

## **LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **September 21, 2009**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on September 21, 2009 in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Council Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Yagelski.

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, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski. Also present were Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray. Auditor Hinchman declared a quorum.

The Agenda was approved (with changes) by all Council Members.

The minutes from the August 24, 2009 meeting were approved by all Council Members.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

PTABOA Hearing Officer, Pam Kieft, spoke at length regarding her 2010 salary cut to \$1,000.00. She stated that her inability to please LaPorte County Assessor Carol McDaniel created a big problem in being able to function properly in her duties. Mrs. Sosinski stated that she should have approached the County Council with her complaints. PTABOA President, Mrs. Joie Winski spoke in favor of continuing the position and stated that it was very important. She also stated that the last few months Pam has been very helpful to the board. Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Bernacchi wanted to know what she had done in previous months. Mrs. Winski could not answer but she was sure that others would be able to. Mr. Bernacchi and Mrs. Sosinski want Mrs. Kieft to bring some type of documentation to the Budget hearings on October 12, 2009 to document what she has been doing previous to the last few months. At that time, her salary will be discussed.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Garner had no report.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Park & Recreation Department and reported that the department will be getting back \$65,000.00 in grant funds.

Mr. Cunningham had no report.

Mrs. Sosinski had no report.

Mr. Ford had no report.

Mr. Mrozinski met with LaPorte County Home. He added that so far this year they have contributed \$41,000.00 back into the general fund. He also met with the Animal shelter. He added that there is an increase in pets being turned in due to the economy. The Shelter desperately needs to increase adoptions.

Mr. Yagelski had no report.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer stated that the contract had been signed for the school liaison officer, Mike Kellems. He also submitted the new pension plan because of the recent law change which the County Attorney Craig Braje has approved. This will be placed on the agenda for the October 26, 2009 County Council Meeting for formal approval. He also stated that there are no Grants for the video recorders for the jail per Congressman Joe Donnelly. This item will be discussed further at the October 12<sup>th</sup> budget hearing public meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Herb Newkirk spoke as a taxpayer and retired prison warden. He is concerned with take home vehicles in the community corrections department. He stated that even though they were told to park them when not on County business, this has not been done. It is a waste of tax payer's money to fund the gas and maintenance for their personal use.

State Senator Jim Arnold spoke about the RTA referendum election. He stated that it only takes two votes out of the four Counties involved to form the RTA, but if there was not an election held, there was no penalty, and it would just act as a NO vote. He also stated that we could just add it to the ballot for the May 2010 primary election.

## **APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS**

### **LaPorte Cancer Center LLC—Public Hearing**

Requested Tax Abatement designation of an economic revitalization area as well as consideration of the resolution approving the tax abatement request. (2009-04)

Motion was made to read by title only.

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor of the resolution

Motion approved

### **Kingsbury Industrial Park—Resolution**

Requested approval by resolution of the allocation of up to six million dollars from major moves fund #223 for the purposes of public improvements for an economic development project to be located at the Kingsbury Industrial Park. (2009-05)

Motion was made to read by title only

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor of the resolution

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD (131)**

Motion made to rescind the budget for the remainder of 2009

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT**

Presentation of an ordinance known as

Domestic Relations Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund Plan

To create a non-reverting fund. (2009-07)

Motion was made to read by title only

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor of the ordinance

Motion approved

Presentation of ordinance known as Neighborhood Court Non-reverting Fund. (2009-06)

Motion made to read by title only

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor of the ordinance

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY EMS**

Requested additional allocation of funds for Bone Drills from Council’s

Motion to approve \$10,500.00

Win Tax-EMS-Equipment (257-41007-140-257)

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY SURVEYOR**

Requested to spend from the Surveyor Corner Perpetuation

Fund Acct # 271-20200-000-271

Equipment \$ 6,000.00

Supplies \$15,000.00

Service Contracts \$ 4,000.00 Total \$25,000.00

Motion to approve

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

Requested transfer of funds from

Jail Extra Hire (100-10130-000-154)

TO

Courthouse Security Overtime (100-10140-000-182)

Motion to approve \$3,000.00

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested payment of sick days not used to Retired

Jail Deputy Hosea Lynch from Acct (100-10165-000-145) \$4,350.00

Motion to approve

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT**

Requested payment of sick days and vacation days not

Used to Retired Phyllis Tadros. From Acct (100-10119-000-101) \$5,280.48

Motion to approve

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested appropriation into the Communicable Disease  
Non-Reverting Fund (526-20200-000-526) to allow for  
Timely presentation and payment of claims. \$20,000.00  
Motion to approve  
Voice vote taken  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

Requested approval of the H1N1 Grant from ISDH  
Phase 1 and Phase 2 --amount to be received from ISDH  
For Phase 1 & Phase 2 --not to exceed \$119,600.00  
Motion to approve  
Voice vote taken  
All members voting in favor  
Motion approved

Requested approval of the Childhood Lead Poison Prevention  
Grant from ISDH \$13,000.00  
Motion to approve  
Voice vote taken  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER**

Requested appropriation to purchase a 2002 Dodge Ram from Sauers  
Auto Sales. Funds are presently in acct. # 541 Treatment Fund.  
Appropriate into acct. (541-20200-000-541) \$8,300.00  
Motion to approve  
Voice vote taken  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY 9-1-1 CENTER**

Requested transfer from #598-02061-000-598 (911 Surcharge Acct)  
TO  
#598-10140-000-598 (overtime account)  
To pay employee overtime for remainder of 2009 \$25,000.00  
Motion to approve  
Voice vote taken  
Mr. Garner voted against  
All other members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to report

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to report

**REVIEW OF UNIT BUDGETS**

The Public hearing on the 2010 Budget for LaPorte County will  
Take place on October 12, 2009 in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Complex,  
809 State Street, LaPorte Indiana at 5:00 p.m.

**COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

No Comments

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.