

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
November 22, 2010

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, November 22, 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. Those attending were Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Yagelski, Mrs. Sosinski. and Mr. Mrozinski. Also present were Council Attorney, Don Baugher and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray.

The revised agenda was approved by all members.

The minutes from the County Council Meeting and the Budget Hearing held on October 25, 2010 were approved by all members.

Department Head Reports

Commissioner Barb Huston reported that she met with two additional companies regarding the Employee's free medical clinic. LaPorte Work Place and Memorial Hospital of South Bend. She will have more information later to present to the Council. She does recommend the Memorial Hospital of South Bend since they would be able to use the facilities of the Health Departments in both LaPorte and Michigan City. Making them more cost effective. She also attended the Data Board meeting, where they discussed a copy machine for in house printing, picture I D maker and the possibility of receiving grants for the e-mail compliance issue. She stated that the Commissioners have reached a settlement with two of the Dog Handlers from the Sheriff's department. Two additional Dog Handlers have consulted an attorney regarding their back pay. Negotiations are now in progress. She also stated that the dog program is a valuable tool in law enforcement, but very expensive. She doesn't think the County needs all three dogs.

President Yagelski asked her if the dogs had their own attorney yet.

President Yagelski thanked Commissioner Huston for the nice parking lot improvement at the Michigan City Court House.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer and Chief Deputy Jim Sosinski defended the dog program. They do realize that it is an additional expense but they are working on bringing the costs down. When they took office, they were not aware of a federal law about the Dog Program. Chief Sosinski has implemented rules to be within federal guidelines.

Mr. Cunningham asked Chief Sosinski how many dogs Porter, Starke & St. Joseph County have. Chief Sosinski did not know. Michigan City has three and LaPorte City has one. He then asked if they could consolidate and have fewer dogs.

Board of Education Superintendent, Norm Kleist reported that Prairie and Dewey schools have consolidated but Cass was still alone for now. He presented a proposal that the consolidated Prairie and Dewey will pay one half of his and his part time secretary's salary and benefits.

A motion was made to cut the salary and benefits by 50%.

After a heated discussion the motion was voted on

Mr. Garner voted no.

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

Motion approved

LIAISON REPORTS

Mrs. Sosinski attended the Data Board meeting regarding a printer for in-house printing, the e-mail retention policy. The County is not in compliance, but no grant money is available. She also attended the Personnel meeting and re-addressed a Health Department employee evaluation. Human Resources will address this. It was recommended that all Health Department employees be re-evaluated, but it was determined to be unnecessary at this time.

Mr. Ford recommended the Emergency Management request for a replacement weather siren that cannot be repaired. He also is suggesting that the Court House Security request be tabled until more information is available.

Mr. Mrozinski reported meeting with the Animal Shelter and announced that Santa will be available for pictures with pets on December 4th, at the Lucky Dog.

Mr. Garner met with the Soil and Water Department. He stated that the cleaning of the Kankakee River is going well. He also stated that a part time employee is needed in this department.

Mr. Bernacchi recommended that the GIS request be approved and stated that the department does need another part time person. The Assessor is requesting funds to pay Tyler Group for the work that has been done on the reassessment. Mrs. McDaniel was not present but Assessor Elect, Mike Schultz stated that he is pleased with the progress that is being made.

Mr. Cunningham met with Community Corrections. Their request on tonight's agenda was removed. He also met with the Prosecutor.

Mr. Yagelski discussed the 2011 Council meeting schedule. (See the approved schedule attached) He also stated that N.I.C.T.D. could possibly receive \$800,000.00 in grant money for the study regarding the relocation of the South Shore in Michigan City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Doug Wolfe thanked Mr. Garner for standing up for the tax payers regarding the expenses in the school consolidation.

Mr. Brian McKee from LaPorte Hospital stated that he was happy to answer any questions regarding the employee free clinic.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY CORONER

Requested a transfer of funds from #107-20025-000-107

Into

Autopsy Account #107-30033-000-107

\$3,000.00

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested the November 2010 CEDIT draw

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested an additional appropriation into

145-30085-000-145 (Medical for prisoners)

\$83,000.00

From either Riverboat Admissions (272)

Or Win tax (257)

Motion was made to approve the request from the

Riverboat Admissions Account #272

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Mrozinski voted against

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner

Voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested an additional appropriation into
Pension Fund #238-20200-000-238
From either Win Tax (257) or Riverboat Admissions (272) \$770,585.00
Motion was made to approve the request from the Riverboat
Admissions fund #272
Mr. Cunningham Voted Against
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski
And Mr. Bernacchi voted in favor
Motion approved.

COURT HOUSE SECURITY-LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested an additional appropriation into
Equipment #100-30012-000-182 for the purchase
Of two employee identification card printers
From either Win tax (257) or Riverboat Admissions (272) \$9,722.50
Motion was made to table this request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
Request tabled

LAPORTE COUNTY DRUG FREE PARTNERSHIP

Requested an appropriation from the LaPorte County
Drug Free Partnership Community Grant Fund #331-20200-000-331 \$121,187.17
Motion to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Requested a transfer from
Computer Repair/Maint. 100-20013-000-175
To
Continuing Education #100-30137-000-175
To pay for ESRI support services implementation \$5,280.00
Motion to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

A motion was made to increase the 2011 budget for part time/seasonal
Account (10130) to \$10,000.00
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

THIS REQUEST WAS WITHDRAWN

Requesting an additional appropriation into the
Gas & Oil account #100-20025-000-179
From either Win Tax (257) or Riverboat Admissions (272) \$1,500.00

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Requested the following transfer of funds From the Pre-Trial Diversion Account into the Infraction Deferral Account:

#327-20200-000-327	#550-11019-000-550 Health Insurance	\$3,610.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-20200-000-343 Claims	\$9,455.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-10117-000-343 Salary	\$35,626.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-11007-000-343 OASI	\$1,906.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-11009-000-343 Medicare	\$ 499.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-11017-000-343 PERF	\$2,583.00
#327-20200-000-327	#343-11019-000-343 Health Ins.	<u>\$5,911.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$59,590.00

A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requested an additional appropriation from the Reassessment Fund (247)
Into Professional Services #247-30135-000-247 \$99,100.00

A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Requested an additional appropriation from the Riverboat Fund (272)
Into # 272-20200-153-272 to replace the emergency siren that cannot
Be repaired \$18,671.00

A motion was made to approve the request
Mr. Cunningham voted against
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi
And Mr. Garner voted in favor
Motion approved

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested from the Cumulative Bridge Fund :(#210)
Scour Protection Feasibility Study \$35,000.00
Culvert Replacement in White Ditch at Michiana Shores \$200,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Reminder that there will not be a December County Council Meeting

Mr. Ford wished Chief Deputy Auditor Mary Ray and her husband a happy 35th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Yagelski wished his mother happy birthday and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR 2011 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**2011 COUNCIL MEETINGS
OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL**

(All meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. in the County Complex unless otherwise noted)

Tuesday January 18
Reorganization meeting 6:00p.m.
Regular meeting 6:30 p.m.

Monday February 21

Monday March 21

Monday April 18

Monday May 23

Monday June 27

Monday July 18

Monday August 22

Monday September 26

Monday October 24

Monday November 28

Monday December 19

Reminder—Any business to come before the Council needs to be submitted to the Auditor’s Office by 10:00 A.M. 14 days prior to the meeting date in order to meet publication deadlines.