

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 18, 2011**

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 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 Rich Mrozinski Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Auditor ,Craig Hinchman called the roll; all members except Mr. Garner were present.

The agenda was approved by all members present.

Approval of the November 22, 2010 Council minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Department Head Reports

Commissioner, Barb Houston reported on the Data Board meeting. She stated that the software and hardware for the e-mail archive system that is required by the State, will require funding of \$57,564.00. The Council will vote on this later in the meeting. She also requested consideration on the purchase of a generator for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street building and Michigan City Courthouse. She is inquiring about a matching grant for the purchase. She reported that Commissioner Milsap now has the use of Commissioner Ken Layton's County car and Bret Stoller, E-911 Director has the use of Past Commissioner Mike Bochack's car and Mr. Stoller's car has gone into the "car pool"

Commissioner, Ken Layton reported that the Jail Bond has now been paid in full ten years ahead of schedule saving the County approximately 3.7 million in interest. He praised the County for their scrimping and saving to make this possible. He asked Co-Council Attorney Don Baugher to write an ordinance to rescind the tax rate for 2011 pay 2012 for the jail bond.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Ford reported meeting with County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks. He stated that the Surveyor is working on the Kankakee River and the sand and sediment is going to be recycled and used in other areas. He also stated that the Intermodal project is waiting on appraisals.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the director of Community Corrections has resigned and the committee is actively working to find a replacement.

Mrs. Sosinski stated she will address her topics later in the meeting.

Mr. Yagelski stated that there is still a hiring freeze, there is no ending date.

Mr. Bernacchi met with Assessor, Mike Schultz. He stated he needs some new computers to meet software requirements. He also stated that Mr. Schultz is having his employees take classes to obtain their level two by the end of the year so that they may better serve the taxpayers. There was no report regarding the new re-assessment progress from Tyler Group. Mr. Bernacchi also met with the Treasurer's Office and the Auditor's office to help co-ordinate the tax situation.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that the LaPorte County Home returned \$436,253.13 to the general fund for 2010. He complimented Mrs. Felton. He reported that he attended the Economic Alliance meeting and the Commissioners Conference along with Mr. Cunningham. They also attended the grand opening of the Cancer Center in Westville and the Legislative Conference at PNC. Mr. Mrozinski also attended the Solid Waste meeting.

Public Comments

None

## **APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS**

### **SUPERIOR COURT NO. 4**

Requested appropriation for improvements and or repairs

To Court Rooms and Offices. (152)

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

\$25,721.41

Tabled from the September 20, 2010 Council Meeting

Motion was made to take off the table

All members present voted in favor

Motion was made to approve the request to be paid from Win Tax (257)

All members present 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  
Tabled from the November 22, 2010 meeting  
Motion was made to take off the table  
All members present voted in favor  
After a discussion, it was stated that the Sheriff has already bought and paid for the printer to  
take care of his department  
A motion was made to approve the request for \$2,722.50 to be paid from Win Tax (257)  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Requested appropriation for archive software upgrade  
Per State requirements 157-41006-000-157  
From Riverboat Admissions or Win Tax (272) or (257) \$58,000.00  
Tabled from the September 20, 2010 Council Meeting  
Motion was made to take off the table  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion was made to approve the request to be paid for from  
Win tax (257)  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY CLERK**

Requested allocation from Clerk's Record Perpetuation  
Account to the document storage fund. (341-20200-000-341) \$20,000.00  
Motion was made to approve the request  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested an appropriation from Win Tax (257) or  
Riverboat Admission tax (272) into the  
Communicable Disease Non-Reverting fund  
(526-20200-000-526) for the timely payment of claims \$20,000.00  
Motion was made to approve the request to be paid from  
Win Tax (257)  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion Approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Requested the transfer of funds deposited into the  
Economic Development Fund #222-02061-000-222 to  
Be transferred into the Economic Development Professional Fee  
Fund #222-30135-000-222 to pay past due bills \$20,000.00  
Motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Requested funds from either Riverboat Admissions (272)  
Or Win Tax (257)  
Shortfall REMOVED \$264,161.45

Estimated Emergency snow removal costs (estimated at \$50,000.00)  
Motion was made to approve the actual amount for the snow  
Removal from the Win Tax (257) for \$42,171.15  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested the Environmental Health/Food Supervisor salary  
Be frozen to the current level PAT IV.  
After a lengthily discussion a motion was made to approve the request  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Requested to fill a probation officer position that was vacated  
On November 8, 2010.  
Motion was made to approve the request  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

Reading and Adoption of an emergency ordinance to make a short term loan  
From the LaPorte County Emergency Reserve Fund (275) to the  
LaPorte County General Fund \$9,000,000.00  
Known as Ordinance No# 2011-01  
Motion for first reading to be read by title only  
All members present voted in favor of the ordinance  
Motion was made for the second reading by title only and  
The adoption of the ordinance  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

A motion was made to transfer into the emergency reserve fund \$42,927.13  
To bring it back to one million dollar balance after the emergency loan. When the loan is paid  
back, the balance will be back to ten million dollars.

All members voted in favor

Motion passed

(It was discovered later that when the tax bill for 2006 pay 07 is reconciled, it will  
Automatically bring that fund up to one million)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

The Department heads are reminded that there is still a hiring freeze in effect.

Mr. Yagelski stated that he is not pleased that the Commissioners settle law suits without  
approval from the Council.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that there needs to be a liaison between the County Council and County  
Commissioners for communication.

Mr. Ford thanked Mr. Young and the Highway department for good work during the snow  
emergency.

### **ADJOURNMENT**