

**LAPORTE COUNTY  
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 25, 2008**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Government Complex. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Yagelski at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

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: "You have a quorum, sir."

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Cooley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop and the Regular Meeting held on July 28, 2008. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

*Auditor Teresa Shuter:*

Mrs. Shuter distributed information provided by Tim Lacy, Manatron, regarding additional professional services required by Manatron for custom development and support services to assist LaPorte County with the 2006 pay 2007 Reassessment Reconciliation Billing and the 2007 pay 2008 Provisional Billing including Reconciliation. The total estimated cost is \$40,500.00 which will be on next month's agenda.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

*Mark Yagelski:*

Mr. Yagelski reported that a letter was sent to Cheryl Musgrave, DLGF Commissioner, regarding the progress of the LaPorte County reassessment being conducted by Nexus. The letter indicates that there are no violations to date regarding the reassessment order.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Roger Potratz, architect for dh2w, updated the Council on the status of the proposed building to house the Extension Office, Soil & Water and Solid Waste. Mr. Potratz presented drawings of the basic building and also drawings of the building with additional storage. Mr. Potratz reported that bids will be coming in to the Commissioners on September 2, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. He stated that the building is less than 10,000 square feet and

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is expected to come in under the budget of \$1.2 million; there are five (5) favorable bidders at the present time and approval has been received from the State of Indiana for the plans and specifications.

Mr. Ludlow commented that part of the idea behind this building is that the FSA (Farm Services Agency) would also come in but he doesn't see enough square footage for that to happen; are we not planning on them coming into that building. Mr. Potratz answered that the square footage is based upon what was given to him by the people in the program which is 800 square feet.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/AUDITOR:**

*LADS:*

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$645.00 advertised in the Alcohol & Drug Service Fee Fund for Secretary/Adm Asst/Office Manager and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 7 - 0.

*WIN TAX OR CCD:*

\$31,876.00 was advertised in the Win Tax Fund and the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund for Office Equip/Furniture. Mrs. Shuter explained that this request is for the Auditor's Office and the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Cunningham asked how much the previous budget was just for the Auditor's Office. Mrs. Shuter responded that \$25,000.00 was advertised previously for the Auditor's Office and \$15,500.00 for the Treasurer's Office which was a rough estimate since there wasn't time to secure pricing at that time. Mrs. Shuter reported that quotes were received locally and then she and Mr. Layton went to Chesterton and received other quotes which enabled them to "let's make a deal" with the local company.

Mr. Garner made a motion to approve \$31,876.00 from the CCD Fund and Mr. Cunningham seconded.

Mr. Yagelski asked if there are any other offices needing furniture at this time. Mrs. Shuter responded that the Clerk's Office has been mentioned and between all of the Clerk's Offices they will have over fifteen (15) desks so they will be in the same position to negotiate pricing with the local company.

The motion carried 6 – 1 with Mr. Cooley voting "Nay."

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:**

*WIN TAX OR CCD:*

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to take the \$42,059.00 for telephones tabled at the last meeting off of the table. Mr. Cunningham seconded and the motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote. Kent Carpenter, Building Maintenance, had sent information as requested to the Council regarding voice mail usage and why he chose 500 mailboxes.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$42,059.00 from the Win Tax Fund for 500 voicemail boxes and Mr. Ludlow seconded.

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Mr. Yagelski asked what the exact response is regarding the current system. Mr. Carpenter responded that the system was not communicating with the Nortel switch; he hasn't received the last repair bill yet. Mr. Yagelski asked that the company be informed that we are looking for a new system and that they come in and look over the system.

Mr. Cooley commented that he doesn't understand why this many voice mails are needed since the employees can answer the phones since they are supposed to be working. Mr. Carpenter commented that the voice mail system works twenty-four (24) hours a day and customers can call in after hours plus the Health Department has an emergency number to use.

Mr. Yagelski asked if this system would replace the Virtual Operator. Mr. Carpenter responded, "Yes it can." Mr. Yagelski commented that the issue he has is that the system is working now and he would like to see someone come out and see exactly what is wrong. Mr. Carpenter responded that to have someone come here from New Jersey could be very expensive. Mr. Yagelski complimented Mr. Carpenter on the great job he has done and for his communication with the Council.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that he doesn't understand why so many employees in the departments need voice mail and he doesn't see an explanation for it; is it for personal calls. Mr. Garner asked if this proposal is necessary to work the system we have at the moment. Mr. Carpenter stated that the system we have now is not compatible whereas the system proposed is compatible with the system we have now; we will always have problems but whereas it took six (6) days for the technician to get the problem resolved before it would only be twenty-four (24) hours with the proposed system. Mr. Yagelski again stated that we should have a full report of what is wrong with the system.

Roll call was taken.

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

The motion failed 2 – 5.

*COUNTY GENERAL, WINT TAX OR CCD:*

Al Ott, Building Maintenance Stationary Engineer, was present to request \$88,200.00 for various line items normally covered in their budget along with \$81,093.98 for remodeling of the Michigan Avenue Building.

Mr. Ludlow asked about \$55,000.00 in different categories that can be used for repairs; is this for impending bills. Mr. Ott responded that a sewer grinder needs to be purchased for \$10,000.00 plus there is \$11,000.00 in bills at H & G for repairs to the air conditioning and heating in Michigan City plus other bills that are pending. Mr. Ott presented the bills for the Council to review.

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Mrs. Shuter explained that items were broken out and advertised that could be paid from CCD for capital outlays, which is a total of \$25,000.00, and Win Tax in the amount of \$63,200.00 along with a total of \$88,200.00 advertised in the County General Fund.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$25,000.00 from the CCD Fund and \$63,200.00 from the Win Tax Fund as advertised. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion carried 4 – 3 by voice vote with Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Garner and Mr. Cooley voting “Nay.”

Mr. Ott reported that \$81,093.98 requested for remodeling at 555 Michigan Avenue building is for the Assessor’s Office and the Treasurer’s Office. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve this request from the CCD Fund and Mr. Cooley seconded.

Mr. Cunningham asked what the expected future expenses are to finish the “Hiler Building.” Mr. Ott responded that to replace the heating and air conditioning unit in the ceiling the cost would be approximately \$6,000.00 along with \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 in carpeting. The Maintenance Department will do the painting. Mr. Ott stated that \$41,000.00 of the \$81,093.98 requested for remodeling was to exchange the heating and cooling pumps in the building. Mr. Ott commented that for \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 the Leadership area could be remodeled.

Roll call was taken on the motion to approve \$81,093.98 for remodeling from the CCD Fund.

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

The motion to approve this request carried 5 – 2.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION:** Mrs. Shuter explained that the request for \$1,661.00 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Probation Budget, is a longevity increase for the Chief Probation Officer. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Cooley seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

**TRANSFER/HUMAN RESOURCES:** Mr. Jones spoke on behalf of Joyce Ray Leon, Human Resource Director, since she is away at a conference. He reported that \$192.00 is for a small computer desk and \$2,894.00 is for computer software for pre-employment testing as previously discussed at budget hearings. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2,894.00 from Office Supplies to Computer and the transfer of \$192.00 from Office Supplies to Office Equipment/Furniture. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** Darlene Hale, IT Director, requested \$8,050.00 from the Win Tax Fund for Professional Services for MVP Conversion for Provisional and Reassessment bills. Mr. Garner asked if this is an extra cost because of reassessment. Ms. Hale responded that \$2,450.00 estimated at this point is for the reassessment after trending is complete and \$5,600.00 is for work that has already been completed for provisional billing in order to get those out.

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Mr. Garner made a motion to approve \$8,050.00 from the Win Tax Fund as advertised and Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/PARKS & RECREATION:** Mr. Jones commented that from the letter received it is the favorable vote of the Council to accept \$11,000.00 from the endowment. Therefore, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve \$11,000.00 as advertised in the County General Fund, Parks & Recreation, Extra Hire/Part-Time/Seasonal. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

Mr. Cunningham explained that the LaPorte County Park Foundation contributes \$11,000.00 to the Park Department to cover summer hire; it isn't as though we are spending \$11,000.00 for summer hire but are accepting money from the Foundation.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER/PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:** Mr. Ludlow, on behalf of Prosecutor Rob Beckman, explained that this is money that comes from the Deferral Program that is used to pay Extra Hire/Part-Time and a Legal Intern. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to appropriate \$3,000.00 as advertised in the Pre-Trial Diversion & Deferral Fund and to approve the transfer to the County General Fund of \$1,000.00 in the Prosecutor's Budget for Extra Hire/PT/Seasonal and \$2,000.00 in the Prosecutor's Budget for Legal Intern. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

**BULLETPROOF VESTS:**

Major Gary Broling explained that the department had gotten behind in the bullet proof vests situation as they should be replaced every five (5) years at a maximum; prior administrations have not come to ask the Council for the funds. Mr. Jones commented that he is well aware of the shelf life of the vests and also of the idea that every time a vest is produced it is newer and better and more protective against all of the ammunition used on the streets today, so for the safety of the officers he made a motion to approve \$19,259.74 as requested in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, Uniforms. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

**SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER:**

\$3,200.00 was advertised in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, for School Liaison Officer. Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer commented that the amount requested is actually less since there was a miscalculation on insurance. Sheriff Mollenhauer introduced Dr. Judith DeMuth, Superintendent of LaPorte Community Schools, along with Dr. Dennis Shawver, Associate Superintendent, and Jim Dermody, Assistant Superintendent.

Sheriff Mollenhauer explained that Mike Kellems is the officer requested whose wage is currently \$48,174.00. Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that the school has offered to pay seventy-four percent (74%) of that wage which is \$35,648.75; the County share would be \$12,525.24. Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that the insurance has been recalculated since last month. Sgt. Kellems share was calculated and it should have been what the County pays for the insurance which is \$433.24 per month or \$5,198.88 for twelve (12) months; seventy-four percent (74%) of this amount is \$3,847.17.

Sheriff Mollenhauer commented that Mr. Ludlow had asked that the amount of the pension be checked and Major Broling has talked to a pension representative today. This representative has reported that those calculations cannot be ascertained. Major Broling explained that the pension is not calculated based upon how much each officer would receive for a year and there is not a figure per officer per year; the officers contribute \$1.00 towards the pension and that figure will not do any good at this point. Mr. Ludlow asked if Major Broling spoke with Elaine Beaty; he can't believe that she can't get some kind of figure based upon Sgt. Kellems' salary. Major Broling answered that he did talk to her and he will keep working on this matter.

Mr. Yagelski asked what happened to the LaPorte City policeman that was working in the school system. Dr. DeMuth replied that he had returned to his duties with the City of LaPorte. Mr. Yagelski asked if our officer would be required to work overtime for school functions. Dr. DeMuth responded that if the officer decided to work these functions they would be covered by the Athletic Department or extra curricular to pay him additionally; this is not incorporated in the duties of the Liaison Officer. Sheriff Mollenhauer commented that the school has this officer for 74% of the time and the County would have him for 26% of the time during the summer months. Mr. Yagelski commented that if the officer stays over for any reason, it would be paid through the school 100%, correct? Dr. DeMuth commented that the school used to incorporate evenings, weekends and ballgames but now they try to handle that separately.

Mr. Cunningham, coming out of the school system, thinks that it is very important and the Liaison Officer is very instrumental; he does see the positives of having someone from the County because of the outlying school districts that feed into LaPorte High School and that enhances the communication as Sgt. Kellems works well with the City officers. Personally, looking at this from a County standpoint because Sgt. Kellems is a relatively expensive officer, Mr. Cunningham stated that for the difference, and the use of the officer for three (3) months in the summer, this is pretty cheap; we are getting a "body" in trade and still have Sgt. Kellems for ¼ of the year. Mr. Cunningham stated that this is wonderful opportunity for everybody involved.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the school system is a separate taxing entity and it is a great idea except for the fact that we have other schools that could be coming to us for the same thing and asking for the same type of service. He stated that the problem that he has is that it could "open up a can of worms."

Mr. Ludlow asked that Dr. DeMuth describe the officer's duties. Dr. DeMuth commented that the officer has a number of duties but to highlight the primary responsibilities he serves as a liaison for the student body and he will be proactive in instructing in all of the elementaries, the Middle School and the High School; they recognize that at the Middle and High School they may have situations of discipline where the officer may have to spend more time there. Dr. DeMuth stated that they want open communication between the student body and the officer.

Mr. Yagelski stated that we should not be using our taxes to take care of separate taxing units at this time. Mr. Cunningham commented that he would encourage other schools in the County to do the same thing if they want to pay seventy-four percent (74%) of the salary; anytime there is a police officer communicating with students, it helps in the long run. Mr. Cunningham stated that having worked side by side with the Liaison Officer in the Michigan City High School, there are a lot of incidents that will be "nipped in the bud" and the difference between a County officer

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and a City officer is that the County officer is going to “nip” some things that take place in Kingsford Heights, Mill Creek and Stillwell whereas a City officer has no jurisdiction.

Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that he met with the City of LaPorte Police Chief several times and the school did also. Sheriff Mollenhauer commented that the school wants to be more proactive and have Sgt. Kellems, especially with his experience as a D.A.R.E. Officer, and that is why they requested him plus he has a good repertoire with the schools. Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that when he met with the Chief of Police of the City of LaPorte, he was given the opportunity to come up with another officer who would be interested in teaching as well to benefit this program; they did not have an officer that wished to do so.

Mr. Yagelski stated that if we are taking our top officers to our school systems, then we are taking our top officers out of the County; tax dollars are coming out of LaPorte County for this.

Mr. Ludlow commented that he is in favor of this proposal but until the pension is ironed out, he can't vote for it. Mr. Ludlow mentioned that perhaps there could be a motion for intent of support until the final numbers are in; the pension is expensive. Dr. DeMuth stated that they would be more than willing to accept a motion of intent as they still have to work out the contract.

Mr. Cunningham asked Attorney Baugher if he is comfortable with contingent language regarding the school system paying seventy-four percent (74%) of the pension costs. Attorney Baugher responded that he is comfortable with this proposal.

Mr. Jones commented that if Sgt. Kellems chief duties are with the school system, he doesn't believe that he is any longer “moonlighting” when the time and a half is paid; the school is paying a set rate already established and his hourly rate would be paid at time and a half. Dr. DeMuth responded that rates haven't been established for the extra curricular areas. Mr. Jones stated that it could be a violation of the Department of Labor if Sgt. Kellems is not paid at time and a half of his regular rate; if it is greater than that amount, it could be safe. Mr. Jones suggested that this matter be looked into. There was further discussion regarding the overtime hourly rate.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to support the idea of Sgt. Kellems becoming the Liaison Officer at the LaPorte Community School Corporation based on the fact that the school corporation pay seventy-four percent (74%) of the officer's wages, the County portion of the officer's insurance and the County portion of the officer's pension, whatever is decided by the County's actuary and that those figures and the contract be brought back to the Council and reviewed by the Council's attorney to make sure that the interest of the taxpayers is being presented. Mr. Cunningham seconded.

Mr. Yagelski asked if a new officer would need to be hired. Sheriff Mollenhauer answered, “Yes.” Mr. Yagleski asked what happens if LaPorte Community Schools decides that they no longer want this position. Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that his conversation with the schools is that they would like to go with a multi-year contract for approximately three (3) years which he thinks would be beneficial to everyone.

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Mr. Yagleski commented that, the same as grant money, if this job disappears the Council would expect that this position would no longer be available unless someone retires, for example. Sheriff Mollenhauer responded that it would be the Council's discretion but he would hope that this position would be absorbed.

Mr. Ludlow stated, so that there isn't any confusion, that his motion said nothing about another officer. Roll call was taken.

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

The motion carried 6 – 1.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to authorize the Sheriff to hire a probationary merit officer at the completion of the contract which transfers Officer Kellems to the school system. 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.

Dr. DeMuth, on behalf of the school corporation, expressed thanks to the Council. Sheriff Mollenhauer commented that they will begin immediately investigating what the pension will amount to.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COMPLEX GARAGE:** Sheriff Mollenhauer reported that gas is running approximately \$30,000.00 per month; efforts have been made in keeping the fuel consumption down.

Mr. Yagelski asked how many cars are on the road. Chief Deputy Sosinski added that there are cars other than the Sheriff's Department being funded; there are seventy-five (75) vehicles in their fleet.

Mr. Mrozinski made a motion to approve \$90,000.00 as requested in the County General Fund, Complex Garage, for Gas, Fuel & Oil. Mr. Ludlow seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.



**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/SUPERIOR COURT NO. I:** Mr. Ludlow commented that Judge Lang had another meeting and isn't able to attend, but according to her calculations, Psychological Services is approximately \$1,000.00 in the red due to mandated services and pending cases; any funds appropriated will not be transferred to any other accounts.

Mr. Ludlow made a motion to approve \$5,000.00 in the County General Fund, Superior Court No. I, Psychological Services as requested. Mr. Mrozinski seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*SHERIFF'S SALARY ORDINANCE:*

Mr. Jones made a motion to take this matter for an increase in the Sheriff's salary off of the table and Mr. Cooley seconded. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

The Sheriff's Salary Ordinance died for lack of a motion.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL:**

*PURCHASE OF VEHICLES:*

Mr. Cunningham mentioned that when the Council went through the budget hearings, they tried to get an accurate count of the County vehicles. Mr. Cunningham suggested that some thought be given to a Memorandum of Understanding that, with the exception of the Sheriff's Department and possibly EMS where the vehicles are involved in safety and welfare, that the process of new cars be eliminated and consideration be given to the purchase of 2-year old vehicles coming off lease; these vehicles can be purchased for approximately half of the purchase price.

Mr. Cunningham stated that there is some concern about warranties but a warranty on a lease-back vehicle could be extended to the original time-line for approximately \$850.00 to \$1,150.00. Mr. Cunningham stated that it seems this would represent a tremendous savings and the County should get away from buying new vehicles for Commissioners, Department Heads, etc. as much as possible.

Mr. Yagelski suggested a workshop with the Commissioners. Mr. Cunningham commented that some thought be given to buying one type of vehicle instead of having the mechanics working of different kinds which would be a lot easier for the mechanics to stock supplies.

*CENDER REPORT:*

Mr. Ludlow reported that Karl Cender is present regarding his final report on the effects of HB 1001. Mr. Cender commented that a draft was presented at the last meeting and for the most part the final report is the same except for some minor revisions. Mr. Cender reported that one assumption was changed and that was the estimated levy increase for 2010; instead of 3% they decided to put it at 4% which is the same as 2009 which makes the report a little more conservative.

Mr. Cender stated that for the most part the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) agrees with the report except for one minor issue.

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Mr. Jones had e-mailed some information to Mr. Cender regarding TIF (Tax Increment Finance) Districts. Mr. Cender commented that the question was if the TIF Districts were included in the analysis; this wasn't part of the original scope. Mr. Cender stated that most of the properties in Michigan City in the TIF Districts are commercial properties and are already at the 3% cap. Mr. Cender commented that there will be an impact to individual TIF's as a result of some of the different tax levies coming off such as Police & Fire Pension, Welfare, and the School General Fund.

Mr. Ludlow asked why the Cender Report and the LSA (Legislative Services Agency) numbers are different. Mr. Cender responded that they did put a call in to LSA and they haven't returned the call. Mr. Cender commented that some of the reasons are outlined in the report as to why the numbers in the Cender Report are lower than those in the LSA report. Mr. Cender reported that his company did do the analysis on a property by property basis.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the County did pay for this report and asked if it should be shared with the sixty (60) entities that will be coming back to the Council with their budgets. Mr. Ludlow made a motion to provide the report to those entities and Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Cunningham commented that he thought the intent all along was to share this information. The motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

Mr. Cooley stated that we probably won't understand any of this until 2009 and 2010 comes around; it is really a big guess. Mr. Cender responded that the information provided are estimates based upon assumptions and until the assessed valuations are finalized it is the best estimate. Mr. Cender stated that he would be glad to discuss any of the assumptions with the Council but he thinks they are reasonable and in line with where we are today. Mr. Cender commented that it does make sense that their numbers are lower because overall the tax rates are less than the average.

Mr. Jones asked if questions would be entertained after the Cender report is distributed to the units. Mr. Jones commented that it would be a very good thing to distribute this report since there will be more eyes and minds paying attention to it; there may be some questions generated that could lead to an even better report.

Mr. Cender commented that with the next project, budget review, some of those questions will be entertained during that process. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Cender, due to the difference in the numbers, should the Council say that the Cender report is gospel or should the Council take a median; where is the reconciliation or comfort level for the Council. Mr. Cender responded that the Council may want to build in some type of contingency factor. Mr. Jones commented that this is no slight on the reputation of Mr. Cender but there is a difference. Mr. Cender stated that this would be a reasonable approach.

Mr. Garner stated that the sooner the LOIT tax is adopted the better it would be as far as the cities are concerned. Mr. Yagelski commented that since the budget dates have changed he believes that one comes with the other regarding LOIT adoption. Mr. Garner responded that he is trying to figure out what the options are and how soon should the Council begin to look at them to help the cities out. Mr. Cender commented that when the budget review is held with the different taxing units, it would be a good time to start discussing what their plans are for how they will make up the difference.

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**ADJOURNMENT**: There being no further business, Mr. Garner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. which was seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion carried 7 – 0 by voice vote.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE  
LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor

LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA