

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 24, 2010

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, May 24, 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

Roll Call was taken by Auditor Craig Hinchman. All Council members were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Council Attorney Don Baugher.

The agenda was approved by all members after the following deletions: approval of April 26, 2010 meeting minutes, the request by Building Maintenance for a new employee and the request of Assessor Carol McDaniel to pay her attorney fees.

The April 28, May 3, and May 10, 2010 special Council meeting minutes were approved by all members

Elected Official/Department Head Reports

Commissioner Ken Layton spoke for the Highway Department. He stated that they are now short four employees. He intends to bring this issue back to the Council in September for the approval to hire. At the present time he just wants the Council to consider this situation.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner reported that he met with the Treasurer and provisional bills are going to be mailed out on approximately June 11th, with due dates of July 9th and November 10th.

He also reported that Walt Sell from Purdue Extension is resigning.

He also announced that the Red Power Roundup will be held at LaPorte County Fair Grounds on June 23, 24, 25 & 26th.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Park & Recreation Department. The 100% grant is now in place for the 2010 Dump Truck with snow plow. The purchase of this vehicle can be moved forward.

He also met with the Prosecutor's office but Prosecutor Beckman was on the agenda and he will give the details.

Mr. Cunningham met with Community Corrections and also met with the Prosecutor, again, Mr. Beckman will give details.

Mrs. Sosinski met with Human Resources director Mrs. Leon. She stated the hiring freeze has saved the County almost ¼ million dollars.

Mr. Ford met with the EMS regarding the software purchase. This also is on the agenda so more details will be given then.

Mr. Mrozinski reported his meeting with the Veterans Service Office. On Memorial Day flags are to be flown at half mast until 3:00 p.m. Then he wished nephew Matt good luck with his diving team.

Mr. Yagelski reported that the \$35,000.00 Mrs. McDaniel requested for her attorney fees has been paid by the LaPorte County Commissioners.

Public Comments

Dennis Metheny asked the Council President, Mr. Yagelski, if the money paid for Mrs. McDaniel's attorney had been placed in escrow pending the Supreme Court's decision. Mr. Yagelski said no, it's already been paid. He then asked if the case is overturned by the Court will the money come back to the County. Mr. Yagelski replied "that's all the statement we have at this time". Mr. Metheny said he deserved an answer to his question and Mr. Yagelski stated "this isn't a question and answer session, if you have a comment, make one"

Mr. Mike Kobos said that large amounts of money have been given out. He would like to see a follow up on how this money is spent. Also, he would like the outside of the Court House repaired properly.

Attorney Shaw Friedman, President of Harmony House/CASA Program asked the council not to approve Prosecutor Rob Beckman's request for the appropriation of funds from the pre-trial Diversion Account. He wants the creation of a process to evaluate proposals to use this money. He stated that there are plenty of uses for this money in the courts as well as for non-profit organizations.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS

LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Requested additional appropriation for CMAQ Grant from either of the following:

CCD Fund (216-20200-000-216)

Win Tax Fund (257-20200-000-257)

For the purchase of a 2010 Dodge 3500 REG ST 4WD dump

Truck with snow plow \$39,654.48

(100% federal reimbursable \$39,654.48)

(The purchase will now be a 2011 model, no price change)

Motion to approve the request with funding from the CCD fund (216)

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested approval to expend from its non-reverting capital fund

(560-20200-000-560) for the shortfall from 2008 model to

2010 model (\$1,645.52) and the onetime NIRPC//CMAQ

(For both phases)Oversight surcharge (\$1,477.86) \$3,123.38

(The purchase will now be a 2011 model, no price change)

Motion to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

BUILDING MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Requested payment of ten unused sick days to Sue Albertson

Who is retiring after 29 years. \$750.00

Motion to approve

All members voted in favor

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requesting the May CEDIT draw \$1,750,000.00

EMS/LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested appropriation for the Countywide

Public Safety Software Project. (631-20200-000-631) \$107,645.00

Motion made to approve the request from Riverboat

Admissions Fund (272) Payable on August 1, 2010

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Maintenance fee for the project

Budget year 2012 and annually thereafter. \$ 80,000.00

From either Riverboat Admissions or Win Tax (272or 257)

Died for lack of motion

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested an additional appropriation into the

Pension Fund (238-20200-000-238)

From either Riverboat (272-20200-000-272)

Or win tax (257-20200-000-257)

\$247,065.00

Motion made to approve the request from Riverboat Admission

Funds (272) Payable August 1, 2010

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Requested appropriation into the 327 account

To be transferred to the general fund 100

\$622,778.50

For further appropriation into

LaPorte City Parks 100-41100-000-100

\$150,000.00

LaPorte County Parks 100-41102-000-100

\$150,000.00

Michigan City Zoo project 100-41103-000-100

\$200,000.00

LaPorte County Fair Board 100-41104-000-100

\$100,000.00

Pre/Trial Diversion/Deferral Excess Fund 343-20200-000-343

\$ 22,778.50

After a lengthy presentation by LaPorte County Prosecutor,

Attorney Don Baugher stated this could only be done by an ordinance.

There was a motion to table the request until the ordinance was prepared and

Presented to the Council for approval.

All members voted to table the request

Motion approved

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Baugher if the letter had been sent to the Sheriff requesting the detailed account of the Commissary Funds and if there was a reply. Mr. Baugher stated the letter was sent and to date, no reply has been received.

NEW BUSINESS

The PTABOA appointment was discussed. Even though the Commissioners were to appoint their member first, President Yagelski stated that the Council could not wait any longer.

There was a motion made to have a five member board starting with the first PTABOA meeting.

Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted in favor

Mr. Mrozinski voted against

Motion approved

Each applicant, Paul J. Reed, James Irwin, Thomas C. Ruda and Roger T. Miller, was given a chance to briefly state why he should be appointed. Following the presentation a ballot vote was taken. Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Mrozinski voted In favor of Paul J. Reed
Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Ford, Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski voted in favor of James Irwin
Mr. James Irwin was appointed as the new PTABOA Board Member.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Mrozinski spoke out against the Conservation Club building being taken from them and given to the Purdue Extension Office. He stated that it was a dumb idea, he definitely won't support it. He suggested that a plan be drawn up and put out for bids. Possibly to build on the existing concrete slab that is just sitting at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Gardner agreed with Mr. Mrozinski; put the project out for bid. Don't take the Conservation Club's building.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the County has wasted approximately \$280,000.00 in seven years on rent. It's time to build, not rent.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.