

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session the 23rd of February, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Auditor Craig Hinchman had roll call and the following Council persons were present: Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski. Council Attorney Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray was also present. Mr. Ford was absent. Mr. Hinchman declared a quorum.

The Council approved the February 23rd, 2009 agenda.

The Council approved the January 26th, 2009 minutes.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer stated that he will be on the March Council Meeting agenda to request digital recording equipment maintenance. He stated that only two cameras work out of 205. He stated it is a security issue.

Health Department supervisor, Tony Mancuso stated his opinion in favor or the Springfield Sewer District.

Joie Winski president of the LaPorte County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) requested that to streamline the appeals process, she wanted former Center Township Assessor, Michael Schultz and former Coolspring Township Assessor, Pam Kieft to be reappointed as hearing officers. She assured that they would keep regular hours or she will report back to the Council.

LIAISON REPORTS

Lois Sosinski reported she had meetings with HR and Data

Rich Mrozinski reported he had meetings with the County Home, Animal Control, Veteran Services, and Regional Sewer Board.

Terry Garner reported he had meetings with County Agent/Purdue Extension Office, Sheriff Mollenhauer and Commissioners Layton & Houston .

Matt Bernacchi reported he had meetings with G.I.S., Assessor Carol McDaniel and The Park Department.

Earl Cunningham reported he had a meeting with the Juvenile Service Center.

Mark Yagelski reported meeting with Coroner John Sullivan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Larson and Mark Danielson of Larson Danielson Construction voiced their concern about the bidding process for the building at the LaPorte County Fair Grounds. They question the legality of the awarding of the bid. If the project is to move forward, they are requesting to put the project up for new bids to meet state laws.

Mr. John Gilmore, President of Tonn & Blank Construction voiced his concerns about the proposed building at the LaPorte County Fair Grounds. He is upset that the contract signed by the Commissioners might not be honored by the County. He has already incurred expenses to comply with the bid.

Dennis Matheney stated that if Pam Kieft won't work regular hours on the PTABOA hearing appeals, she should resign. He also stated that since the Solid Waste District is not going to lease space at the Fair Grounds Building, if built, that the county should cut their loss and not proceeds with the building.

Commissioner Mike Bohacek stated that Nexus should not be paid the entire amount due because of a penalty deduction of \$300.00 per day. The amount needs to be recalculated before payment is made. They have not lived up to their end of the contract. Mike Kobos also spoke against paying Nexus. He stated that he has four parcels, he got eight different form 11's all in different envelopes wasting time, postage and paper. He stated that the reassessment job given to Nexus was never bid out properly, therefore should not be paid at all.

Several persons from the public strongly spoke out against the Springfield Sewer District.

TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

ASSESSOR

Assessor Carol McDaniel requested payment for invoices totaling \$182,500.00 to Nexus for reassessment work. Funds from the reassessment fund 247-30135-000-247. A roll call vote was requested, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted for, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted against. Request was approved.

AUDITOR

Auditor Craig Hinchman requested \$2,904.55 for the balance of his office moving expenses and supplies. Funds from county cumulative capital development 216-41004-000-216. Voice vote was taken, all members voting in favor.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Melissa Mischke requested \$185,100.00 from riverboat admissions fund 272-30162-000-272 for Aerial photography. Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Bernacchi voted for, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted against. Request was denied.

LAPORTE SUPERIOR COURT #4

Judge William J. Boklund requested the following funds from the Superior #4 Adult Supplemental Account:

Drug Testing and Equipment 334-31001-000-334	\$30,000.00
Continuing Education 334-30137-000-334	500.00
Programs 334-30096-000-334	20,000.00
Educational Training 334-30027-000-334	10,000.00
Maintenance Contracts 334-30007-000-334	8,000.00
Equipment 334-41007-000-334	137,684.97

Voice vote taken and all members voting in favor. Request approved.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

Surveyor Tony Hendricks requested \$57,000.00 from the Surveyor's corner perpetuation fund 271-20200-000-271 for the following:

Equipment	\$30,000.00
Supplies	25,000.00
Service Contracts	2,000.00

Roll Call vote was taken with Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor.

Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Garner voted against. Request approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Joyce Leon requested \$12,000.00 from the group health insurance fund 296-20200-000-296 for Employee Wellness Days. Voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Request approved.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Barry McDonnell requested \$27,369.00 from the general fund 100-10117-000-137 to re-classify the Executive Liaison position and the Administrative Assistant Caseworker position.

Roll call vote was taken, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted against. Request denied.

DOROTHY S. CROWLEY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER

Director Erika C. Stallworth requested \$10,116.28 from the JSC Food Program Fund 337-20200-000-337 to replace equipment.

Voice vote was taken, all voted in favor. Request approved.

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The request to purchase salt was tabled to the March 23rd, 2009 Council meeting.

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Superintendent Tim Morgan requested from the park and recreation non-reverting fund

Refundable shelter deposits (560-20200-000-560)	\$2,380.00
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Refundable Tax on deposits (560-20510-000-560)	1,000.00
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Voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Request granted.

OLD BUSINESS

Request for payment to McMahon & Associates for District Formation and Approval regarding Springfield Regional Sewer District. \$114,080.00

Roll call vote was taken, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi voted against Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski Mr. Garner voted in favor. Request denied.

Request for payment to Cender & Associated for outstanding bills regarding Springfield Regional Sewer District. \$9,500.00.

Roll call vote was taken, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner voted against. Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner voted in favor. Request denied.

Request for payment to dh2w, Inc. for payment regarding LaPorte County Office

Building to be located at the Fair Grounds. \$20,494.72.

No vote taken for lack of motion.

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Request for payment from riverboat admissions fund, 272-20200-182-272

\$5,000.00 for Court House Security. Voice vote held with all in favor. Request granted.

Request for payment from CCD funds 216-41002-105-216
\$300,000.00 for upgrading motor vehicles. Voice vote taken with Mr. Cunningham
voting against, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Garner
voting in favor. Request granted.

AFFORDIABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE

This ordinance was discussed and will be re-addressed at the March 23, 2009 Council
Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the Park Board due to the resignation of David Thompson. Ronald D.
Knickrehm was appointed by a voice vote with all in favor.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Mrozinski condemned the Council for voting against the Springfield Regional Sewer
District.

Mr. Cunningham voiced his approval to the Council for voting against the Springfield
Regional Sewer District. Said there were too many uncertainties.

Mr. Garner complimented Auditor Hinchman for the extra information that was furnished
to the Council regarding balances of existing funds.

MEETING WAS ADJORNED