

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 25, 2010**

The LaPorte County Council Meeting met in regular session on Monday, JANUARY 25, 2010, 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Yagelski

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Chief Deputy Auditor Mary Ray conducted roll call and the following Council Members were present: Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski. Also present were Council Attorney Don Baugher, Chief Deputy Auditor Mary Ray, and First Deputy Auditor, Lisa Parrett-Hock. Mrs. Ray declared a quorum.

The Agenda (with one correction) was approved by all Council Members present.

The Minutes from the November 23, 2009 meeting were approved by all Council Members present.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Bob Young from the County Highway Department spoke briefly about the spending of the Cedit money and the road list. He stated the department's money shortfall is to be discussed later by Commissioner Ken Layton.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Mrs. Sosinski had no report

Mr. Mrozinski reported on N.I.R.P.C. He stated that our county is well represented. LaPorte Mayor Kathy Chroback was elected this year's president and Commissioner Layton is on the Board.

He additionally reported that Kay Felton, Administrator, LaPorte County Home has refunded to the general fund \$459,609.13 from room & board and \$19,951.58 from her unused budget.

He announced two events in the near future for Veterans. An Armed Forces day event will be May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The awarding of medals will take place in late April, 2010. More information will follow. He also commended the Veterans Service Officer John Wantuch for doing such a wonderful job for the Veterans of LaPorte County.

Mr. Garner reported meeting with Walt Sell, Purdue Extension Office regarding office space. They will remain where they are at for another year but then it is up to the Commissioners to find space for their office. Possibly at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Garner, Commissioner Layton and State Senator Tom Dermody met with the Soil & Water office regarding the clean up of the Yellow and Kankakee River. They would like to see MS4 director, Rick Brown to be involved also.

He would like more information and be kept updated on the IKON situation. Mr. Garner stated that we are still paying for something that he isn't sure is working.

Mr. Bernacchi reported that the County accepting credit cards is partially up and running. Work is being done to have that ability in all County offices.

He reported that the reassessment process is to begin in July 2010. He is in the process of taking classes to obtain his level 1 & 2 assessor's designation so that he can become more involved in the reassessment process.

He and the G.I.S. coordinator Melissa Mischke are working together with several other offices to fund the upgrading of the pitctometry for the County.

Mr. Cunningham met with the Community Corrections Department. He stated that the Judges are not sentencing offenders there at this time.

Mr. Yagelski stated that our IT director, Darlene Hale is working with ICON and making good progress. There will need to be additional training on the program.

He asked Treasurer, Nancy Hawkins how much revenue was received from the current tax collections. She stated that accurate figures were not available at this time since the deadline is next week and they are still processing payments.

Since the County is short of funds at this time, a motion was made to borrow nine million from the "Rainy Day" fund.

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor  
Motion passed  
Council Attorney is to prepare the ordinance for the Council President to sign.

**Public Comments**

Dick Reel supported the efforts and accomplishments of the Purdue Extension. He stated that they need a central location with plenty of parking to better serve the citizens of LaPorte County.

Dennis Metheny spoke as a taxpayer, not as elected official regarding the Purdue Extension. He stated that they should be located wherever the Council/Commissioners put them, even if it's a tent outside.

Commissioner Mike Bohacek reported that the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals laws have changed as of July 1, 2009 but the Commissioners were just informed today. The Assessor is unable to vote on any matter before the Board. He suggested that all appeals heard after July 1, 2009 be reviewed. He also stated that the law change made it possible to have either a three or five member Board. The Commissioners will have to make that decision. Possibly a workshop session will be called. Also, now the taxpayer is assumed correct, the Board must prove them wrong.

**APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS**

**LAPORTE COUNTY TREASURER**

Requested additional appropriation into the #100-30005-000-103  
For the balance of printing the 2008 pay 2009  
Provisional tax bills. \$14,437.84  
Voice vote taken  
All Members present voted in favor  
Motion passed

**LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested the appropriation into the Communicable Disease  
Non-reverting Fund (526-20200-000-526)  
For timely payment of claims \$30,000.00  
Requesting the appropriation into the H1N1 Fund  
Non-reverting fund (625-0200-000-625)  
For timely payment of claims \$298,160.00  
Voice vote taken  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion passed

Requested the appropriation into the Lead Grant Fund  
 Non-reverting fund (626-20200-000-626) \$ 13,000.00  
 For timely payment of claims  
 Voice vote taken  
 All members present voted in favor  
 Motion passed

**LAPORTE SUPERIOR COURT NO.4**

Requested the entire amount in the Probation User Fee Fund  
 Appropriated Into:  
 Drug Testing and Equipment (334-31001-000-334) \$30,000.00  
 Continuing Education (334-30137-000-334) \$ 750.00  
 Programs (334-30096-000-334) \$20,000.00  
 Educational Training (334-30027-000-334) \$15,000.00  
 Maintenance Contracts (334-30007-000-334) \$10,000.00  
 Equipment (334-41007-000-334) \$180,562.84  
 Total \$256,312.84

Voice vote taken  
 All members present voted in favor  
 Motion passed

Requested the entire Road Crew fund (348-30135-000-348)  
 Be transferred into  
 The Probation User Fees Program (334-30096-000-334) \$12,734.10  
 Voice vote taken  
 All members present voted in favor  
 Motion passed

**LAPORTE COUNTY HOME**

Requested funds to be used from the Ruth Rohrabough  
 Trust (243-20200-000-243) for sprinkler repair \$4,290.00  
 It was suggested that since Kay Felton, Director, last year returned to the  
 General fund \$479,644.71 that the money be taken out of Riverboat  
 Admissions funds. After discussion, motion was made to  
 Approve the funds from the Ruth Rohrabough Trust but at  
 February Council Meeting, make a motion to reimburse the Trust from  
 Riverboat Admissions Fund.  
 Voice vote taken  
 All members present voted in favor  
 Motion passed

**LAPORTE COUNTY CLERK**

Requested appropriation from Clerk’s Record Perpetuation Account (341-20200-000-341) to the Document Storage Fund \$12,000.00  
Voice vote taken  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion passed

**LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Requested funds from either Riverboat Admissions (272) or CEDIT (208) into LaPorte County Highway Department MVH Fund (200) to get the Highway Department out of the RED. \$710,052.46  
After much discussion and debate, a motion was made to only Grant \$410,052.46 to the Highway Department from Riverboat Admission fund  
Voice vote taken  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion passed

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Cunningham reported that he still had not received the report from the Commissary Fund for 7/1/09 to 12/31/09. Mr. Baugher is to follow up and obtain the report.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

None

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:35 p.m.**