

**LAPORTE COUNTY  
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 19, 2008**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008, at the Michigan City City Hall Office, lower level, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., in the City of Michigan City, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Mark Yagelski.

**ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Cunningham led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call followed.

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

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. Cunningham seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING/LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN:** Judy Hamilton, Director of the LaPorte County Public Library, stated that they are seeking the favor of the Council regarding the Library Capital Projects Fund which has been the same proposal for seven (7) years and was first authorized in 2001. This is a three-year plan with approval given one year at a time; the tax levy requested is \$225,000.00 all of which is spent on computers, software and hardware for the library and the patrons who use the library. Ms. Hamilton reported that the library is an award-winning library as they were named Library of the Year in 2006 and Outstanding Collaborative Partner in 2007 by the State of Indiana. They hope to continue to provide excellent service into the future with the Council's help.

Ms. Hamilton commented that in the past, the Library hasn't brought their operating funds to the Council for approval but in 2008 for 2009, they will be coming to the Council during Budget Hearings for review of the budget pursuant to HB 1001. The Capital Projects Fund was traditionally the only one brought before the Council for approval. Ms. Hamilton stated that she hopes that the Council will remember this as a tool for economic development as well as for education for the citizens of LaPorte County.

The Capital Projects rate has been at the rate of .0057 for several years which is quite small compared to other rates in the County. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that this year is the final year that the library will be making bond payment; property taxes have been collected to repay this bond issue and \$346,000.00 of property tax will be going off of the books this

year. Ms. Hamilton stated that the library would be giving our taxpayers a slight tax cut this year since the Capital Projects Fund is less at \$225,000.00 than the \$346,000.00 bond issue.

Mr. Garner asked how HB 1001 would affect the library. Ms. Hamilton responded that the circuit breaker property tax caps would affect them immediately in 2009. The library will lose \$60,000.00 in 2009 and \$150,000.00 in 2010 according to the Legislative Services Agency. Ms. Hamilton reported that the library is working on cost cutting measures and revenue enhancements. She commented that this is a very complicated bill as the Council knows; the levy will be frozen and a growth factor will be calculated each year and it is minus 1 (-1) if they don't come to the Council each year for authorization. Ms. Hamilton stated that libraries have been hit pretty hard this year by this bill as well as all other governmental units.

Mr. Ludlow commented that previously the Capital Projects Fund was outside the levy. Ms. Hamilton stated that it is no longer outside the levy and is now under the cap.

Mr. Yagelski reported that there is a consulting service that will be giving the Council some guidance and advice and that the Council has until August 1<sup>st</sup> to appropriate this.

Mr. Cunningham asked how the County libraries work together with the Michigan City Public Library. Ms. Hamilton explained that the LaPorte County Public Library District encompasses seventeen (17) of the twenty-one (21) townships which amounts to approximately 65,800 population. She explained that all public libraries in LaPorte County are involved in reciprocal borrowing and you can walk into any public library in LaPorte County and use your library card to borrow materials. They also work together on special programs including the film series and programs for children. Mr. Cunningham asked if it is correct that he can return a book to the County Library by dropping it off at the Michigan City Library. Ms. Hamilton responded that this is correct. Mr. Cunningham commented that the first point he wanted to make is that all libraries are working together.

Mr. Cunningham stated that secondly, the \$225,000.00 used for computers and software updates based upon 110,000 people in LaPorte County figures out to about \$2.00 per person per year. He commented that as a former member of the educational field and someone who realizes how important it is for the citizens who have the least ability to get education and other matters, that sometimes the Public Library is their only access to books. Mr. Cunningham is very supportive of this request and yet he prefers that we table this matter until there is information received from Cender on the overall assessment and how HB 1001 will affect us.

Mr. Yagelski stated that this is a public hearing and asked if there is anyone that would like to speak at this time. There was no public comment.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to table the request for reauthorization of the LaPorte County Public Library Capital Projects Fund for \$225,000.00 until after we have received information from our economic developer. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop held on April 28, 2008, and the Emergency Meeting held on May 5, 2008. Mr. Cunningham seconded and the motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:** There were no reports by Department Heads.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

*TERRY GARNER:*

Mr. Garner, as liaison to Treasurer Ken Layton, commented that he had talked to Mr. Layton last week and Mr. Layton expressed concern that he will be coming before the Council for \$4,200.00 for special paper that is required by the State for tax bills.

Mr. Garner is also the liaison to the Auditor and he referred to the letter stating that we cannot send out rebate checks which is a concern to our taxpayers and it doesn't seem that it will get better until next fall.

Regarding the architects for the Purdue Extension Building, they met last Friday and hopefully they are pointed in the right direction to draw the building that was asked for to begin with. They should be back within the next thirty (30) days with a final drawing and possibly out for bids again.

*RICH MROZINSKI:*

Mr. Mrozinski stated that the Council tabled a request last month for paving where the heavy equipment tore up the ground installing the water mains and the water service at the County Home. Mr. Mrozinski checked it out last week and the parking lot is torn up pretty badly. He reported that Kay Felton, Director, was going to ask the Highway Department to dress it up a little bit to make it more user friendly. Mr. Mrozinski doesn't know if we can afford to do the paving this month either but it is definitely something that needs to be considered in the future. Mr. Yagelski asked Mr. McVay if the contractor has to take care of the area that was torn up by the trucks. Mr. McVay, Highway Engineer, stated that the contractor will patch those areas basically where they trenched in to put in the sewer and water.

Mr. Mrozinski, as liaison to the Veterans Service Officer, reminded everyone that this weekend is Memorial Day when we remember our fallen brothers and sisters who have served our country in the Armed Forces. He stated that there are a lot of Memorial Day Services throughout the County and he drew particular attention to the service in Rolling Prairie at 10:00 a.m. with the parade to follow at 11:00 a.m. followed by free food at the VFW Post. Mr. Mrozinski encouraged everyone to especially bring their children no matter which service they attend.

Mr. Mrozinski commented that the Parks Department will come up later on the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CIRCUIT COURT:** This request for \$3,101.00 was tabled at the last meeting. Judge Tom Alevizos explained that this is an employee that does not serve Circuit Court but the position is in his budget. This was a position that used to serve Circuit Court and Superior Court No. 4 but when the Magistrates were reallocated at the beginning of the year this person now works for Judge Lang and Judge Boklund in the position of Court Reporter to that Magistrate and given a COMOT VI position because all Court Reporters have been COMOT VI's for a lengthy time. The position was passed in the Salary Ordinance but for some reason the money wasn't put into the budget.

It is Judge Alevizos's understanding that this person may not be actually used as a Court Reporter but that might be another question the Council may want to get into when next year's budgets are addressed; it might be a nice time to put this position in someone else's budget since Judge Alevizos has no control over this person and how they are utilized.

Mr. Yagelski asked if Judge Alevizos has a Court Reporter right now. Judge Alevizos answered that he does but this position in question is shared between Superior Court No. 1 and Superior Court No. 4. He stated it is in the Circuit Court Budget because there a lot of things that are in his budget that actually happen for other Courts but through the years when there is something split between Courts it is usually in his budget.

Mr. Ludlow thought that last month it was stated that Court Reporters were COMOT V's. Mrs. Shuter stated that Court Administrators are COMOT V's and we weren't clear if this position was a Court Administrator or Court Reporter; all Court Reporters are COMOT VI's.

Judge Kathleen Lang commented that this person was hired by Judge Alevizos for a different job and then they switched Magistrates trying to use the best of their resources. Therefore, the Judges got together in a cooperative measure and made this change but by that time the budgets had been long passed and this person was under the Circuit Court. Judge Lang stated that she thinks that this will be taken care of next year and she thought that Judge Boklund was going to talk to Judge Alevizos about this matter. Regardless, there are some issues surrounding what this job position should be.

Judge Alevizos commented that Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele set the parameters a long time ago and all Court Reporters, whether verbatim or not, are COMOT VI's. Judge Alevizos stated that verbatim Court Reporters are paid an additional \$1,500.00 for their skills which has been part of the County's salary system for a long time.

Mr. Ludlow asked if this Magistrate is full time. Judge Alevizos responded that the Magistrates are all full time. Mr. Cunningham asked if the two Judges here this evening agree which budget this position should be in next year. The response was it should be in Judge Boklund's budget since this person works for Judge Boklund three quarters (3/4) of the time.

Judge Lang stated that they are mandated by the Supreme Court to keep redoing their statistics and it may well be that this person may work for Judge Boklund for four (4) days

and she may not be able to use this person at all; she reiterated that this position should probably be in Judge Boklund's budget.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the request for \$3,101.00 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Budget, and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Mr. Yagelski asked what this person was hired in as. Judge Alevizos responded that she was hired to work in the Juvenile Court and the Family Court. Mr. Yagelski asked if a position opened up. Judge Alevizos commented that this will be a discussion to have a budget time because this position may really be a Court Administrator COMOT V because he doesn't think this person is being utilized as a Court Reporter. Judge Lang stated she, Judge Boklund and the Magistrate have working hard trying to hammer this out but this position is undefined at this point.

The motion carried by voice vote 4 – 1 with Mr. Yagelski voting "Nay."

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CLERK:** \$3,700.00 was advertised in the County General Fund, Clerk's Budget, Office Supplies. Bette Conroy, Clerk of the Circuit Court explained that when former Clerk, Robert Behler, resigned all of the signature stamps needed to be replaced in all six (6) offices and some of the Courts. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/COMMISSIONERS:** \$3,952.00 was advertised in the General Fund, Commissioners Budget, Secretary/Admin Asst. Commissioner Hager stated that the Commissioners' Secretary, Linda Arnett, is leaving to work for her son. Mr. Hager explained that the Commissioners had to hire a new person and this money is requested since Mrs. Arnett is training the new person and this will take care of her salary plus what Mrs. Arnett is owed for comp time, etc. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve and Mr. Garner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

Also advertised was \$35,000.00 in the Win Tax Fund for Financial Consulting Services to be provided by Cender & Company. Mr. Garner made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/DRUG FREE PARTNERSHIP:** Lamar Koontz, Coordinator for LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership, was present to request \$11,291.00. This money was not used last year. Mrs. Koontz explained that according to law they can only use one quarter (1/4) of their money for treatment, prevention, justice and administration. She stated that there were not enough grant applications for justice. When the membership was informed that there was money left over, they got very busy with grant applications. Mrs. Koontz reported that from the grant applications the Drug Free Partnership has approved \$4,000.00 for Metro Operations, \$3,200.00 for the LaPorte Police Department, \$746.00 for the Juvenile Services Center and \$3,345.00 for the Justice Committee.

Mr. Garner made the announcement that this money is not tax dollars; he then moved to approve this request. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**TRANSFER/GIS DEPT:** Mr. Yagelski commented that clothing was allowed to be paid from Supplies in other departments in the past and if it is not allowed in the future this would be fine. He stated that Melissa Mischke, GIS Director, met with the Governor at a conference in January and the \$240.00 for clothing has already been spent; therefore, approval is requested to transfer this amount from Computer Supplies to Clothing in the County General Fund, GIS Budget.

Mr. Ludlow asked Mrs. Shuter if clothing has been paid from Supplies before. Mrs. Shuter explained that clothing items allowed from Office Supplies was missed in the audit process; there should be a Clothing or Uniform line item. Mrs. Shuter reported that one other department has been advised that they should transfer monies to a Clothing line item also.

Mr. Mrozinski asked if we shouldn't be approving the money before the items are purchased. Mr. Yagelski stated that it was spent because it has been approved in the past. Mr. Yagelski commented that the clothing line item needs to be addressed with departments during budgets.

Mr. Cunningham asked if this department has to have uniforms. Mr. Yagelski responded that there are three (3) or four (4) departments that receive clothing that don't have to have it and don't use it as a uniform policy. So that he can be up-to-date on this matter, Mr. Cunningham asked, outside of the Sheriff's Department, the names of some of the departments that have a clothing line item. Mr. Yagelski mentioned the Parks Department, EMS, Emergency Management, the Highway Department and Juvenile Services Center among others. Mr. Yagelski commented that there was a pretty intensive list and he was surprised that departments were still being paid for that.

Mr. Ludlow, with huge reservations because he doesn't think it is right when something is already done and then comes to the Council, or the department tries to slide past the Auditor, made a motion to approve the transfer with a clear definition to all departments at budget hearing time that all departments with clothing have a clothing budget. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried 4 – 1 with Mr. Cunningham voting "Nay."

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Paul Trost, Administrator of the Health Department, explained that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year for the Beach Act Grant as part of the Coastal Waters Beach Act of 2001. Interns are hired to do the sampling along Lake Michigan in eight (8) different locations. The request for Claims is money necessary to pay the bills for the water sampling, test media, etc. and mileage.

Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to approve the request for \$22,672.00 in the Beach Act Grant Fund and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/HIGHWAY:** Bob Young, Highway Superintendent, stated that after talking to Auditor Shuter today, the request for Gas, Fuel & Oil be reduced from \$230,000.00 to \$150,000.00 since the request is from the un-appropriated balance. Mr. Young explained that this request is required due to the increase in fuel prices, and a lot was spent in January, February and March because of snow.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$150,000.00 from the Highway General & Undistributed Fund for Gas, Fuel & Oil and Mr. Cunningham seconded. Mr. Mrozinski asked, since the Sheriff's Department is making a lot of effort to conserve fuel, if the Highway Department is doing the same sort of program. Mr. Young responded that they are and have addressed take home vehicles; he stated that it is understood that they are not for personal use. He also reported that a fuel additive that increases mileage is also being used. Mr. Mrozinski asked if the Highway is back to a four (4) day work week. Mr. Young responded that they are.

The motion to approve \$150,000.00 carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

Mr. Young explained that the request for \$1,750,000.00 from the CEDIT Fund is for the May draw earmarked for road paving. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

\$159,575.00 was advertised in the Major Moves Fund and the Riverboat Admissions Fund for 950 West. Mr. McVay stated that this amount was approved by the Commissioners from the Riverboat Fund. This request is for the project on 950 West south of I-94 which is extending water and sewer going down 300 North to 421. Mr. McVay stated that there was an increase in engineering fees since Michigan City wants a larger lift station for future expansion. Mr. Cunningham asked why Michigan City isn't paying the expense instead of the County since they want the larger lift station. Mr. Yagelski stated that this station is on our side and we will be pumping the water under I-94, not Michigan City. Mr. Yagelski further stated that we have to build our own lift station. Mr. McVay reported that this money is just for the engineering fees and if any right-of-way is needed or construction related costs, those will come at a later time.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$159,575.00 from the Major Moves Fund. Mr. Yagelski commented that there is some money coming back into Major Moves from the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Project, Mr. McVay answered that there is approximately \$250,000.00 coming back. Mr. Cunningham seconded Mr. Ludlow's motion to approve this request.

Mr. Cunningham asked what the estimated cost of this project is. Mr. McVay responded that he doesn't have a very firm estimate on construction costs right now. Mr. Cunningham asked how the engineer's fee is determined if we don't have a cost of the project. Mr. McVay stated that the engineers provide their fee on the design engineering and the construction engineering is on a percentage basis since there are actual construction costs at that point; typically on design engineering ten percent (10%) of what you think the construction will run is figured so this should give us a pretty good idea of where we will be. The motion to approve \$159,575.00 from Major Moves was approved 4 – 1 with Mr. Garner voting, "Nay."

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/HUDSON TWP:** Advertised in the County General Fund, Hudson Township Budget, was \$30.00 for Postage and \$900.00 for Mileage. Richard Gray, Hudson Township Assessor, stated that he came before the Council last year for basically the same thing because his predecessor hadn't budgeted anything. Mr. Gray

reported that this year when he did the budget he included those items but when he filed his claim it was explained to him that the Council approved his budget the same as the previous year; therefore, this left with him with no Mileage and not enough Postage.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve this request and commented that he does remember this from the budget hearings but because there were no increases in budgets, the Council locked Mr. Gray in at what the predecessor requested. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Mr. Ludlow asked Mr. Gray if he had spent the \$900.00 for Mileage. Mr. Gray responded that he has not spent it completely; his claim submitted was for around \$700.00 to \$750.00. Mr. Ludlow asked if Mr. Gray expects to spend the \$900.00 before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gray replied that this is correct. Mr. Ludlow asked about the postage. Mr. Gray responded that with the postage increase, he had to purchase some one-cent and three-cent stamps. The motion to approve the requested amounts carried 4 – 1 with Mr. Garner voting, “Nay.”

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/HUMAN RESOURCES:** Mrs. Shuter presented this request for \$1,303.00 from the County General Fund, Human Resource Budget, Clerk, for Mrs. Leon; this amount is for the longevity since when the new position of Assistant was advertised, it was for an Initiation pay rate and Mrs. Leon hired someone from within the County.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** \$31,682.00 was advertised in the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund for Equipment (MVP). Darlene Hale explained that this request is for thirty-one (31) new computers for the Auditor’s, Treasurer’s and Assessor’s Offices. Ms. Hale reported that the computers in use now are between five (5) and eight (8) years old and with the new MVP tax application that went into effect this year, they work but not very well and they are in need of replacement. Ms. Hale stated that this request does not take into consideration any additional employees that would have to be hired for the Assessor’s Office.

Mr. Ludlow asked if we would be trading in the old computers. Ms. Hale stated that if they can be used within the County, they do combine them to make better computers so other computers don’t have to be replaced; if they can’t be used they are donated to the Bradley Center since that is the only place she has permission to donate to. Ms. Hale commented that lately the Bradley Center hasn’t even been wanting the old computers because they won’t even run the applications they want to show their clients.

Mr. Ludlow asked if this includes new monitors and everything. Ms. Hale replied that it is just for computers; the monitors were not included. She stated that she has ten (10) computers for the LaPorte Treasurer’s Office, seven (7) in the Auditor’s Office, three (3) in Real Estate, five (5) in the Assessor’s Office and six (6) in the Treasurer’s Office in Michigan City. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Garner seconded.

Mr. Yagelski asked why this wasn't brought up at the Data meeting. Ms. Hale responded that the computers are working currently but not well; they are slow and with the new application it takes more to run the application than what we have and only so much can be done to band-aid them. Mr. Yagelski asked if everyone needs faster computers. Ms. Hale replied that we didn't go overboard when these were quoted but the computers are going to be the recommended specifications for the application.

Mr. Ludlow thought that all computer requests by departments needed to go before the Data Board. Mr. Yagelski stated that individual computers will go before the Data group but the Data Board would handle a major request like this one. Mr. Yagelski doesn't understand why every department would have to have a new computer at this time. Ms. Hale stated that it isn't all of them; this isn't even a quarter of the computers within the County. Ms. Hale realizes that this is a large purchase and she was hoping when MVP was purchased two (2) of three (3) years ago that we could make it with what we had. Ms. Hale stated that there was a Data Board Meeting but at that point there wasn't a full grasp of what MVP would entail since it was just getting installed; there was only a short period of time she had to get on the Commissioners' agenda and the Council agenda to bring this forward.

Mr. Garner commented that he has been on the Council six (6) years and they keep stressing to use your Board and that is what is troubling to him. Mrs. Shuter pointed out that the conversion to the MVP system was just completed about two and a half (2-1/2) to three (3) weeks ago and she explained the usage of the computers in her office to the Council. Mr. Cunningham asked how many of the computers are functional and could be used for some basic jobs; he would like to tie the motion to approve this request into giving the ones that we are taking out to the Boys and Girls Club in Michigan City. Ms. Hale commented that as long as she has approval, she doesn't have a problem with that.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve this request with the models being replaced going to the Boys and Girls Club of Michigan City. Mr. Ludlow had already made the motion to approve but he is fine with the recommendation by Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Yagelski asked where the last requirement came from that the computers could only go to one group. Ms. Hale answered that she has a letter signed from the Commissioners stating that they be donated to the Bradley Center. Mr. Yagelski asked Commissioner Hager if he has a problem with the recommendation. Mr. Hager responded that he does not. Mr. Ludlow added the addendum to his motion with the older computers going to the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Garner seconded. The motion to approve \$31,682.00 in the CCD Fund passed by voice vote 5 – 0.

A total of \$38,150.00 was advertised in the Reassessment Fund for Equipment (Conversion to MVP); \$25,900.00 was requested from the Reassessment Fund and \$12,250.00 was requested for approval from either the Reassessment Fund or the Win Tax Fund. Ms. Hale explained that the first bill for \$25,900.00 was paid last year from the \$200,000.00 that was used to buy the MVP Program. Mrs. Shuter stated that Shamrock was paid last year to move the data from Equitax to the format requested by MVP; therefore, the original \$200,000.00 appropriation is short the \$25,900.00 since we did not know at the time what we would be paying on the Equitax side for the conversion. This amount needs to go back to the

Reassessment Fund but the other \$12,250.00 can be taken from either fund, Reassessment or Win Tax for services provided.

Mr. Garner made a motion to approve \$25,900.00 from the Reassessment Fund and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 4 – 1 with Mr. Cunningham voting, “Nay.” Mr. Garner asked if this makes the Manatron (MVP) actual contract \$225,900.00. Mrs. Shuter stated that the Manatron (MVP) contract was \$200,000.00; when she and Mr. Layton brought the request before the Council it was explained at that time that there would be other costs involved with the conversion that couldn’t be predicted. Mrs. Shuter explained that Manatron is very specific as to what kinds of tables and in what format they are pulled out of the old tax system into the new.

Ms. Hale explained that the request for \$12,250.00 is the final cost for the conversion out of Equitax. Mr. Ludlow, for clarification, questioned if \$38,150.00 is the total cost of the conversion and he asked if this goes to Manatron. Mrs. Shuter replied that the total cost is correct but it goes to Shamrock for conversion on the Equitax side, the old system.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve this request for \$12,250.00 from the Reassessment Fund. Ms. Hale pointed out that during the conversion, Manatron did not request any prior tax payments to be converted into their system so, if we are issued a reassessment, then either we have to go back to the old system and open it back up or we have to actually pull the payments out and get them into the new system; therefore, there will be additional costs if there is a ruling for reassessment. Mrs. Shuter explained that only delinquent tax was brought forward from the old system into the new so if we are ordered for reassessment, we will have to go back to Shamrock and retrieve all of the data for 2006 pay 2007. Mrs. Shuter stated that we will have to do that anyway in order to do provisional bills so we may be coming back next month; she reported that there have already been meetings between the Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor and the MVP Tax representatives so we are prepared for whatever the decision is. Mr. Cunningham seconded Mr. Ludlow’s motion. The motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/PARKS DEPT:** The request for \$94,399.00 from the CCD Fund, Repair & Seal Asphalt, was tabled last month. Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to take this request off of the table and Mr. Ludlow seconded. All approved. Mr. Mrozinski reported that they talked to Rieth-Riley about doing chip and seal and were informed that they don’t do that anymore. Then they talked to them about doing the job with chopped up tires and they don’t do that either. Mr. Mrozinski stated that it is a lot of money so the Parks Department will just get by with the stone parking lots for now until we get an idea of what kind of money the County is going to have to spend figured out. This request died for lack of a motion.

**CIRCUIT COURT REQUEST:** Mr. Yagelski stated that he didn’t think he took the Circuit Court request for \$3,101.00 discussed earlier off of the table. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to remove this request off of the table and Mr. Ludlow seconded. All approved 5 – 0. Mr. Yagelski commented that there is already a vote of 4 – 1; he asked if anyone want to change their vote. There was no response.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION & TRANSFERS/PROSECUTOR:** \$15,719.00 was advertised for the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the County General Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget, along with \$14,373.00 advertised for Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the County General Fund, Prosecutor's Child Support IV-D Budget. Mrs. Shuter explained that these are both budgetary issues that need to be cleaned up; Mr. Fenton took Tom Alevizos' place and his salary needed to be at \$55,650.00 and when Corey Shofner's salary was computed, his total pay should have been \$57,320.00 of which 66% of his pay is from the IV-D Budget because we get reimbursed by the State. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve these amounts as presented and Mr. Garner seconded. The motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

In the County User Fee Fund, \$67,153.00 was requested to be appropriated and then transferred to the Prosecutor's Pre-Trial Diversion/Deferral fund, Claims, along with \$4,100.00 to be appropriated and then transferred to the Adult Protective Services Fund, Employee Group Health Insurance. Rob Beckman, Prosecutor, stated that this is the standard transfer that is done twice a year; one is done in November in order to pay for the programs starting January 1 and then the second is done in May for the second half of the year. Mr. Beckman noted that Adult Protective Services is one of the State-mandated programs where we are directed with what we have to do but they do not send enough money to run the program and this is why the \$4,100.00 is requested.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve appropriation and the transfers of \$67,153.00 and \$4,100.00 as presented. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/PTABOA BOARD:** Advertised in the Reassessment Fund for Board Members was \$26,275.00. Sherry Ritter-Banic, PTABOA Board President, reported that there was a work session held with Mark Ludlow, Earl Cunningham and Jerry Cooley. Mrs. Ritter-Banic stated that the PTABOA does adjourn at lunch and start a new meeting in the afternoon although the current agenda shows that they have an all day meeting. Mrs. Ritter-Banic commented that the Council gave a suggestion, and the PTABOA Board agreed with it, that the meetings should not be less than hour or no more than four (4) hours; she stated that Mr. Cunningham had suggested that if the Board goes over the two (2) meetings scheduled in one day, they would get an extra per quarter \$9.00 an hour after the 4:45 p.m. meeting if it ends at that time. Mrs. Ritter-Banic reported that the other thing discussed is that the Board was hoping to have their level of pay increased on a per meeting basis; the Council at the work session suggested \$105.00 which the Board is happy with and it is much better than \$75.00.

Mrs. Ritter-Banic commented that they would like clarification regarding the compensation for the different levels of education since there should be some type of knowledge of valuation and real estate to serve on the Board; she stated that there needs to be at least one Level II present at all meetings or they can't hold a meeting. Assessor Carol McDaniel has informed her that Level I's get \$1,000.00 per year and the Level II's receive \$2,000.00 per year additional to the per meeting pay pro-rated on when the certification is earned.

Mrs. Ritter-Banic also brought up additional compensation for the President of the Board as a suggestion. Mr. Ludlow commented that all who met are agreeable to the change in compensation and his recommendation would be to raise the appropriation to the Board but he would also like to see Attorney Baugher draw up a document that all PTABOA Members sign outlining the definition. Mr. Ludlow also believes that the PTABOA Board should probably not meet again until the reassessment is defined which should be next week. Mrs. Ritter-Banic commented that the Board isn't scheduled to meet again until June 4<sup>th</sup> to "clear the table"; if a decision is made for reassessment, Mrs. Ritter-Banic doesn't think the Board will be meeting too much, if any, until after the reassessment is completed if that is what is called for.

Mr. Ludlow, regarding additional compensation for the President, commented that they didn't have a recommendation because, as he understands it, none of the other Boards compensate the President; he asked if the BZA President is compensated. Mrs. Shuter responded that all Board Members are paid \$120.00 per meeting. Mr. Ludlow stated that this is something that should be considered at budget hearings in August for all of the Boards since the Board President does put in a few more hours.

Mr. Garner, regarding Level I and Level II, stated that the Township Assessor/Trustees are paid right now immediately plus anybody in Carol McDaniel's Office. Mr. Ludlow commented that when it was said that none of the Level I's on PTABOA were being compensated, he was surprised because he thought it was pretty upfront that they would be paid. Mrs. Shuter stated that when it was originally established, there was \$1,000.00 for Level I and \$2,000.00 for Level II but at the time the budget was approved last year, only those people who had achieved the certification at that point received the appropriation of monies; this certification was verified with the Chief Deputy Assessor.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve appropriation of \$26,275.00 from the Reassessment Fund for compensation for PTABOA Board Members with the understanding that by their June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting a document will be drawn up by legal counsel defining their responsibilities. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0. Mr. Cunningham suggested that with the \$9.00 to be granted for every quarter hour, the word "completed" should be added because the intent is not to pay the Board for three (3) minutes.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SHERIFF:** \$139,000.00 was advertised in the County General Fund, Jail Budget, Professional Services. Chief Deputy Jim Sosinski stated that this amount is needed in order to meet the contract obligations with Advanced Correctional Healthcare that provides health services for the inmates in the County Jail. Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SUP. CT. NO. 1:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve \$5,000.00 as advertised in the County General Fund, Superior Court No. 1 Budget, Psychological Services. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ANIMAL SHELTER SALARY ORDINANCE:** First reading of this ordinance was at the last meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Shuter read this ordinance by title only, “LaPorte County, Indiana, LaPorte County Council, Ordinance No. 2008-01, LaPorte County Employees Salary Ordinance for Calendar Year 2008.” Mr. Ludlow made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-01 and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**SHERIFF’S SALARY ORDINANCE:** Mr. Yagelski stated that by next month this ordinance should be completed.

**JUVENILE SERVICE CENTER SALARY ORDINANCE:** Judge Alevizos stated that the plan is to better administer the Juvenile Services Center. The structure received by the Council at the last meeting would eliminate one of the Assistant Directors and defines four (4) other positions to make them mid-level supervisors and provides nine (9) unit leaders. Judge Alevizos commented that by eliminating the one position, approximately \$30,000.00 in salary and benefits can be saved and a more effective management team would be created. Judge Alevizos reported that the program originally had two (2) Directors in two (2) different areas, the secure side and the residential side. Judge Alevizos stated that now everyone is cross-trained. Judge Alevizos asked that this ordinance be heard on two readings tonight as the information was with last month’s packet. Mrs. Shuter stated that it was handed out with the revised agenda at the last meeting since it had just been received. Mr. Yagelski commented that the information was received at the last minute and that is why there wasn’t first reading on the ordinance.

On the first reading Mrs. Shuter read, “LaPorte County, Indiana, LaPorte County Council, Ordinance No. 2008-02, Addendum 2008 LaPorte County Salary Ordinance.” Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion for second reading and Mr. Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried by voice vote 5 – 0. Mrs. Shuter read Ordinance No. 2008-02 by title only. Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to approve. Mr. Baugher stated that you can’t approve an ordinance and adopt the same night it is introduced unless there is a motion to suspend the rules which requires unanimous consent. Mr. Garner made a motion to suspend the rules and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mrozinski again made the motion to approve and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ludlow referred to Judge Alevizos and commented that he is eliminating one of the Assistant Directors positions so now there will be one Assistant Director. Judge Alevizos commented that this is correct and there will be a slight increase in pay for the mid-level positions plus there will be a cost of \$1,000.00 per year per person for the unit leaders; the whole process saves in salaries approximately \$14,500.00 and, because one physical person has been eliminated, fringe benefits were saved of another \$14,700.00. Mr. Cunningham commented that there would also be better coverage with this structure. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-02 carried by voice vote 5 – 0.

**NEW BUSINESS:** DORMANT FUND: Mr. Ludlow made a motion to declare Fund 540 Economics Development Fund dormant and to transfer the balance of \$12,907.17 to Fund 222 Economic Development. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion to approve carried 5 – 0 by voice vote

SACRED HEART BOND: Mrs. Shuter stated that County Attorney Bob Szilagyi informed her today that this item for consideration of an Economic Development Revenue Bond should be withdrawn from the agenda. Mr. Mrozinski visited the Sacred Heart Apostolic School, Inc. and he was shown the old section that has yet to be done and the new section that has been done; those attending this school are studying to be priests.

Mr. Yagelski referred to comments that the Council is upset by the money going to a Catholic organization; he stated that if the Council is just the paperwork person in-between to get funds appropriated, the Council has talked about getting a set fee for this amount. Mr. Yagelski commented that if we could get this up and going and if anyone in the future submits this type of request, the County would receive a set fee since there are attorney costs, time and consideration involved.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL:**

*EARL CUNNINGHAM:*

Mr. Cunningham thanked Michigan City and the community for hosting the Council this evening. He also thanked those who are still in attendance.

*RICH MROZINSKI:*

Mr. Mrozinski commented on the issue regarding Office Supplies and consolidating all of the office supplies into one account. He stated that at two (2) separate workshops, plus one presentation at the Commissioners Meeting, information was received whereas the County could save around \$50,000.00 to \$65,000.00. Two (2) or three (3) avenues have been tried to get this rolling and so far we have nothing. Mr. Mrozinski encouraged the Commissioners to get a handle on this and get it going. Mr. Hager responded that it is on the Commissioners agenda for the next meeting.

*MARK YAGELSKI:*

Mr. Yagelski also thanked Michigan City for being the host today; this is the second trip on the road and next month the Council would like to meet with the LaPorte City Council. Mr. Mrozinski is surveying Rolling Prairie for a site to have a meeting. Mr. Yagelski suggested that the Rolling Prairie meeting, the last part of the travel series, be in July because budget hearings start in August.

*TERRY GARNER:*

Mr. Garner asked about dates for August budget hearings. Mr. Garner would prefer the third week in August. Mr. Baugher asked about a schedule for viewing other budgets. Mr. Cunningham suggested having the budget hearings the week of August 18<sup>th</sup> if possible. There was discussion regarding the new law and the timeline. Mrs. Shuter commented that all units will need to work together to coordinate dates. Mr. Baugher commented that he

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doesn't think that anybody knows where we are going at this point based upon the new legislation. Mr. Ludlow asked if a consultant would need to be hired to crunch the numbers. Mrs. Shuter suggested looking at Cender's report and then make a determination.

Mr. Yagelski reminded the Council about the State Board called meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and Mr. Ludlow seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 by voice vote.