

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2009**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009 in the Assembly room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Yagelski at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

The agenda was amended to remove County Commissioner Ken Layton regarding employee life insurance and American Structure Point, Inc. regarding the creation of a LaPorte County Regional Sewer District. Moved to the front of the agenda was County Commissioner, Mike Bohacek, regarding creation of a 4<sup>th</sup> Bridge Tender position. The amended agenda was approved by all members.

The March 23, 2009 minutes were approved after amending the County Highway Engineers salary to read: increasing the County Highway Engineer's position salary to \$74,000.00.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Health Department Administrator Paul Trost spoke out personally in favor of a Regional Sewer District and gave some information on septic systems. He also stated that the Swine Flu alert level was elevated up to a level 4.

County Surveyor Tony Hendricks thanked the Council for their support on his project. He stated that his new equipment was up and running efficiently.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Mrozinski reported meeting with the Veterans Services Office stating there will be a presentation of Medals and the Wall Gang will be leaving From Michigan City going to Washington D.C. on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Mr. Garner reported meeting with the Auditor's office and voiced concern over lack of security at the Hiler Building Offices.

Mr. Bernacchi reported meeting with the Park and Recreation Department regarding the Red Mill project and meeting with the Assessor's office regarding mileage expenses and defending large appeals.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Several members of the audience spoke strongly against the Regional Sewer District with many members of the audience clapping and yelling in approval. Two members of the audience spoke in favor of the Regional Sewer District.

Dennis Metheney requested that either Council Attorney Don Baugher resign or the County Council remove him due to a conflict of interest by representing the City of LaPorte as well as LaPorte County Council. If this was not done, he was going to file a complaint to the Indiana Supreme Court. President Mark Yagelski told him not to threaten, just do it because the Council was not going to remove Attorney Baugher.

## **NEW BUSINESS – one item**

Commissioner Mike Bohacek was moved up on the agenda to discuss hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> Bridge Tender to eliminate overtime and for safety issues. Motion was made to table this item until more financial information could be obtained. Motion was voted on by roll call. Voting in favor was Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Bernacchi, against was Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner. Motion failed.

Motion was made to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Bridge Tender position. Roll call vote was called; voting in favor was Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Garner. Voting against was Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Bernacchi. Motion approved.

## **APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS**

## **LAPORTE COUNTY CORONER**

Motion to take off the table the request by the LaPorte County Coroner to purchase a vehicle.

Voice vote taken. All voted in favor

Motion approved.

Coroner John Sullivan requested \$27,000.00 be appropriated for a Coroner's vehicle.  
Fund #216-41002-107-216 (Cumulative Capital Development)

Motion was made. Voice vote taken, all voted in favor.

Motion approved.

## **PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Non-reverting operating capital ordinance was read by title only. First reading was approved by a voice vote with all members voting in favor.

## **LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT**

Requested \$800.00 from the Clerk's budget/forms & receipts fund #100-20009-000-101  
For forms/receipts.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion Approved

## **LAPORTE COUNTY DRUG FREE PARTNERSHIP**

Requested from the #331-20200-000-331 (Justice Grant)

LaPorte County Sheriff Dept.                      \$6,850.00

Michigan City Police Dept                      \$1,501.90

Special Justice Project

Amended for just equipment              \$1,600.00

Voice vote taken,

Voting in favor were Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr.

Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi, Voting against, Mr. Garner.

Motion Approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY BUILDING  
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Requested from #272-71001-142-272 (River Boat Admissions Fund)

Requested to furnish and install low ambient kits on  
Two Trane Chillers—complex building \$10,819.00  
Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.  
Motion approved

Requested replacement of 6 roof top units for the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Street Complex, Michigan City. \$38,412.00  
Motion died for lack of 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Amended request for replacement of 3 roof top units  
For the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Complex, Michigan City. \$ Amount not given  
Voice vote taken with Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham,  
Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Garner voting in favor. Mrs. Sosinski voted  
Against.  
Motion approved

Request for compressor on #2 Trane Chiller-roof of  
Complex was removed due to pending insurance.

**LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Requested from #247-30135-000-247 (Reassessment Fund)

Requested \$5,000.00 for mileage to  
Pay for building permits  
Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor.  
Motion approved.

Requested \$24,000.00 to defend County on  
Large Assessment Appeals.  
Voice Vote Taken  
All members voted in favor of with the provision  
that the funds be dispersed with the approval of County  
Attorney and County Commissioners.  
Motion approved.

## **LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Request for DVR Equipment and Recording System  
And accessories/equipment and  
Recording system for Detective Bureau.

Motion to Table

Voice vote taken

All members voted to table.

Motion approved.

First reading (by title only) the Ordinance allowing the  
LaPorte County Sheriff to charge an annual sex or  
Violent offender registration fee and change of  
Address fee.

Motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

## **LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested \$4,500.00 from #370-10130-000-370 (Grant IDEM)

For extra hire/part time

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested \$400.00 from #370-11007-00-370 (Grant IDEM)

For OASI

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested \$100.00 from #370-11009-000-370 (Grant IDEM)

For Medicare

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested \$16,125.00 from #370-20200-000-370 (Grant IDEM)

For claims

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

Requested \$253,408.00 from #216-41002-140-215  
(Cumulative Capital Development) for the purchase  
Of two new ambulances  
Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

Requested \$32,700.00 from #257-41007-140-257 (Riverboat Win Tax)  
To purchase equipment/radios/graphics  
Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
TRANSFERS:**

<p><b>FROM:</b> <b>COUNTY USER FEE FUND</b> 327-20200-000-327</p>	<p><b>TO:</b> <b>PRETRIAL DIV. &amp; DEFERRAL</b> 343-20200-000-343(claims)      \$35,264.00</p>
	<b>ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>
327-20200-000-327	508-11017-000-508 (APS PERF)      8,400.00
327-20200-000-327	508-11019-000-508 (APS Health Ins.)      5,800.00
	<b>VICTIM ADVOCATE GRANT</b>
327-20200-000-327	550-11007-000-550 (ICJI OASI)      1,200.00
327-20200-000-327	550-11009-000-550 (ICJI Medicare)      900.00
327-20200-000-327	550-11017-000-550 (ICJI PERF)      5,300.00
327-20200-000-327	550-11019-000-550 (ICJI Health) <u>3,500.00</u>
	TOTAL      \$60,364.00

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**OLD BUSINESS**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE**

Motion to take off table  
Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

First reading of ordinance by title only with the  
Clarification and cap on fees.  
Motion to approve the first reading  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved.

**KEN HERCEG & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Requested \$15,046.42 for payment of professional fees for  
County Courthouse Exterior Restoration-Pretrial

Preparation costs

Motion to Pay

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi voted in favor of payment, Mrs. Sosinski,  
Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner all voted against.

Motion failed

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER KEN LAYTON**

Requested \$41,638.61 of delinquent property tax on the  
Hiler building be removed.

Voice vote taken. All members voted in favor.

Motion approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EMERGENCY LOAN REPAYMENT**

Ordinance first reading on repayment of the Five Million Dollar Loan  
to the Emergency Fund, then to Borrow Nine Million Dollars  
from the same account.

Motion to approve first reading. All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**COUNTY COUNCILMAN RICH MROZINSKI**

Requested the Council to sign a resolution to spend the  
Federal Economic Renewal Grants Funds in the United States,  
and locally if possible.

Motion to accept. All members voted in favor

Resolution adopted.

**COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Mrozinski thanked the Council for their support to “Buy America”

Mrs. Sosinski wanted to be sure that the newly created position of Bridge Tender was  
properly advertised before any one was hired.

Mr. Cunningham thanked the previous years County Councils for having the for-sight to establish the Emergency Fund.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 P.M.**