

LaPorte County Council Meeting January 26, 2009

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 26th day of January, 2009, in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Government Complex. The meeting was called to order by President Yagelski at 6:30 p.m.

The following Council persons were present: Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham Mr. Garner, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski. Council Attorney, Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray also attended this meeting.

The Council approved the January Agenda by a unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Assessor Carol McDaniel reported that she received approval from the Department of Local Government Finance on the assessed value of real estate in LaPorte County.

Commissioner Mike Bohacek reported that we do owe a past due bill to HD2W for the design of the building at the LaPorte County Fair Grounds. This item will be discussed at the February 23rd, 2009 Council meeting.

Surveyor Tony Hendricks presented his 2009 Stregic Plan for the LaPorte County Surveyor's Office.

REPORT ON LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mr. Cunningham had met with the Juvenile Center. He commented what a good job the new director was doing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny and Mike Kobos both made lengthy comments against the Regional Sewer District.

No one else from the public made any comments.

TRANSFERS

A voice vote was taken and all Council members were in favor of transferring \$20,000.00 from the Win Tax Account (257-20200-000-257) to the Vocational Training Account (555-30135-000-555).

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

A voice vote was taken and all Council members were in favor of paying; \$8,275.00 for Cameras & Digital Recorder for the Dorothy S. Crowley Juvenile Center (541-20200-000-541).

A voice vote was taken and all Council members were in favor of the approval of the lease payment for six months for the Purdue Extension office from account 257-20200-000-034 for \$19,500.00

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

A voice vote was taken and all Council members were in favor of paying \$6,000.00 from account 341-20200-000-341 for storage, maintenance or necessities pertaining to the court files and documents.

COMMISSIONERS

A roll call vote was taken to approve the payment of \$42,335.16 for payment to Tonn & Blank for the construction work done at the new County Building located at the Fair Grounds. All members were in favor with the exception of Matt Bernacchi who abstained from voting. There was a lengthy discussion on the continuing construction or terminating the contract. John Gilmore, President of Tonn & Blank stated that they were willing to honor the existing contract with out an increase in fees but would have to have the completion date extended past December 31, 2008. He stated once the construction began, they would have it complete within three months. He also stated that there would be no other obligation to the County if they were to terminate the contract. This matter was tabled until the Feb 23rd council meeting.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

There was a request for funding of the Johnson Road Project for \$355,000.00 from either the River Boat Admissions Tax acct. #272-71012-200-272 or the Major Moves fund 223-71012-200-223. There was a vote with Council members Cunningham and Garner voting in favor of and Council members Bernacchi, Ford, Sosinski, Mrozinski and Yagelski voting against. Request was denied.

PLAN COMMISSION requested payment of \$116,000.00 from the Contractors Registration Fee 246-71009-134-246 to Blue Prince for software and services for community development. Voice vote with all members voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Vacation pay request was denied for a past employee in the Auditor's Office in the amount of \$3,247.50 all members voted against this request. There was a determination that she did not retire, her job was eliminated as of 12/31/08, and therefore, she would not qualify for vacation pay in 2009.

Discussion on the Springfield Regional Sewer District was tabled until the February Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The request from the LaPorte County Sheriff Department for \$5,000.00 to maintain the Court House Security Equipment was tabled until the February Council meeting. The Council told the department to speak with the Judge's since it was their security they were protecting.

Request from Sheriff Michael F. Mollenhauer for CCD Funds for Motor Vehicles totaling \$300,000.00 was tabled until the February 23rd, 2009 Council meeting. It was suggested that he obtain estimates for obtaining USED vehicles for the process servers.

Michigan Twp. Assessor was granted the \$1,730.04 to increase his 2009 budget due to reorganization and change of staff. Voice vote with all approving.

David Hunter was appointed to the Economic Development Commission. Voice vote was taken with all approving with the exception of Mr. Garner abstaining.

MEETING WAS ADJORNED