. Beckman commented that it would be good for anyone who is an employer to understand that “you catch more bees with honey than you do vinegar” and this approach to leadership could have comparable results.

Mr. Cooley asked about advertising. Mrs. Shuter responded that if this request is the wish of the Council, the amount required will be brought back at the next meeting.

Mr. Jones stated that he would support advertisement and making the requested moves. He commented that the Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele study was advantageous in many ways in developing job descriptions and updating the old ones. A market analysis was also provided by Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele showing the private sector and other county public sectors so that the Council would have an idea of pay scales. Mr. Jones feels that where the study fell short is that the final list from Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele wasn't received until the last hour and it was lengthy.

Mr. Jones stated that he doesn't think that the task of making recommendations should have been placed upon Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele. He commented that making recommendations about upgrading employees should have stayed with Personnel. Mr. Jones commented that everybody who requested an upgrade got “one bump”. If they were a COMOT III they went to a COMOT IV, etc. Mr. Jones stated that in 98% of the cases it was this way and, therefore, it was hard to put a lot of validity into the recommendations. He commented that this is another reason, in the final hour of the budget hearings, that these recommendations were rejected. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Beckman's requests happened to be part of those.

Mr. Yagelski asked if the money that went to the Parks goes through Mr. Beckman's office? Mr. Beckman responded that he will provide the Council with a report once the money is spent.

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Barb Huston explained that the Commissioners' Secretary is currently under the Auditor's Office. The Commissioners are requesting that this position be transferred from the Auditor's Budget to the Commissioners' Budget.

Mr. Yagelski commented that he doesn't have a problem with the move but he does have a problem with the situation since this move will be leaving a blank position that the Commissioners will feel they have to fill. He stated that this has happened in the past and, if we are going to make this switch, why can't Monique (Gillard) be switched and then Linda (Arnett) would have this area. Mrs. Huston responded that Monique is currently the Executive Assistant to the Commissioners and to Linda, the Commissioners' Secretary, who works under the Auditor's Office. Mrs. Huston asked Mr. Yagelski for clarification. Mr. Yagelski commented that he didn't want to see another secretary hired. Mr. Yagelski stated that Linda was under the Auditor's Office and Monique was under the Commissioners' Office even though they were “cross jobs.” Mrs. Huston and Mrs. Shuter responded that to the best of their knowledge these positions have never been “cross jobs.” Mr. Yagelski's concern is that

Monique has been placed in numerous positions and has been “snuck under the wire” for these positions. He commented that he is trying to watch that this doesn’t happen. Mr. Yagelski stated that it has been caught three (3) times and corrected three (3) times. Mrs. Shuter commented that she believes when Monique was hired it was presented to her that she was Human Resources, if this is what Mr. Yagelski is referring to. Mr. Yagelski stated that if he can have the guarantee of the Commissioners that we don’t play that game, he has no problem with the move. Mrs. Huston commented that she would like to see the Commissioners’ Secretary, Linda, continue her duties but be under the Commissioners.

Mr. Jones commented that he understands what Mr. Yagelski is saying but the topic at hand is moving the money. He stated that it has always been a courtesy of the Auditor to allow the Commissioners to hire whomever they wanted and it was paid from the Auditor’s budget. Mr. Jones commented that originally this was because if this employee didn’t work full-time for the Commissioners, they could assist in the Auditor’s Office.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the move from the Auditor’s Budget to the Commissioners’ Budget as requested. Mr. Yagelski seconded.

Mr. Ludlow asked who would do the minutes? Mrs. Huston replied that Linda would continue to do the minutes and she would be deputized by Mrs. Shuter since it has to be through the Auditor’s Office. Mrs. Huston reported that Linda will continue to perform all of the duties she does now but she will be transferred to the Commissioners’ Budget as their Secretary. Mr. Ludlow asked what this move would accomplish. Mrs. Huston responded that the Secretary has way too much to do for the Commissioners to ever think about having duties in the Auditor’s Office. It is believed that this position was put under the Auditor’s Office when Sherry Waters was the Auditor in order to protect the position. Mrs. Huston sees this position as a hired position and she doesn’t see any reason why any new Commissioners coming in would feel they could fire the Secretary. Mrs. Shuter agreed that it was a job security issue.

Mrs. Huston reported that when Linda Meadows and Judy Cunningham held the position of Commissioners’ Secretary, the position was a COMOT V classification. The Commissioners feel that with all of the duties that Mrs. Arnett does, along with continuing to take the minutes, she should become a COMOT V instead of a COMOT IV. Mrs. Shuter agreed that this position should be a COMOT V if Mrs. Arnett continues doing all she currently does. Mrs. Shuter commented that this is one of the recommendations, along with Mr. Beckman’s, that was denied on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Shuter reported that the money matters will be taken care of at the next meeting.

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Nay

Motion carried 6 – 1.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jim Donnelly, 4622 North 525 West, LaPorte, addressed the Council at length regarding his concerns about outdoor wood-fired boilers. Mr. Donnelly would like to see the Health Department monitor the emissions and for the Council to give them the money to do the job. Mr. Donnelly commented that he has been contacting the Board of Commissioners and Health Department for help on this matter since 2004 along with contacting IDEM. He also reported that Save the Dunes has been working on this issue with NIRPC. Mr. Donnelly commented that his request to be put on the Commissioners’ agenda has been refused. Mr. Yagelski stated that as a citizen of LaPorte County, anyone requesting to be on the agenda has to be put on the agenda. He asked that Mr. Donnelly send a written request to the Commissioners. Mr. Cunningham also recommended sending a written request with a copy to Mr. Cooley, as well, so that there is a record.

Mr. Donnelly commented that the original design of these outdoor wood-fired boilers was for rural America and not populated rural America. Mr. Garner commented that he has a wood-fired boiler and he has tried to eliminate the cause for concern as discussed including consideration of burning corn cobs instead of wood. Mr. Garner also commented that he was told last year by people in Prairie Township that they had requested to be put on the Commissioners agenda and were told the same thing as Mr. Donnelly.

**TRANSFER/SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve appropriation of \$2,600.00 in the Superior Court No. 1 Adult Supplemental User Fee Fund and transfer to County General, Superior Court No. 1, Extra Hire, and the appropriation of \$13,500.00 in the Win Tax/Riverboat Fund with transfer to the Vocational Training Grant Fund, Professional Services. Mr. Cunningham seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SUP. CT. NO. 1 ADULT SUPPLEMENTAL USER FEE:** Judge Kathleen Lang, Superior Court No. 1, stated that, like Judge Baldoni, she is addressing the Council regarding this request for appropriation of User Fees as a courtesy to let the Council know how these funds are being expended. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve \$15,000.00 as requested. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye

Councilman Garner: Aye  
Councilman Jones: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS PRESENTED BY AUDITOR:** Mrs. Shuter asked if there were any questions regarding the information in the letter sent to the Council. Mr. Jones commented that he is the liaison to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, one of the line items listed, and he has talked to Mrs. Shuter regarding these adjustments to the budgets. Therefore, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the adjustments as listed in their entirety and as submitted. Mr. Cunningham seconded.

<i>PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:</i>	\$ 6,661.00 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
<i>ASSESSOR:</i>	\$ 1,000.00 Extra Hire/Part-time/Seasonal
<i>INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</i>	\$ 980.00 Extra Hire/Part-time/Seasonal
<i>BOARD OF EDUCATION:</i>	\$ 1,674.00 Department Head
<i>BOARD OF EDUCATION:</i>	\$ 3,502.00 Attendance Officers
<i>COUNTY HOME:</i>	\$ 604.00 Custodians
<i>SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1</i>	\$ 23,543.00 Probation Officer
<i>SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3</i>	\$ 692.00 Clerks
<i>HIGHWAY GENERAL &amp; UNDISTRIBUTED:</i>	\$ 3,905.00 Mechanics
<i>REASSESSMENT:</i>	\$ 2,000.00 Board Members

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter: Councilman Garner: Aye  
Councilman Cooley: Aye  
Councilman Ludlow: Aye  
Councilman Jones: Aye  
Councilman Cunningham: Aye  
Councilman Mrozinski: Aye  
Councilman Yagelski: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mrs. Shuter stated that she has one other item that needs to be resolved. She commented that the Board of Appeals was dissolved and, by statute, the County was asked to create a Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals for the County. Mrs. Shuter reported that the Council approved a budget with four (4) Board Members. Originally, two Level I's and two Level II's were required. She stated that Level I's were paid a stipend of \$1,000.00 for serving on the Board and Level II members were paid \$2,000.00. At the beginning of last year, Mrs. Shuter was asked by the County Assessor if she could forego the \$1,000.00 that she is statutorily entitled to under her General Fund budget and instead have the \$2,000.00 under the Reassessment budget.

Mrs. Shuter stated that her initial reaction was "no" because the Assessor serves on the Board by virtue of her office and the stipend that was put in the Reassessment budget was designed for the four (4) Board Members, two (2) of which are appointed by the Council and two (2) are

appointed by the Commission. Mrs. Shuter told the Assessor that she would call the State Board of Accounts. The Assessor was also requesting \$75.00 per day for attending the meetings. Mrs. Shuter reported that she had a conversation with Tammy White, State Board of Accounts, regarding this matter. The State Board of Account's opinion was "no" because the Assessor serves on the Board by virtue of the office she holds and she is not one of the Board Members appointed by either the Council or Commission. Their opinion is that the Assessor also is not entitled to \$75.00 per day because she is being paid to be the Assessor during the day-time hours and the meetings are held during the day.

Mrs. Shuter reported that this information was conveyed early last year and she thought that was the end of the matter. It is Mrs. Shuter's understanding that after the November meeting, according to Council Attorney at that time, Krista MacLennan, that this matter cropped up as an issue again and the Assessor was again insistent upon getting \$2,000.00 from the Reassessment budget instead \$1,000.00 from the General Fund budget. Attorney MacLennan's opinion at that time was that the Assessor served by virtue of her office and she was not entitled to it, which was Mrs. Shuter's opinion as well as that of the State Board of Accounts.

Mrs. Shuter stated that at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting she was handed a letter by one of the Council Members, that the rest of the members apparently received, again requesting that the money be reinstated. Mrs. Shuter requested clear direction from the Council. She stated that if it is the intention of the members to give the Assessor, in addition to the Board Members, an additional \$2,000.00 she will ask for an additional appropriation for next month.

Mr. Cooley asked what is the written document regarding this? Mrs. Shuter replied that it is on the actual Reassessment budget. She stated that the \$2,000.00 given for Level II certified people that serve on the PTABOA Board is a stipend paid to Board Members. The Board Members also receive \$75.00 a day for each meeting they attend. Mr. Jones questioned if the amount is \$1,000.00 for a Level I? Mrs. Shuter responded, "Yes." Mrs. Shuter stated that two (2) of the Assessor's employees are now Level II certified and each one is entitled to \$500.00 from the Assessor's Budget in the General Fund. Sherry Ritter-Banic, approved by the Council as a PTABOA Board Member, has also received her certification. If the Board Members had a certification, it was included in the budget, but if they did not, it was omitted from the budget.

Mrs. Shuter explained that we are trying to create a dynamic link between the Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele pay grid, the Low Financial software and IKON Solutions that the County spent \$380,000.00 on. The exact amounts the people were entitled to had to be put down on paper at budget time. Therefore, through the year, the Council will be addressing longevity increases such Probation Officers who receive their longevity step immediately upon their anniversary date because of the link we are trying to create. The figures have to reflect the exact pay they are due at that point in time.

Mr. Garner asked that the Council's attorney advise of the proper wording and direction regarding this matter. Attorney Baugher asked if the question is if the Assessor should receive the additional \$2,000.00? Mrs. Shuter responded that what has been presented is that the Assessor would like to forego \$1,000.00 in the General Fund budget and be given \$2,000.00 that is Board money earmarked in the Reassessment budget. Mr. Cooley commented that he would feel more comfortable if Attorney Baugher would come back to the Council with an opinion at the next meeting. Mrs. Shuter stated that she would like to see this matter put to rest.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/GENERAL FUND/SHERIFF:** Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve \$4,500.00 for the Chief Deputy, which Sheriff Mollenhauer explained is actually for the former Chief Deputy who has retired and is due sick pay. Mr. Cunningham seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Addressed next was the request of \$600,000.00 for Pension Benefits. Sheriff Mollenhauer reported that hopefully the pension will be self-supporting, or close to it, with the legal process fees that were raised from \$13.00 to \$26.00 last July. This hopefully will offset the additional cost that has been approved in the past. Sheriff Mollenhauer will keep track of the fees collected, along with the Auditor’s Office, and keep the Council informed. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Mrozinski seconded.

Mr. Ludlow commented that around half of a million was appropriated last year out of the Emergency Reserve Fund so it didn’t have to be appropriated out of the General Fund. Mr. Ludlow stated that he understands that there is a line item being set up, which he thought would be in addition to whatever money has been received in. Mrs. Shuter commented that the State Board of Accounts wrote up the Auditor’s Office this year. She stated that ever since she was head of Accounts Payable, the warrant money that came in was receipted into the General Fund and then Connie Trojanowski, Civil Process Department, generated a purchase order for the exact same amount which was paid from the General Fund, un-appropriated, and paid to the bank for the Pension Fund. Mrs. Shuter reported that the State Board of Accounts determined that the pension cannot be paid out of un-appropriated General Fund and a line item is required. It is anticipated that \$50,000.00 per month should be generated with the increased fees. Mr. Ludlow stated that appropriating the amount from the Emergency Reserve Fund would help the balance of the County’s operating budget.

Mrs. Shuter wondered if the legal processing monies that come in could be used to go back to the Emergency Reserve Fund? She stated that typically if the money is paid from the General Fund, the fees are receipted into the General Fund off-setting the expenditure. Attorney Baugher will check to see if the fees could be put back in the Emergency Reserve Fund to pay that fund back rather than receipting them into the General Fund. Mr. Jones asked what would happen if the money was just put back into the General Fund and the Emergency Reserve Fund not paid back? Mr. Jones stated that the interest would pay back the Emergency Reserve Fund and it’s not like the Sheriff’s Department is going to keep the \$26.00.

Mr. Jones withdrew his motion and Mr. Mrozinski withdrew his second. Mr. Jones tabled this request until next month and until the amount is advertised in the Emergency Reserve Fund. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/GENERAL FUND/PROSECUTOR:** Mr. Beckman stated that this is the request that Councilman Cunningham referred to earlier in the evening. In approximately the year 2000, the first time there were magistrates expanding the criminal courts and the five (5) courts were expanded to six (6), one deputy’s duties were increased instead of hiring another deputy. The second time this happened was a couple of years ago when Judge Baldoni transferred the D felonies which created another court. Even though it was a magistrate court, to Mr. Beckman it is another court and it takes him two (2) deputies to run one criminal court.

This year he has “lost” two (2) Deputy Prosecutors; one was elected and one, he understands, will be appointed next week. Mr. Beckman stated that he has replaced one deputy in Juvenile Court and he has another deputy on-staff that is willing to assume, in addition to her IV-D responsibilities, the juvenile responsibilities if her level of pay can be increased to what Mr. Alevizos was increased to back in 2000 when he was Deputy Prosecutor. If the Council agrees to this, Mr. Beckman will have two (2) unfilled positions on his staff; one he has carried for five (5) years and never filled and the other position will be due to the combined position. Mr. Beckman is willing to give one of the positions back but he would like to keep the position he has carried for five (5) years as he is hearing from the rumor mill that there will be more criminal calls scheduled on more days of the week than there are currently. Mr. Beckman will be back before the Council, if he doesn’t have a vacant position in his budget, because he has to have bodies to physically put in courtrooms if criminal caseloads are to be handled in the Courtroom. Mr. Beckman suggested that before expansion of Courts are allowed, and before changing of court calls to different days of the week are allowed, these things should be considered as they have a ripple effect through the entire criminal justice system.

Mr. Beckman is proposing an additional \$14,607.00 in pay for this deputy as opposed to hiring another Juvenile Prosecutor which would cost \$44,000.00. He reiterated that he is willing to give one position back in exchange for the additional pay. Mr. Beckman commented that he is assuming Ms. Shoffner will be able to do this job based upon the current days of the week that the respective courts meet as of today. If next week any of the court calls change, then obviously there cannot be one physical person in two courts at the same time.

Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve \$14,607.00 as requested. Mr. Ludlow seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/GENERAL FUND/PARKS & RECREATION:**

Tim Morgan, Superintendent of the LaPorte County Parks Department, requested \$1,890.00 for a service contract for the new color copier, if approved later on the agenda from the CCD/Win Tax Funds, and \$1,000.00 for tower rental for the repeater for the two-way radios. Mr. Morgan reported that the tower they were using near Westville was sold by the individual and they lost their free home, or free rent, for the repeater. A new home was found on the microwave tower at Hwy. 35 and Schultz Road.

Mr. Morgan stated that there is a lease agreement on the existing copier and they are hoping to transfer this copier down to the Nature Center and eliminate the old copier from there.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve \$2,890.00 and Mr. Yagelski seconded.

Mr. Ludlow asked if Mr. Morgan stated that he already had the copier he is asking for. Mr. Morgan responded that he does not. Mr. Garner asked why another copier is needed. Mr. Morgan replied that they are not adding another copier but are cycling one out. Mr. Garner asked if all copies could be made at one central location? Mr. Morgan explained that there is a naturalist staff, along with two full-time educators who work at the Nature Center at Luhr Park, which is quite a distance from the main office on Holmesville Road. Mr. Morgan stated that the travel back and forth, regarding mileage, wouldn't be economical. He stated that many copies are made for kids' programming. Mr. Morgan also commented that Niki Schmutte won a State award from the Education Association. He stated that in the thirteen years she has been here, she has seen over 80,000 children and kids go through programs and special events. Mr. Morgan stated that County printing is utilized as well, but this is a piece of equipment they cannot do without. Mr. Garner asked about grants. Mr. Morgan responded that a lot of the copies are made for grants and part of competing is to have a nice packet to present.

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CCD FUND/SHERIFF:** Sheriff Mollenhauer reported that they anticipate purchasing a total of sixteen (16) cars, fourteen (14) marked and two (2) unmarked. There will be sixteen (16) trade-ins. One of the unmarked cars will be a Tahoe. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Jones seconded.

Mr. Yagelski asked, now that the Commissioners all have their own cars, is it correct that none of the cars will be going to anyone else? Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that this is correct. Mr. Garner asked how many spare vehicles there are? Sheriff Mollenhauer responded that there are no spares. Mr. Yagelski asked if there were any circumstances like the car that was previously

parked by prior Sheriff Arnold's house? He asked if that vehicle was now being utilized? Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that it is being utilized but he can see a need for a spare or a pool of cars. Under the present program, if a car breaks down or is wrecked, that officer is without a car and is in post command or has to borrow someone's vehicle.

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CCD/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:** Al Ott, Stationary Engineer, explained that the amounts requested were removed at the budget hearings. He commented that these amounts are the same as requested since 1999 and there have been no increases in the requests with the exception of NIPSCO and water and sewage.

Mr. Yagelski asked about the elevator situation. He stated that when Mr. Ott addressed the hydraulic systems, it was explained that everything was in good condition. Mr. Yagelski commented that since then the Council has heard that the two (2) elevators in the hallway are breaking down. Mr. Ott explained that these two (2) elevators are cable, the only two like this that we have, but all of the other elevators have had their cylinders replaced. Mr. Ott stated that the elevators in the hallway need constant repair due to their age. Mr. Yagelski asked if there is a service agreement? Mr. Ott responded that there were three (3) elevators that weren't under service agreement, due to warranty, but these have been added on this year. There are nine (9) service agreements including the museum. Mr. Yagelski asked Mr. Ott for a rough estimate of what it would cost to replace the two (2) cable-driven elevators? Mr. Ott replied that the two-story elevator in the garage cost \$97,000.00, and the elevators in the Complex are five-floor elevators.

Mr. Yagelski commented that Doors & Windows could be reduced since about everything in the Courthouse has been redone. Mr. Ott responded that under Doors & Windows, last year the Commission requested to replace the windows on the first floor of the Michigan City Courthouse. There were ten (10) windows replaced at a cost of \$19,825.00. The intent, if the money is approved, is to replace the windows on the next floor. Mr. Ott stated that the Probation Department still has wood-frame windows and they would like to upgrade those seven (7) windows. Mr. Jones asked if the windows are replaced so that they all match? Mr. Ott replied that they are purchased the same, such as when Judge King remodeled his office, the same windows were used that were put in for Steve Eyrick. Mr. Yagelski asked if we could get a better price if we didn't piece-meal the project and we used purchasing power? Mr. Jones asked who puts in the windows? Mr. Ott responded that Meyers Glass installed the windows in Michigan City.

Mr. Garner had previously talked to Mr. Ott and wondered about the two extra buildings Mr. Ott referred to that have been added. Mr. Ott stated that they have been working on the area in the Complex for the Extension Office and the new museum location has been added. A new heat exchanger had to be installed at the museum last year. Mr. Ott reported that there are major problems in the Courthouse with the plumbing. The next time there is a workshop, Mr. Ott would like to bring the pipes to show what kind of condition they are in.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the Council has been in disagreement over the years with the extra monies that don't come back before the Council, and they would like to be considered, such as the Sheriff's building outside, the truck with the snowplow, etc. Mr. Yagelski would like to offer a new leaf and he asked that Mr. Ott consider the Council as a friend and come before them. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve \$25,000.00 for Buildings, \$16,400.00 for Doors & Windows and \$25,000.00 for Major Buildings for a total amount of \$66,400.00 as requested. Mr. Garner seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Nay
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye

Motion carried 6 – 1.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/WIN TAX/BUILDING MAINT:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion, not that the money won't be approved if Mr. Ott comes before the Council with a project, and since three (3) large items were appropriated out of the CCD Fund, not to approve any of the Win Tax expenditures as advertised since the budget was cut for a reason. Mr. Garner seconded.

Mr. Ott commented that Trash Removal and Pest Control are maintenance contracts and there won't be money to pay these people. Mr. Ott also commented that Energy Control is what is used for the boilers and air conditioning. Mr. Jones stated that he got turned around on NIPSCO, etc. when he voted "no" on the CCD requests and didn't really intend to do that. Mr. Jones commented if Mr. Ludlow's motion doesn't go, Buildings, Windows & Doors and Major Buildings need to be eliminated as they are redundant. There was further discussion regarding the maintenance contracts, etc. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cunningham:	Nay
	Councilman Cooley:	Nay
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Nay
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Nay
	Councilman Yagelski:	Nay

Motion failed 5 – 2.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ott to explain the \$43,000.00 requested for Equipment. Mr. Ott stated that it could be anything from air handler motors and coils along with some of the repairs at the Courthouse, such as the hot water heater and the dryer at Community Corrections, etc.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$14,500.00 for Elevators, \$5,000.00 for Trash, \$8,500.00 for Pest Control, \$10,000.00 for Maintenance Contracts, \$2,500.00 for Radios and \$8,000.00 for Energy Management for a total amount of \$48,500.00. Mr. Yagelski seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Garner:	Nay
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Nay
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye

Motion carried 5 – 2.

Mr. Cooley asked what the cost is for remodeling the downstairs in the Complex? Mr. Ott responded that so far what has been done is already paid for out of what was left last year except for the electric. Mr. Yagelski asked for an update on the walkway. Mr. Ott replied that there have been some problems with airlocks and half of the system wasn't working. He stated that there were some "O" rings in the line that were cracked and leaking. Mr. Yagelski commented that there were still three (3) major leaks when he walked through the tunnel. Mr. Ott responded that this was caused when the lines were "bled out" and the only water coming in now is from the side walls and the water running off of the deck and getting into the planters. He stated that a couple of attempts have been made by putting drain systems in the planters but there are still two spots that leak. Mr. Ott stated that there are no leaks in the deck itself.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CCD/PARKS & RECREATION:** Mr. Morgan requested approval to purchase a copy machine, as addressed earlier, at a cost of \$7,963.84. He also referred to a letter from Data recommending that the server be replaced which was at the County Highway before the Parks Department inherited it. This replacement cost would be \$6,055.00. Mr. Morgan stated that this unit needs to be replaced before it fails. Also requested is replacement of a monitor, which is used by Niki Schmutte, Chief Naturalist, for desktop publishing, at a cost of \$261.99. The total amount advertised in Equipment is \$14,281.00.

The other item requested is a GMC Canyon vehicle for the amount of \$13,800.65. Mr. Morgan stated that the vehicle replacement schedule is included with the information he presented along a five-year action plan. He stated that the vehicle is not a replacement but an additional item that was in the 2007 request. Mr. Morgan explained that there are three (3) full-time maintenance staff as well as at least eight (8) seasonal part-time maintenance staff. He reported that there are four (4) maintenance vehicles, a plow truck and a dump truck. Mr. Morgan commented that by asking for this smaller truck they are being more fuel efficient.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve these requests in the amount of \$28,082.00 and Mr. Cunningham seconded. Mr. Yagelski asked that the Equipment and Vehicle be addressed in separate motions. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$14,281.00 for Equipment. Mr. Cunningham seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve \$13,801.00 for Vehicle. Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Yagelski commented that he remembers the five-year plan study and he is opposed to the new vehicle since it is not in line with the master plan agreement. Mr. Morgan responded that things change and at that time gas prices were about half of what they are now. He stated that the Parks Department is trying to be frugal in that respect along with maintaining longevity of the vehicles. Mr. Garner also remembers the five-year plan and feels that there are other things that need to be addressed. Mr. Ludlow asked if any of the vehicles are take-home? Mr. Morgan responded that the one he drives, a GMC Canyon purchased last year, is. This vehicle will not be a take-home vehicle. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cooley:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Nay
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Nay

Motion carried 5 – 2.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/WIN TAX/EXTENSION OFFICE:** Walt Sell, Director, recognized Lou Ann Troxell, Extension Board President, who is in attendance representing the eighteen (18) member Extension Board that advises the Extension Office on programming efforts. Mr. Sell requested approval of \$33,600.00 for the annual rent in order to maintain the current facility at 2358 North U.S. 35 and North Pine Center.

Mr. Sell shared some history of the Extension Office. He stated that the office moved from the County Complex in September of 2003 to the present location at the request of the Commissioners to be there temporarily until a permanent facility would be built in conjunction with the Solid Waste District. Since that time there have been different alternatives investigated and, for various reasons, those things have not been realized. Mr. Sell reported that now the Commissioners are looking at the possibility of moving the Extension Office back into level one at the County Complex in space vacated by the County Museum. Mr. Sell is

asking for funds in order to stay where they are until there is a permanent location found so there will be only one move made to that site as opposed to moving into the Complex and moving to the other facility at a later date.

Mr. Sell shared some of the concerns of the Extension Board and different members of the organizations the Extension Office works with regarding the move and what it would mean. He commented that the move would be a major disruption for his staff for a period of four (4) to six (6) weeks based upon the past move. Mr. Sell also pointed out that the volunteers and clientele expressed to him that they would be severely inconvenienced by the lack of parking and accessibility at the proposed location. This would result in a decrease of walk-in traffic as well as a decrease in attendance at some of the programs. Other concerns are for safety of the 4-H members and the elderly regarding parking, outside lighting, etc. or the crowd that could be in the hallway, if activities are held at night. Mr. Sell reported that it would cost \$1,800.00 to move the IHETS (Indiana Higher Education Technical Service) line. This line allows internet access, web-based access plus video conferencing. He asked that it be kept in mind that when the Extension Office is moved, it isn't only ten (10) staff members that are being moved but the move also entails moving headquarters for the Master Gardeners, headquarters for the Extension Homemakers, headquarters for the LaPorte County Row Crop and their activities as well as 4-H volunteers and members.

Mr. Sell acknowledged his personal frustration and stated that he knows the Council and current Commissioners share that frustration. He also acknowledged the cost to the County for rent of approximately \$100,000.00. Mr. Sell commented that they have benefited from the parking, improved accessibility and an increase in walk-in traffic, along with the meetings they have been able to hold and the attendance at those meetings, in the going on four years they have been at the present location. Mr. Sell stated that his ultimate concern is a permanent facility for the Extension Office and they cannot be as successful as they want to be if their facility is minimized. Meeting rooms in the proposed facility for activities was discussed. Mr. Sell applauded the efforts by the Commissioners and Council to establish a priority list as has been discussed.

Mr. Yagelski commented that the same approach was taken with the Purdue Extension Office as with other departments. He stated that every other area is dealing with the same things that Mr. Sell's office is. Mr. Yagelski stated that this move happened four (4) years ago and the Council was promised six (6) months maximum. He commented on the remark made by Mr. Sell regarding the inconvenience of people coming to him. Mr. Yagelski remarked on the inconvenience of taxpayers that have paid over \$100,000.00, and now it will be \$135,000.00, and this is only if one more year is promised. Mr. Yagelski referred to the comments made regarding safety, staff and clientele and no rear exit. Mr. Yagelski looked at the area and there is a rear exit. Mr. Yagelski stated that Judge Baldoni has the same issues Mr. Sell does. Regarding the congestion in the hallways, Mr. Yagelski commented that there are some inconveniences but not as much as expressed by Mr. Sell. He commented that none of these issues equate to the fact of how much money has been spent and there is still no solution. Mr. Yagelski stated that the best solution discussed, which Mr. Sell is opposed to, is the barn at the County Home, but it will still take at least a year, if not longer, for this proposed project. Mr. Yagelski commented that this does not take care of priorities, and other buildings that need to be built and maintained, as discussed with Mr. Hager at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Yagelski is opposed to spending taxpayer money this way, as this is the wrong way to do it and

it sends the wrong example to other departments who have to deal with the traffic that goes through the Courthouse.

Mr. Sell thanked Mr. Yagelski for sharing his concerns. Mr. Sell commented that in terms of a rear exit, he was referring to the fact that once inside the proposed area in the basement for the Extension Office, behind the doors, if there was fire on the entire east side there would be no way to exit. He asked that an escape route be made through the south side, perhaps through the windows. Mr. Sell stated that regarding Mr. Yagelski's statement that Mr. Sell was opposed to the plan regarding the County Barn, that idea did seem foreign to him and not as good as a new facility, but, after talking to his staff and talking to others, he has come to the conclusion that they would be agreeable to any location that would meet the needs in terms of office space, meeting rooms, accessibility and parking. Mr. Sell would definitely recommend investigating all options and see what makes the most sense and what is the most economical. As a taxpayer, Mr. Sell understands Mr. Yagelski's concern, but he also does not look at all things as a cost but sometimes as an investment in the future for the people that he works with.

Mr. Garner made a motion to approve \$33,600.00 as requested and Mr. Ludlow seconded.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Sell if some of the groups mentioned meet at the current location, and are they able to be housed at that location, or do they meet off-site? Mr. Sell replied that there are about four hundred (400) meetings a year. This includes anything from five (5) to six (6) people to eighty (80) people. Mr. Sell responded that there are some things that are done off-site such as Fashion Revue, field days for farmers, demonstration days and Share the Fun. He reported that sixty percent (60%) to seventy percent (70%) of the meetings are held where the Extension Office is located. Mr. Jones asked if there is a new facility, is the vision to have a meeting room to accommodate eighty (80) people or is Mr. Sell trying to also pick up the additional percentage that meet off-site now? Mr. Sell answered that the current meeting room will hold about thirty (30) people and there are a couple of other rooms that can hold about ten (10) people. Mr. Sell commented that if there is another facility, there would still be about thirty percent (30%) of the meetings at other locations because of the nature of the events. Mr. Jones questioned the meetings that include eight (80) people. Mr. Sell stated that sometimes the Community Building at the Fairgrounds is used but it is only available on Monday or Tuesday nights. The facilities at the public library have also been used but there is a problem with parking plus the meeting has to end at 9:00 p.m. and the room cannot be schedule too far in advance. There is also a facility close to Wanatah at the Purdue Research Farm which can house about forty (40) people in their meeting room and one hundred (100) in their shop.

Mr. Cunningham asked how many youngsters are involved in the programs throughout the year. Mr. Sell answered that there are about twelve hundred (1,200) 4-H'ers. Mr. Cunningham then asked how many adults are served by the programs. Mr. Sell answered that there about one hundred fifty (150) Master Gardeners and around one hundred (100) Extension Homemakers. Mr. Sell commented that the Extension Office deals with around eight hundred (800) farmers in the community. Mr. Cunningham asked how many square feet are in the present location. Mr. Sell replied that there are approximately 4,600 square feet including hallways and restrooms. Mr. Cunningham asked how many square feet would there be in the basement of the Complex. Mr. Sell answered that there would be right at 2,600 square feet of office space which is fairly comparable to what they currently have without the meeting rooms, etc.

Mr. Cunningham commented that if the Extension Office was to move the current landlord would have no income coming in. As there is an increase in the amount of rent, Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Sell if he had been back to the landlord regarding the possibility of the Extension Office moving out completely, and to see if he would consider reducing the rent. Mr. Sell responded that he had not but he believes, if the increase in rent is the concern, that his budget could be maneuvered to make up the \$1,200.00.

Mr. Cooley commented that, as far as meeting space is concerned, he has talked to the Sheriff and the new building built at the Fairgrounds could be used. He also stated that he has a hard time justifying renting space when there is space available. Mr. Cooley stated that the Commissioners have talked to the Council about putting the Extension Office downstairs. He stated that this area is nice and is being remodeled.

Mrs. Huston stated that the Commissioners plan to move the Extension Office back into the Complex because they do have the room plus they have gone to the expense of remodeling the bottom floor. She commented that if the Council approves that the Extension Office can stay at their current location, they still have the upgrades that have been made in place. Mrs. Huston doesn't see where \$36,000.00 (\$33,600.00 plus \$240.00 per month for telephone expense) versus \$1,800.00 to move the IHETS line is a great expense.

Mr. Huston reported that the Commissioners are talking with the Troyer Group regarding remodeling the old barn at the County Home. She stated that there will be ample parking and ample room. Refurbishing the barn would also enhance the County Home and the property.

Mrs. Huston commented that she had also talked to the Sheriff regarding using the facility at the Fairgrounds. She stated that video conferencing is a good thing because Mr. Sell and his people do not have to travel to Purdue which is a plus for the County. Mrs. Huston stated that it is her conclusion that the Extension Office might have to be moved twice, but where they are now the rent went up and the location is for sale.

Mr. Sell reported that he asked the landlord, Bob Magnuson, about the length of time the Extension Office could be at the location. Mr. Magnuson commented that he likes having the Extension Office there and he wouldn't push them out. Earlier in the year, Mr. Sell had a letter from a realtor indicating that the facility is for sale and that when the facility sells, the new owner will purchase the property knowing that it is subject to tenants' rights. Mr. Sell doesn't think there is a lease in place with the landlord but an agreement between the Commissioners and the landlord.

Mrs. Huston stated that the Council was assured that rental of this location would only be for six (6) months but it has been three (3) years plus. She stated that when this first took place Solid Waste was going to build a "green building" and share it with the Extension Office but this fell through. Solid Waste doesn't have the money to build this type of building at this time. Mrs. Huston reiterated that the upgrades are in place. If the Council approves the money for rent, the Commissioners can always find something to fill that space. Mrs. Huston stated that they do not want to be standing here again in a year with the same questions. She stated that if the barn or a new building, do not become a priority on the list, then they will be back next year.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the Extension Office is moved to the basement, does this increase the likelihood that we will not move forward on another building? Mrs. Huston responded that an engineering architectural firm has been hired to look over the barn; therefore, the Commissioners are moving forward. She stated that the project would have to go out for bids. Mr. Cunningham commented that it is possible that the Extension Office could be in a permanent location in fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) months. Mrs. Huston replied that she can't say that because the prices haven't come back as the project hasn't been put out to bid yet. She does think it is a good possibility it could occur but it boils down to if the Council will provide the money.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the issue, as Mr. Yagelski brought up, is that there isn't a priority list so it is difficult to make a decision based upon whether everyone is being honest about trying to find a permanent location. Mr. Cunningham commented he has been present at meetings where the Council has been asking over and over for a priority list. Mr. Cunningham feels we are short-changing everybody. He stated that we are talking about everybody who expects meetings to be at a certain location; they will go there and will find out the Extension Office has moved and it would also involve changing all of the business cards and stationery. Mr. Cunningham feels that this is pretty significant inconvenience. He agrees with Mr. Cooley one hundred percent (100%) when given the option of living where you already own or renting; he would prefer not to rent but, for the sake of some convenience, if we are only going to do this for a year, he would prefer we negotiate with the landlord and only make one move.

Mr. Cunningham commented that the only ones who know whether we are serious or not is the Commissioners as they hold the priority list. Mrs. Huston informed Mr. Cunningham that the Commissioners do not have a priority list but are looking into the different options. Mrs. Huston feels that the workshop held before the meeting this evening was an excellent workshop and they should continue. She thinks everyone should bring to the table options, priorities and what can be funded and what cannot and have some type of list. Mrs. Huston stated that she is just trying to save \$36,000.00 at this point and if the Council doesn't feel they want to do that, fine. She reported that last year she had to come before the Council every month and ask for \$2,700.00 in rent money.

Mr. Ludlow asked why, if the barn is the priority, we didn't put out bids for the building Rick (McVay) designed for the apple orchard. Mrs. Huston responded that from what she understands, and she was told this by Mr. Sell, the reason is because they were waiting to see about the 18<sup>th</sup> Street sewer and water project before bids were put out on the new building. Mr. Ludlow commented that the barn should hook to sewer and water, too.

Mr. Yagelski stated that he appreciates Mrs. Huston's honesty on this subject as it has been a tough issue. He plead with his fellow Council Members, and there are two that are new, that the Council has gone through this year after year and month after month. He commented that this isn't the way we should run government.

Mr. Cooley asked for roll call. Mr. Jones asked that the motion be repeated. Mrs. Shuter, "Motion to approve the appropriation of \$33,600.00." Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Cooley:	Nay
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Nay
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Yagelski:	Nay

Motion carried 4 – 3.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/RIVER BOAT/COMMISSIONERS:** Mrs. Huston reported that the Commissioners would like to move the 911 Center to the first floor of the area formerly occupied by the museum. She stated that there is urgency as the current equipment was purchased in 1989. The equipment has not been upgraded and it would be hard to get replacement parts. She commented that at one time there was some water that did leak from a broken pipe into two of the offices but it did not get into the main room. There was some water damage in the phone room.

Mr. Yagelski, agreeing that the workshop held before the meeting was a good one, made a motion to approve \$2,000,000.00 as requested. Mr. Jones seconded.

Mr. Ludlow asked if all work would be bid for construction work, air conditioning work, etc.? Mrs. Huston replied that it would be with the exception of the Motorola work. Mr. Ludlow doesn't like to declare this as an emergency since it makes it sound as though the Council hasn't done their work when no one has come before them for upgrades in equipment. Mr. Ludlow stated that this is the last \$2,000,000.00 he will vote for without a priority list of what is important to the Commissioners.

Mr. Cunningham asked to go on record that he agrees 100% with Mr. Ludlow and he will vote in favor of the \$2,000,000.00 but it will be the last vote in favor of any money for the Commissioners without a priority list.

Mr. Garner agreed with Mr. Ludlow and Mr. Cunningham and stated that he hopes that Mrs. Huston proceeds with everything she has said. Mrs. Huston responded that perhaps she can with the Council's help.

Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter:	Councilman Yagelski:	Aye
	Councilman Mrozinski:	Aye
	Councilman Ludlow:	Aye
	Councilman Jones:	Aye
	Councilman Garner:	Aye
	Councilman Cunningham:	Aye
	Councilman Cooley:	Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Paul Trost, Health Department Administrator, explained that they have to start fresh every year with requests for appropriation from the Bio-Terrorism Grant Fund. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve a total amount of \$55,800.00 as advertised. Mr. Cunningham seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter: Councilman Jones: Aye  
Councilman Garner: Aye  
Councilman Yagelski: Aye  
Councilman Cooley: Aye  
Councilman Cunningham: Aye  
Councilman Ludlow: Aye  
Councilman Mrozinski: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FUND:** Mr. Trost requested appropriation of \$20,000.00 in the Communicable Disease Fund for claims. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve this request as advertised and Mr. Jones seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter: Councilman Cooley Aye  
Councilman Yagelski: Aye  
Councilman Cunningham: Aye  
Councilman Mrozinski: Aye  
Councilman Garner: Aye  
Councilman Jones: Aye  
Councilman Ludlow: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/EXTRADITION FUND/SHERIFF:** Chief Deputy, Jim Sosinski, explained that the claims to be paid are most likely left over from last year. He reported that there is very little money left in the Extradition Fund. Mr. Sosinski commented that the Commissioners do have a line item in their budget for Return of Fugitive but there is no money in that line item. Mr. Cooley asked how these claims were paid before. Mrs. Shuter reported that the \$3,732.54 advertised is the exact balance in the fund. She stated that the Sheriff's Department gets a court order to pick up these prisoners and the Auditor's Office cuts a check and gives it to the Sheriff's Department to do so. Mrs. Shuter stated that the State Board of Accounts has told us that there must be a line item account for claims set up in the Extradition Fund.

Mr. Ludlow asked where the fees come from? Mrs. Shuter explained that they are collected from court cases and they come to the Auditor's Office on a Report of Collections from the Clerk's Office. In the past, the claims have been paid un-appropriated but actually the money should be appropriated by the Council.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve \$3,732.54 as advertised and Mr. Jones seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter: Councilman Ludlow: Aye  
 Councilman Jones: Aye  
 Councilman Cooley: Aye  
 Councilman Yagelski: Aye  
 Councilman Mrozinski: Aye  
 Councilman Cunningham: Aye  
 Councilman Garner: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SUP. CT. NO. 3/ADULT SUPPLEMENTAL USER FEE:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve a total of \$56,000.00 as advertised. Mr. Jones seconded. Roll call was taken.

Mrs. Shuter: Councilman Cunningham: Aye  
 Councilman Garner: Aye  
 Councilman Cooley: Aye  
 Councilman Mrozinski: Aye  
 Councilman Jones: Aye  
 Councilman Ludlow: Aye  
 Councilman Yagelski: Aye

Motion carried 7 – 0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*LIAISON AND STANDING COMMITTEE BOARD APPOINTMENTS:* Mr. Cooley distributed a list containing the following appointments.

- |                          |                     |   |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Terry Garner        | Treasurer, Auditor, Center Twp. Assessor, Coolspring Twp. Assessor, Twp. Trustees, County Agent/Purdue Extension Office   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Earl Cunningham     | Community Corrections, Prosecutor/Welfare Fraud/IV-D, Juvenile Service Center, Public Defender, Circuit/Superior/Juvenile Courts  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Mark Yagelski       | <i>Data Board, Highway/Bridge, Health Department, N.I.C.T.D., G.I.S., Swanson Center Advisory Board, Clerk/Election Board</i>   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> District | Rich Mrozinski, Jr. | <i>Animal Shelter and Advisory Committee, Building Maintenance/Security, Zoning Board, County Home and Advisory Board, Veterans, Park &amp; Recreation, Plan Commission</i> |

At Large	John Jones	E.M.S., Weights and Measures, <i>E-911 Advisory Board</i> , Emergency Planning, Sheriff/Jail/Garage, Emergency Management, <i>Insurance Committee</i>
At Large	Mark Ludlow	Recorder, Michigan Twp. Assessor, Board of Education, Coroner, Children and Family Services/CHINS, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Surveyor
At Large	Jerry Cooley	N.I.R.P.C., Commissioners, Solid Waste Management Board, Drainage Board, Assessor, <i>G.L.E.D.C.</i> , <i>Insurance Committee</i> , Voter Registration

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Cooley commented that he really didn't know what to do regarding the Personnel Committee until it is decided upon what to do regarding the Human Resources Department. Attorney Baugher stated that it could wait until a decision is made. Mrs. Shuter commented that there usually isn't anything handled by the Personnel Committee until February through June so waiting until February should be fine.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Cooley reported that the Insurance Committee appointment would be himself and John Jones as noted on the handout.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Mr. Cooley stated that the following appointments were made as noted on the handout.:

Animal Control Advisory Commission	Rich Mrozinski
E-911 Advisory Board	John Jones
Plan Commission	Rich Mrozinski
(City) Economic Development Commission	Terry Garner
Swanson Center Advisory Board	Mark Yagelski
Juvenile Service Advisory Board	Earl Cunningham
Emergency Medical Service Council	John Jones
GLEDC (Greater LaPorte Economic Development Corp)	Jerry Cooley
County Home Advisory Board	Rich Mrozinski
County Home Community Appointment	Ann Spevak
Data Board	Mark Yagelski

Mr. Cooley commented that he put those appointed as liaison on the corresponding standing committees.

**HUMAN RESOURCES ORDINANCE:** Attorney Baugher stated that the Council traditionally has three (3) readings on an ordinance. He stated that in his opinion the ordinance doesn't say what Mr. Cooley believes the agreement is. Attorney Baugher reported that the agreement is that the individual will be under the control of the Commissioners and the Council with the ideas being that this person would have a more stable environment. Attorney Baugher has talked to Mr. Szilagyi about it and he has agreed that the ordinance is more than a little fuzzy around the edges. It is Attorney Baugher's recommendation that the Council pass this ordinance on the second reading and then let he and Mr. Szilagyi look at it. Attorney Baugher

also reported that he had talked to Kent Irwin of Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and he agrees that it needs cleaned up. The attorneys will come back with recommendations next month.

Mr. Cooley commented that a lot of counties are in the process of doing what we are and in some counties the Commissioners are set up with all control and in some areas the Council has all control. He stated that they thought it would be best if both Boards would have control and the idea is that the bodies of the Council and Commissioners would agree to hire and fire so this individual would be protected. Mr. Cooley stated that it might end up that the County would have a contract with this individual.

Mrs. Shuter read the ordinance by title only, "Ordinance 2007-01, Ordinance to Establish a Human Resources Department and Human Resources Review Board."

Mr. Ludlow stated that he has supplied all Council Members and legal counsel with some amendments he would like to see added into the language. Attorney Baugher commented that the ordinance could be drafted with and without the amendments for the Council's consideration. Mr. Cooley stated that once the attorneys meet, this should clear up a lot of the language.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL:** Mr. Cunningham reported that he and Mr. Mrozinski were fortunate to attend the newly-elected County Council Members conference in Indianapolis this past Friday and Saturday which was very productive. He thanked the County for allowing them to attend.

Mr. Garner commented that he was disappointed with the way things played out at the January Reorganization Meeting. He stated that there were a lot of Board Appointments laid out in front of the Council and he knows for a fact that one member of the Zoning and Plan Commission did request that he be put back on, which he was the President of, but the Council was informed that he hadn't expressed an interest. Mr. Garner is truly disappointed that this happened.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he agrees with Mr. Garner and he would volunteer to serve with anyone else on the Council to draft some rules so that there are candidates for these Boards in advance which will give the Council Members an opportunity to review the applications of those who are seeking a position. Now that people have shown some interest, Mr. Cunningham recommended getting these applications three weeks ahead of time in order to break them down into who is available for what positions. He also proposed that there be more uniformity in the application process.

Mrs. Shuter stated that she has discussed this with a few of the Council Members. She commented that this was the first year we had "advertised" for any of these and it was a last minute request. She suggested putting a deadline on submission of the applications next year and to make sure everything is directed to come through the Auditor's Office in order to disperse copies. Mrs. Shuter reported that the Auditor's Office was receiving applications up to 3:45 p.m. the afternoon of the meeting.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to have all letters of application for any Boards that are open available to the Council at their December meeting and that this information be assembled into

a packet so that the Council will know who is eligible for what position. All letters should be sent to the Auditor's Office. Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

Mr. Yagelski addressed pay for part-time employees. He commented that he made a motion at budget hearings for \$10.00 per hour but some of the employees have come to him and said that they are not making \$10.00 but are making \$9.90 per hour. Mrs. Shuter responded that Mr. Yagelski's motion for full-time/part-time was a 1.5% increase which affected the employees at the Museum, the switchboard and some of the maintenance people. Mrs. Shuter stated that these are employees who have regularly scheduled hours every week but they are part-time people. Mr. Yagelski commented that his motion for regularly scheduled part-time people was that they should receive \$10.00 per hour. He stated that the last time they got a raise, they got the full amount even though that was the same motion that was made the year prior to that. He commented that this was his intent and that's the way it was the year prior too.

Mr. Yagelski asked if the Commissioners have worked out overtime pay as far as PTO is concerned. He saw in the paper that there was going to be a modified PTO day. Mr. Yagelski asked if this will cost as much money as before or where are we with this? Are we back to sick days? Mr. Hager commented that the attorneys are looking at this. Mr. Yagelski stated that this was promised three months ago and he asked Mr. Hager to look into this matter.

Mr. Yagelski commented that there was a motion two years ago for a letter against the transfer station at the present location. Mr. Yagelski made a motion, since there are two new members on the Board, that the Council Attorney draft a letter, to be signed by the Council President, stating that the Council opposes the transfer station on County Line Road at that location. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote. Mr. Yagelski stated that the letter should be addressed to "Whom It May Concern" and it will be kept with Attorney Szilagyi as he is actually handling the case for the County.

Mr. Cunningham commented that he and Mr. Mrozinski heard a memorable quote from a lawyer at their conference he would like to share with Mr. Hager, since he is the only Commissioner left in attendance, and since it came up in Mr. Yagelski's discussion. The quote was that "comp time is the crack cocaine of county government."

Mr. Jones asked if it could be explained to the two new Council Members what full-time/part-time, occasional part-time, sometimes part-time and maybe part-time means. Mrs. Shuter will provide this information. She stated that the motion was made for all part-time employees to earn a maximum of \$10.00 per hour but the motion for full-time/part-time was a one and a half percent increase. Mrs. Shuter commented that she doesn't have a problem regarding \$10.00 but that is the Council decision to make.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

