

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 26, 2009**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on May 26, 2009 at Purdue North Central Campus, LSF#2, Library Student Faculty Building , lower basement (handicap accessible) Highway 421, Westville Indiana

Meeting 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, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski, Council Member Mrs. Sosinski was absent. Also present were Council Attorney Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray. Auditor Hinchman declared a quorum.

The agenda was amended to table the LaPorte County Hazardous Material Team requesting funds for firefighters turn out gear until the June Council Meeting. The amended agenda was approved by all members present.

The minutes from the April 27, 2009 Council Meeting was approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Purdue Extension Director Walt Sell announced the upcoming Indiana Farm Management Tour on June 23 and 24, 2009. Details available at his office.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Garner reported meeting with LaPorte County Sheriff's Office to discuss the Video Recording systems.

Also meeting with Purdue Extension office regarding rent for their office space.

Also meeting with the Auditor's office with no issues at this time.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Assessor's office regarding payment to Level II certified assessors.

Also meeting with the Park Department to discuss the Red Mill Dam Project.

Mr. Ford had no report.

Mr. Cunningham met with the Circuit Court Office regarding the reduction of funds at the Juvenile Service Center.

Mr. Mrozinski reported meeting with the LaPorte County Animal Shelter. He stated that there are numerous pets available for adoption due to the economic situation.

Also meeting with the Veterans Services stating there will be a medal awards ceremony on July 11, 2009.

Also meeting with the LaPorte County Home stating there is an open house at the County Home on June 14, 2009.

Mr. Yagelski reported meeting with the Highway department regarding County Road 950 and water and sanitation under I-94 in Michigan City.

He also stated that there will be a Flag Day ceremony on June 14, 2009 at Millennium Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hanna resident Greg Fuhlenbrock voiced his displeasure with the LaPorte County Library.

Mr. Gary Blumenfeld requested information on when the water and sanitation would be in place under I-94 in Michigan City.

Commission Barb Huston stated that it would cost the county between 3 and 5 million dollars to complete the project to put water and sanitation under I-94. The Engineering is 95% complete but the project has not been funded.

Mr. Dennis Metheny questioned travel funds for the Michigan Township Assessor and questioned funds for the proposed LaPorte County Sports Complex and the county funds given to the 211 Center. He also voiced sympathy for the abundance of animals waiting for adoption at the shelter.

Mr. Mike Kobos spoke out against the Red Mill Dam Project.

Mr. Jim Jessup spoke in favor of the Red Mill Dam Project.

Mr. Gene Jonas spoke on the water problems and in favor of a County Sewer District.

APPROPRIATIONS-TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS

LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Requested \$274,054.00 for the County's share of the Red Mill Dam Project.
Fund#272-20200-155-272 River Boat Admission Fund
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved.

Motion for the second reading of the Non-reverting Operating Capital Fund and Non-reverting Operating Fund Ordinance # 2009-02 to be read by title only.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Ordinance approved.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Requested \$18,773.00 from Fund#216-20200-157-216 Cumulative Capital Development Fund for wiring and telephones for the new construction of the Health Department, LaPorte Office.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested \$100,000.00 into Fund#100-30085-000-145 for medical payment for inmates
Requested \$139,000.00 into Fund#100-30135-000-145 for professional services.
Funds coming from Riverboat Admissions Fund #272. Requests were combined for one motion.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved.

After presentations from both Miner Electronics and Communication Company of South Bend, the request for Video Recording System for the LaPorte County Jail was tabled until the June 22, 2009 County Council Meeting.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion to table was approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requested \$12,000.00 to pay the Township Assessor's that have level II certifications.
Motion to pay from the Cumulative Capital Development fund #216.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved.

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Requested additional appropriation of \$4,516.00 for education and travel expenses.
Request died for lack of motion. It was suggested that the request should be directed to the Commissioners.

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested \$191,813.89 to buy out lease on equipment.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted against.
Motion denied.

Requested \$1,750,000.00 for their May draw from CEDIT.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE (revision)

Second reading by title only of the revised Affordable Housing Ordinance #2009-01
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Ordinance approved.

COMMISSIONER KEN LAYTON

Request for clarification of delinquent taxes on the “Hiler Building”
Mr. Layton previously asked for removal of the tax in error, now asked for payment of the delinquent taxes from Fund#257-20200-143-257 River Boat Win Tax.
Motion to pay \$41,638.61.
Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.
Motion approved.

EMERGENCY LOAN REPAYMENT AND NEW LOAN

Second reading of the ordinance (2009-04) for repayment of the five million dollar loan to the emergency fund, and then borrow nine million dollars from the same fund.
Voice vote taken, all voting in favor.
Ordinance approved.

NEW BUSINESS

LAPORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Requested the reauthorization of the Library Capital Projects Fund for 2010. Resolution # 2009-02

Voice vote taken, Mr. Ford, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski voted in favor. Mr. Yagelski voted against.

Resolution approved.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ford reported that the Intermodal project is now in the hands of the Governor.

Mr. Mrozinski spoke on the need to extended water and sewage under I-94 in Michigan City and the need for a Regional Sewer District.

Mr. Yagelski commented that the appropriation of \$100,000.00 to the 211 center at November 2008 Council Meeting was to be paid over a period of four years, not all at one time. He stated that he never saw a contract for services, he stated to the two Commissioners attending the meeting that the council wants the pre-paid \$75,000.00 returned to the county, and if there was no contract signed, then the Council will expect the full \$100,000.00 returned. He had heard that there were some problems with the center. Motion was made for this.

Voice vote taken, all members present voted in favor.

Motion approved.

Mr. Yagelski on behalf of all Council Members thanked the staff of Purdue North Central for their hospitality and the use of their meeting room.

MEETING ADJORNED AT APROXIAMATELY 9:30 P.M.