

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET ADOPTION  
September 17, 2007**

The La Porte County Council met on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007, in the assembly room of the La Porte County Government Complex for adoption of the 2008 budgets. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Cooley.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Mrozinski led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

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

Councilman Mark Yagelski was absent.

**UTILITY INSPECTOR:** Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$21,424.00 for the Utility Inspector under the Highway Budget and paid through the purchase order process. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried 6 – 0 by voice vote.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:** Mr. Jones made a motion to approve this full-time position in Category 3 for Elected Officials/Department Heads at a salary of \$47,071.00 for 2008. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion failed on a 3 – 3 vote with Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Ludlow voting, “Nay.”

Mr. Jones asked the three (3) “Nays” to make a recommendation since a full-time position has already been approved. After further consideration, Mr. Ludlow made a motion that the full-time Emergency Management Director be placed in Category 3 at the rate of \$47,071.00. The motion carried 4 – 2 with Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voting, “Nay.”

**COUNTY PLANNER:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion not to cut the County Planners salary as previously discussed and to give this position the same 3% raise as other employees. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The vote carried 4 – 1 with Mr. Jones voting, “Nay” and Mr. Garner abstaining.

**ASSESSOR/REASSESSMENT:** Mrs. Shuter clarified for the Council that Judy Anderson and Bethany Stemmler are entitled to Level II bonuses of \$500.00 each and Assessor Carol McDaniel is entitled to \$1,000.00 for her Level II. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$2,000.00 in the Assessor’s Budget, Extra Hire, and Mr. Garner seconded.

Mr. Cunningham asked about those employees who will receive Level II’s in the next few months. Mrs. Shuter explained that typically these are brought back to the Council for additional appropriation.

There was discussion concerning \$19,000.00 requested in the Reassessment Budget for the PTABOA Board. Mrs. Shuter stated that the PTABOA Board members usually receive \$1,000.00 for a Level I certification and \$2,000.00 for a Level II certification.

Mr. Ludlow withdrew his motion until it can be determined if more appeal hearings are expected, etc. Mr. Jones stated that the amounts in Extra Hire and the PTABOA line items could be left the same with the stipulation that these line items can't be transferred. Mr. Ludlow commented that the department could always come back for an additional appropriation if needed.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$19,000.00 as requested for the PTABOA Board. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Garner made a motion to approve \$8,000.00 for the PTABOA Board and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 1 with Mr. Jones voting, "Nay."

Mr. Cooley asked about the legal fees in the Reassessment Budget. Mrs. Shuter stated that the Legal Fees were changed from \$85,000.00 requested to \$12,000.00 at a prior meeting.

**SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$8,400.00 for the Law Clerk and Mr. Garner seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 1 with Mr. Cooley voting, "Nay."

**MUSEUM CURATOR:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the Museum Curator position as full-time and at the same level, Category 4, as the Veteran's Service Officer. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

**HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR:** There was discussion if this position should be in the Commissioners' Budget or a separate budget. Mr. Cunningham commented that he prefers a separate budget since the Commissioners and the Council are working together and this employee will answer to both the Commissioners and the Council.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to amend the 100 account to \$65,000.00 for salary and to approve \$10,000.00 in the 200 account, Office Supplies, in a separate budget for the Human Resource Department. Mr. Garner and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

**SALARY ORDINANCE:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to read the Salary Ordinance by title only. Mr. Ludlow then made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance 2007-09 for calendar year 2008 as amended and Mr. Cunningham seconded. There were no public comments. The motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

**APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES:** Mr. Ludlow asked that this Ordinance be read by title only. Mr. Ludlow then made a motion to approve this ordinance and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. There was no public comment. The motion carried by voice vote 6 – 0.

Budget Hearing September 17, 2007

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. and Mr. Garner seconded. The motion carried 6 – 0 by voice vote.