

**LAPORTE COUNTY
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2007**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 26th day of March, 2007, in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Government Complex. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Jerry Cooley.

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. President Cooley asked that roll call be taken:

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

Councilman Cunningham was absent. Mrs. Shuter stated, "You have a quorum, sir."

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mr. Yagelski made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 6 – 0.

MINUTES: Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2007, and the Workshop held on February 20, 2007. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote 6 – 0.

LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Yagelski reported that recently he and other representatives of NICTD were in Washington D.C. He commented that there was money appropriated by Congressman Visclosky for Lake and Porter counties and NICTD is trying to get some more appropriation of monies for the railroad relocation.

Mr. Yagelski stated that he and Mr. Garner have been working on "rules for roads" since there are about twenty-five (25) miles of road damaged in the County because of the frost and heavy truckload traffic. He commented that it will have to be decided if the Sheriff will have portable scales and those types of things to implement. Also discussed was bidding out the process for waste removal because there is an excessive amount of wear and tear on the roads. Some roads are completely deteriorated and have less than an inch of blacktop. Mr. Yagelski would hope that the Commissioners will have another workshop to discuss this huge project.

Mr. Garner attended the Purdue Extension and Farm Bureau dinner and discussed with Mr. Sell the education program presented to 4th graders pertaining to rural life and what farmers do along with introducing 4-H.

Mr. Garner also met with Mike Schultz, Center Township Assessor, who has streamlined his office.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that the I.D. printer is still out of operation and has been sent back to the manufacturer for repairs. He stated that in the meantime, there are still Sheriff's deputies who do not have I.D. cards. If this printer cannot be repaired in the near future, we will have to look into getting a new printer.

Mr. Mrozinski also commented that the County Home will be addressing the Council later and requesting money for repair of a bathroom and stairway from the Ruth Rohrabough Memorial Fund.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that the County Home hauls a lot of things and they had requested a pickup truck since they have to take the seats out of their van in order to haul anything. He reported that this request was taken to the Commissioners and the Commissioners decided to give the County Home another van.

Mr. Mrozinski commented that he had received three (3) quotes on John Deere tractors to clean up snow close to the County Home building and to also add a mower since a tremendous amount of grass is cut. He reported that at the Commissioners' meeting, the Commissioners walked into the meeting and handed a piece of paper out that stated there would be a Kubota purchased instead. Mr. Mrozinski stated that the County Home really doesn't need a Kubota and they can do without the John Deere; they really need a pickup truck.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that the Animal Shelter had a horrendous weekend a couple of weeks ago as they took in over one hundred (100) animals including some horses. There are still two (2) horses to adopt. This unusually large influx of animals has depleted a lot of the funds and food faster than normal. Additional funding may be needed in the future. Mr. Mrozinski stated that the Animal Shelter has also requested a pickup truck. They are the fourth owner of the van they are currently using and it has approximately 250,000 miles on it and has been deemed unsafe to be on the road.

Mr. Mrozinski commented that the Veterans Service Office has planned a medal ceremony for April 14th at 11:00 a.m. He reminded veterans that haven't signed up for the Medal of Appreciation from the County to do so before April 12th. Mr. Mrozinski stated that John Wantuch, Veterans Service Officer, has a fourteen (14) years old uniform which is in pretty bad shape. Mr. Wantuch has gotten quotes for a new uniform. Mr. Mrozinski reported that the Commissioners told Mr. Wantuch they would buy a new uniform so he won't need to come before the Council.

Mr. Cooley stated that there was a workshop today involving the Council, Commissioners and Solid Waste. Discussed was the Solid Waste shortfall along with CEDIT dollars. It was recommended that the Solid Waste Board look at short-term and long-term planning.

Mr. Cooley commented that there was another workshop involving the Commissioners and the Council. The Recorder's Office has been, over the years, turned into a paperless office. Mr. Cooley stated that the Real Estate Office was also visited and the IKON program is on track to help out realtors and also the Council. Next to be streamlined through this program is the Planning Office and the Health Department. Mr. Cooley stated that the County is on the path of computerizing and making everything as paperless as possible. He commented that this is something to be proud of.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Mr. Cooley stated that John Jones has volunteered to chair the Personnel Committee. Teresa Shuter and Bill Hager will also sit on this Committee. Mr. Cooley reported that usually the Planner was on the Committee but the Planner no longer does any of the HR business so Monique Gillard will sit on this Committee along with Mr. Cooley.

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS: There were no reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Metheny, resident of 6757 W 450 N, Michigan City, and Coolspring Township Trustee, addressed the Council regarding Bart Lombard and ALCO. Mr. Metheny reported that the City of Michigan City pays Bart Lombard and ALCO a certain fee. It was noted that on Channel 99 it is stated that only Michigan City residents can tape at the ALCO studio. Mr. Metheny stated that the County pays ALCO also but County residents cannot tape in the studio which he feels is wrong especially when he noticed in the newspaper that ALCO will be paid \$30,000.00 in addition to the \$15,000.00 paid per quarter, which was just increased last year, amounting to \$60,000.00 annually by the County. Mr. Metheny stated that there is a lot of airtime that isn't used at ALCO and it is a waste. Mr. Metheny commented that if Mr. Lombard doesn't want the residents to use the studio, the Council should slam the gavel and say "denied" to the request for money. Mr. Metheny stated that he has also been to the Commissioners.

Mr. Metheny also wanted to know why we can't get away from CEDIT money and let people keep the amount in their paychecks to give a little tax break. He commented that it seems that if the County has money, they have a tendency to want to spend it. He remembers that CEDIT was put in before the Riverboat because we had to fix all of the terrible roads. Now we have CEDIT money and Riverboat money and we still have terrible roads. Mr. Metheny stated that he would appreciate the Council looking into this.

Mr. Metheny had one other question in regards to the Solid Waste District. He thinks it helps to tear up the roads when there is not only trash collected but, on another day, another truck comes through and picks up the recyclables. He asked why this can't be done with one vehicle or once a month especially in the winter with the roads the way they are and also as a way to save money. Mr. Metheny believes that the Council will need to fund the money pretty soon for the Solid Waste District as they can't seem to handle their money.

Mr. Jones commented that if they multiplied the amount of times that there was pickup from every two weeks to once a month, wouldn't that equate to twice as many trucks? Mr. Metheny responded that he didn't know the answer to that. Mr. Metheny asked if anyone had gone down a County road to see how many people recycle? He commented that there aren't that many and he suggested that the Council take a trip to check.

Mr. Yagleski stated that he, as liaison to the Highway Department, has traveled the roads with Bob Young and the crews. Mr. Yagelski stated that we had excellent roads prior to this winter, 100% improved over what we had before, but the quick freeze and thaw process this year has caused considerable damage and we aren't the only County affected.

TRANSFER/CENTER TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR: Mike Schultz, Center Township Assessor, had requested a transfer of \$1,200.00 in his budget from 100-30013-000-128, Fax Machine, to 100-41003-000-128, Office Machines. Mr. Schultz explained that his predecessor originally wanted to add a new phone line in the office but since there were two direct lines already, one was converted to a smart fax line, since there would be no cost to the County, and a fax

machine was purchased. Mr. Schultz reported that he also needs a computer monitor which will be purchased through the Data Department. Mr. Schultz reported that he only needs \$900.00 transferred as he would like to keep \$300.00 in the account since he may need to do an inter-office transfer by the end of the year. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the transfer of \$900.00 and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion to approve carried 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/PARKS & RECREATION/GENERAL FUND: Mrs. Shuter presented information regarding the request for \$611.00 in the Parks and Recreation Budget for the Secretary/Admin Asst/Office Manager line item due to a longevity increase. Mr. Yagleski made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Jones seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/ALCOHOL & DRUG SERVICE FUND: Mr. Shuter stated that this request for \$4,755.00 in the Alcohol & Drug Service Fund, Secretary/Admin Asst/ Office Manager, due to an upgrade, was addressed at the Council meeting last month. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the amount as requested and Mr. Garner seconded. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion for approval carried 5 – 1.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COUNTY HOME/CCD FUND: Kay Felton, County Home Administrator, was present to request another vehicle. She stated that two (2) vehicles are really needed since there are a lot of times they need to run both at one time. She reported that the 1993 Astro Van is in dire need of repair as the muffler, transmission and brakes are “shot” and it isn’t safe for anyone to go anyplace in. This is the vehicle they would like to get rid of. They also have a 2003 Astro Van but it doesn’t have running boards on it which makes it hard for the residents to get in and out of it. Therefore, they would like to get a van lower to the ground that would also get better gas mileage.

The second item asked for is a tractor. Ms. Felton stated that there has been considerable discussion regarding this request and they will take whatever the Council decides upon. Mr. Yagelski asked if the vans were hand-me-downs? Ms. Felton responded that they are not as they were purchased new. Mr. Garner asked that Ms. Felton explain the directive of the Commissioners. Ms. Felton explained that originally the County Home asked for a truck, a

plow and, perhaps, a tractor not expecting to get all three. She stated that it was the decision of the Commissioners to deny the truck and it was their decision to give the County Home the van along with their decision regarding the Kubota tractor.

Mr. Garner asked if the County Home has a working Advisory Board and have they met? Ms. Felton stated that the Advisory Board had met and everyone thought it would be a good idea to have a truck, especially with the snowplow, as there are a lot of problems with snow removal in the winter. She commented that the County Highway does the best job they can for the County Home but there are a lot of areas they can't get to. It takes her guys quite a long time with a snow blower to clear everything. Mr. Garner asked if the basic use of this truck was being looked at in more than one way? Ms. Felton replied that the truck could also be used to haul wood, there are four (4) trees that need to be cut down now, and one of her goals is to start cleaning up around the barns. Mr. Garner commented that Ms. Felton, as the Department Head, is recommending a truck. Ms. Felton stated that they would like to have it but the Commissioners did deny it and whatever the Council wants to do is fine.

Mr. Yagelski commented that it sounds like the County Home will take whatever is behind Door #1 or Door #2 but what is specifically needed right now? Ms. Felton responded that it would be the van. Mr. Cooley asked if the tractor was needed? Ms. Felton replied that they would take the tractor, too, but they actually will take anything the Council will give them. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$15,424.00 for the purchase of the van and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Mr. Ludlow asked if the other van was being traded in? Ms. Felton responded that it will be even though it won't be much of a trade-in.

Mr. Cooley asked what the difference in the price is between the John Deere and the Kubota? Mr. Mrozinski responded that it is \$3,000.00 and the Kubota doesn't include the mower deck which he thought was part of the deal since there are about ten (10) acres of grass to cut and the County Home cuts grass at the Animal Shelter also. Four (4) to four and a half (4 ½) days a week to cut grass and trim by hand are spent which could be cut down considerably. Mr. Mrozinski stated that when this matter was brought up at the Advisory Board Meeting, Mr. Hager commented that the Commissioners are looking at contracting out all of the grass cutting. He commented that he doesn't understand where the Commissioners are coming from regarding the Kubota as it will sit idle most of the year. Mr. Mrozinski stated that a van is definitely needed.

Mr. Jones asked if the County Home has a mower now? Ms. Felton replied that they have a Dixie Chopper. Mr. Jones then asked if there is more than one staff member to mow grass at one time? Ms. Felton responded that they have one to mow with the Dixie Chopper and one to push mow. Mr. Jones asked if the County Home had a tractor and the Dixie Chopper, would both be utilized? Ms. Felton responded that they would. Mr. Cooley commented that when he talked to maintenance at the County Home, they thought they could use the tractor for picking up limbs, etc. since it has a bucket on the front.

Mr. Yagelski commented that there are a lot of departments, like the Highway Department, that would have a truck available but no one bothers calling to ask if they can use the truck for the day. Mr. Yagelski doesn't understand why everyone needs their own personal equipment when all they need to do is call another department to schedule using their equipment.

Roll call was taken regarding appropriation of \$15,424.00 for a van from the CCD Fund.

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

Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to table the request for a tractor in the amount of \$15,548.00 until the next meeting and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SUP. CT. NO. 2/CCD FUND: Judge Steven King, Superior Court No. 2, and Darlene Hale, IT Director, addressed the Council regarding a request of \$31,584.00 for recording equipment, which all of the other courts and the magistrates in the County already have, along with upgrading the sound system and the purchase of computers. Judge King also introduced his Court Reporter, Laura Depyssler, and Court Administrator, Janet Gilpin, who were present to answer any questions. Judge King reported that one of the differences between his Court and the other Courts is that his Court doesn't have User Fee Funds available to use. Judge King's caseload involves crimes committed in the Department of Corrections facilities.

The computers currently in use were cast off from Superior Court No. 4. Ms. Hale commented that she did take this request before the Data Board for approval and they agreed that this request should come before the Council. She reported that the printer in use by Judge King's staff is on loan from the Clerk's Department.

Mr. Yagleski made a motion to approve \$31,584.00 from the CCD Fund as advertised and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Garner asked if this would be something the Prosecutor, Rob Beckman, could assist in paying? Mr. Ludlow stated that the money could be appropriated and then Mr. Beckman could be approached. Judge King commented that, as a personal matter, he wouldn't want to approach Mr. Beckman since he just had a case filed regarding Pahs Road and a zoning issue in Michigan City. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion to approve carried 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/ANIMAL SHELTER/CCD FUND: Jane Bernard, Animal Shelter Director, reported that up until two and one-half (2 ½) years ago they were responding to calls in their personal vehicles. Mrs. Bernard had called the Commissioners and asked if the Animal Shelter could get permission to use on a certain day, or borrow, one of the vehicles that was at the County Highway. She reported that this is how the Animal Shelter

acquired the van that has been transferred from EMS to 911 and then to the Animal Shelter. This van now has over 95,000 miles on it and Mr. Parks, Sheriff's Garage, feels that it isn't worth spending any more money on this vehicle. She reported that the other vehicle they have is a pickup truck without 4-wheel drive and it has 85,000 miles on it. Mrs. Bernard stated that they would like to add another pickup truck that does have 4-wheel drive.

Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to approve \$21,333.00 as advertised in the CCD Fund and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Cooley commented that he had looked at the van and it is in bad shape. Roll call was taken.

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| Mrs. Shuter: | Councilman Yagelski: | Aye |
| | Councilman Cooley: | Aye |
| | Councilman Garner: | Aye |
| | Councilman Mrozinski: | Aye |
| | Councilman Cooley: | Aye |
| | Councilman Garner: | Aye |

Motion to approve carried 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/JUVENILE SERVICES/CCD FUND:

Circuit Court Judge, Thomas Alevizos, and Scott Barlag, Juvenile Services Deputy Director, were in attendance regarding this request. Judge Alevizos explained that Juvenile Services, by ordinance in 1995, was put into the privy of the Circuit Court and a Juvenile Services Advisory Board was created. The Board hasn't functioned for several years, which Judge Alevizos plans to rectify. Judge Alevizos stated that, unlike adults, the County has to pay for juveniles sent to DOC and for juveniles sent to other institutions. That amount historically was very high and was trimmed back by the previous judge and has been budgeted at approximately \$900,000.00 per year. He commented that he will try to work with that figure but he may need to come back before the Council for additional funds since it was necessary to pay for some of last year's expenses from this year's budget.

Judge Alevizos reported that the other issue involves the Juvenile Services Center. About two weeks ago he put out a memo curtailing the duties of the person functioning as the Director. Most of the functions will be carried out in the interim by the persons who have been doing them the past couple of years, Scott Barlag on the secure side and Carol Lee on the residential side. This isn't exactly what Judge Alevizos wants, but it has to happen. Judge Alevizos reported that once this was done, one of the bookkeepers came to him and indicated that there were a couple of things that needed attention. One of those involved the money appropriated for a teacher at the Day Reporting Center, an expulsion alternative used by the school system in this County which he feels is a good program. This program was to be funded through grant monies but the problem is, through the course of the last three years, those grant monies have been curtailed. The amount appropriated for this year is \$35,000.00 but we are only to receive \$21,000.00 in grant money. Judge Alevizos is still looking into some of the details but come budget time, he will look at restructuring how the program is run.

Judge Alevizos commented that he already has a reputation with his staff for being a cheap-skate. Having said that, Judge Alevizos stated that they really need the vans and Mr. Barlag has done a good job getting good trade-in values.

Mr. Cooley asked about the position Judge Alevizos referred to since a Director is being paid to take care of Juvenile Services and Community Corrections. Mr. Cooley asked if there needed to be an adjustment to the pay? Judge Alevizos responded that this is a very complex issue and there isn't time enough to discuss this issue now. Mr. Cooley commented that this matter should be evaluated and addressed during the budget hearings. Judge Alevizos stated that he would like to get the alternatives before the Council to let them make the decision even though the ordinance allows the Judge to make the decision.

Mr. Barlag is requesting to trade in two (2) vehicles in order to purchase two (2) vehicles. He sought out prices from all four (4) LaPorte County dealers. The recommendation is to purchase the vehicles from LaPorte Chrysler Plymouth who submitted the low bid. Mr. Barlag reported that Bob Parks, Sheriff's Garage, also thinks we would be throwing good money into bad vans to repair them plus there is also a safety issue in transporting juveniles.

Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$25,960.00 and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion carried favorably 5 – 1.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/RUTH ROHRABAUGH FUND: Ms. Felton asked that \$3,220.09 be appropriated in order to remodel two bathrooms at the County Home and \$22,226.00 in order to replace the wooden stairways since they aren't up to code. She is just asking for materials since her employees can do the work. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve both requests and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TREASURER/WIN TAX: Ken Layton, Treasurer, reported that the copier he has still functions and will continue to function for an indefinite period of time but the problem is with the service. The copier is a hand-me-down from the Highway Department. \$719.00 was paid last year for extra copies, as there is a charge of \$.013 for anything over 25,000 copies, plus payment for toner, etc. Mr. Layton stated that last year almost \$1,350.00 was paid over and above the maintenance contract cost of \$360.00. The average number of copies generated per year is 75,000 to 80,000.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$4,718.91 in the Win Tax Fund as advertised and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Ludlow asked what would be done with the old machine. Mr. Layton responded that the old machine would be traded in for the amount of \$3,588.09. Mr. Yagelski asked about getting charged for the extra copies even though we own the machine. Mr. Layton responded that there is a maintenance contract but we still have to pay extra for anything over 25,000 copies plus paying for toner, etc. Roll call was taken.

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| Mrs. Shuter: | Councilman Cooley: | Aye |
| | Councilman Yagelski: | Aye |
| | Councilman Mrozinski: | Aye |

Councilman Garner: Aye
Councilman Jones: Aye
Councilman Ludlow: Aye

Motion carried favorably 6 – 0.

Mr. Layton referred the Council to the 1st Quarter investment report. To date \$1,355,749.13 has been made from investments. He stated that if things hold the way they are, they expect to top the \$5,000,000.00 figure this year. 5.35% is the average on the investments so far this year with 5.33% being the low and 5.48% being the high.

Mr. Yagelski asked about the total amount of interest projected on the Major Moves money. Mr. Layton responded that somewhere between 1.2 and 1.6 million was projected when it was first discussed and he feels that these figures will hold; it will most likely come in at about 1.6 million.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SWCD/WIN TAX FUND: Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$4,857.00 for rental of office space for the Soil & Water Conservation District and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Cooley asked if this amount would be the yearly cost. Roger Eggert, Chairman of the SWCD Board, replied that this amount is the cost for this year but the cost goes up next year to \$9,714.00. He explained that the first year is a low level to get everyone accustomed to the idea that they have to start paying rent. Mr. Cooley commented that the federal budget was cut and this is another unfunded mandate to the counties. Mr. Eggert stated that it is the hope of the Board to work with the Council on a permanent solution. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion failed due to a 3-3 tie.

Attorney Baugher asked if anyone wanted to move for reconsideration? Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$4,855.00 and Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Yagleksi stated that his vote is on the rent issue and he challenged the Commissioners to find a location. Mr. Cooley commented that this isn't something that came down yesterday but has been talked about for several months and no one wants to address it. Mr. Cooley stated that the County has a big space sitting empty on 8th Street in Michigan City and we're renting space. This is why he voted against the last one and is voting against this one. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion failed again due to a 3-3 tie.

Mr. Eggert responded that the reason for wanting to stay where they are is because they do conservation projects regarding the farm bill. Also, the reason they want to stay together, at least for the interim until a permanent solution is found, is because the SWCD wouldn't have access to the federal database which would leave the County in limbo. Mr. Eggert commented that there are hundreds of thousands of federal money that gets put into the County but they need a place to work from.

Mr. Cooley instructed SWCD to go back to the Commissioners.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COUNTY OPTION DOG TAX: Mrs. Shuter explained that the County Option Dog Tax Fund was created in July last year. There is currently an outstanding bill in the amount of \$800.00 for dog tags and we also have approximately \$150.00 in claims for ducks and chickens. Mr. Yagelski made a motion to approve appropriation of \$1,465.00 as advertised and Mr. Garner seconded. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion carried favorably 6 – 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CLERK'S RECORD PERPETUATION: Mrs. Shuter reported that there is approximately \$109,000.00 in the Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund and Mr. Behler is asking for \$3,000.00 to be appropriated, if the Council wants to go ahead with this appropriation without Mr. Behler in attendance. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion carried favorably 5 – 1.

HUMAN RESOURCES ORDINANCE: Mr. Yagleski made a motion to take this matter off of the table and Mr. Garner seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Attorney Baugher commented that a viable Human Resources Department in an organization of this size is critical and is the only way to interject professional rules and, frankly, keep the County out of trouble on what has become, over the last couple of decades, a phenomenal amount of government intervention in employee relations. He stated that there have been some problems between the Council and the Commissioners, not personal difficulties, but in trying to iron out how we keep that position professional and free of politics. There are several versions of an

ordinance passing around which could perhaps go on for several years and accomplish little or nothing. Attorney Baugher stated that a meeting between representatives of the Council and the Commissioners could be held and, in about an hour, we would know if we had an understanding. An ordinance could then be drafted and be recommended to both bodies that this is what has been agreed to with the primary goal making sure that this position remains politically neutral and professional.

Mr. Jones asked if the ordinance would include a recruitment/screening process or would this be a separate procedure that would be agreed upon? Attorney Baugher replied that the goal would be to have a mechanism whereby the Commissioners and the Council agreed how the individual is hired, what the standards are and how discipline is implemented.

Mr. Yagelski commented that there are questions that have been asked. He stated that it is his understanding that all of a sudden they are looking at a secretary and loading up a department before we even get there. He stated that we have an HR person and it hasn't been decided what to do with that person or the money that has been appropriated. Mr. Yagelski commented that he doesn't feel we are even close to an agreement.

Attorney Baugher responded that it is his opinion that something be put together that is binding that is a joint decision by both bodies. This is done by a joint ordinance. Mr. Yagelski stated that this was the original agreement. Attorney Baugher commented that as he read the document he was handed, he didn't find this in the document. Mr. Yagelski stated that the agreement has already been reneged on. Mr. Cooley commented that this is really why it hasn't moved because in the original meeting it was decided that this would be a joint effort but when the document came out, it wasn't written that way.

Mr. Cooley thanked Attorney Baugher for suggesting a meeting. Mr. Cooley stated that there have been some other recommendations by Kent Irwin of Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele, where the Boards hire and fire the person if they don't do their job and they have duties like any other department.

Mr. Mrozinski mentioned that just to get to a starting point there were to be two Council Members and one Commissioner. At the workshop last month, he predicted that there would be nothing done and we are sitting right where he predicted. Right now we are "spinning our wheels."

Attorney Baugher commented that the options being considered are that there will be a meeting between now and the next meeting and he and Mr. Cooley will be able to report back one of two things; they believe an agreement has been reached or they believe no agreement can be reached.

Mr. Jones made a motion to table this matter and Mr. Garner seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 6 – 0.

PROCLAMATION OF DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH: Mr. Yagelski made a motion to proclaim March as Disability Awareness Month and to have President Cooley sign the proclamation. Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0 by voice vote.

COMMENT TO NEWS REPORTERS: Mr. Yagelski commented that it has been put in the newspapers that the Commissioners approve the money to be spent. He stated that the courtesy is given to go before the Commissioners first. Mr. Yagelski stated that the articles sound factual that the money has been approved by the Commissioners and that is the way the money is being spent but the Council actually approves the money.

PRESENTATION BY HERCEG & ASSOCIATES: Tim Wall, Herceg & Associates, presented a slide show showing the progress of the exterior, foundation, tower, stained glass and skylight restoration. The clock numbers were repainted and the maintenance catwalk was replaced. Mr. Wall stated that they truly restored a gem.

Mr. Garner asked how long the project will last? Mr. Wall responded that he can't project how long it will last but it will be for a considerable length of time. Mr. Cooley asked how often should a building like the Courthouse be looked at? Mr. Wall commented "more often than it was." Mr. Wall stated that the last time it was re-pointed was probably in the 50's. He stated that it will need re-pointed in less than fifty (50) years and it should be looked at once a decade.

Mr. Jones asked for an electronic copy of the presentation to be sent to the Council for historic value. Mr. Wall commented that all of the pictures taken would be delivered to Al Ott, Stationary Engineer.

Mr. Jones asked about the start and finish date. Mr. Wall responded that the project was right on schedule. The project started in February and everything, except the lawn, was completed before Christmas.

PURCHASE OF FAX MACHINES AND COPIERS:

Mr. Yagelski commented that at one time consolidating the purchase of fax and copy machines had been discussed with IKON. Mr. Yagelski would like a letter sent to the Commissioners before the budget hearings to see if something can't be done regarding the purchase of fax machines and copy machines. He stated that we need to get something going so that there is one system which will be more cost effective. Therefore, he made a motion to send a letter to the Commissioners before the budget hearings regarding this matter. Mr. Garner seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

Mrs. Shuter has talked to Dan Zabrecky, IKON, regarding the presentation on fax machines and copiers. She stated that they did this on the tail-end of the presentation to come into the Auditor's Office and streamline it. There is a meeting with IKON regarding the Plan Commission, the Health Department and EMS on Friday morning and this matter can be discussed at that time. A letter will be put together for Mr. Cooley to sign.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL: Mr. Mrozinski commented on what had happened tonight regarding Soil & Water. He stated that the Council has hashed this out before and approved rent for the Extension Office. Mr. Mrozinski does not believe in rent but he will stand firm that the basement of the Courthouse is not a place for 4-H kids. He stated that he, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner contacted a realtor about the commercial buildings for sale in this area. They looked at a few and when they talked to the Commissioners about it, they said they weren't in the business of buying buildings. Mr. Mrozinski stated that a solution needs to be arrived at sooner or later. He stated that he doesn't think it is a good idea to spend \$1.5 million on a building at the Fairgrounds as it is a lot of money. It would serve our purposes but

he thinks we can come up with something better price-wise. He also doesn't know if redoing the barn at the County Home is feasible.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the Council has negotiated rent on a month-to-month basis. Just like the HR person, this has to be led by the Commissioners whether the Council likes it or not. He commented that \$130,000.00 has already been spent on rent. Mr. Yagelski stated that the Commissioners' hands need to be held under the coals of the fire and if the Extension Office would have moved over here, there would have been something done.

Mr. Garner commented that the Council and Commissioners need to work together. The Council is elected just as the Commissioners are.

Mr. Cooley stated that this is the reason he voted against the rent, even though he believes in the kids, because he feels we will be right here in the same place again with the same choices and he will vote against it the next time, too.

Mr. Mrozinski commented that he is not a quitter and he has the idea that a place will be found that is suitable for 4-H. He will keep looking and taking what he finds back to the Commissioners and trying to get some cooperation. Mr. Mrozinski feels that the Extension Office needs to spearhead this effort.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and Mr. Yagelski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.