

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

February 21, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, February 21, 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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Auditor Craig Hinchman called the roll. All members were present.

All members approved the agenda

All members approved the November 22, 2010 Council minutes which was tabled from the January 18, 2011 meeting.

All members voted to approve the January 18, 2011 Council minutes

Department Head Reports

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer reported that the Sheriff's Department received a certificate from the Chicago Police Department for joint cooperation in solving a recent homicide. He also made the announcement that by having a maintenance agreement for the security equipment, the County has already

saved over eight thousand dollars in repairs. He also shared the annual Jail report with the Council Members. He furnished a detailed report on the commissary fund and the credit card statements for July 2010 through December 31, 2010. A pencil was also furnished to the Council Members showing a required slogan per the State Board of Accounts.

#### Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner reported that he attended the annual Soil & Water Luncheon. He also met with the Purdue Extension office staff regarding a new building. He reported that the Sheriff's Office does need a full time person to replace the part time person.

Mr. Ford reported meeting with the County Surveyor, Mr. Hendricks. He stated that he has a use for the Tahoe that was being traded in. This needed consideration. Mr. Ford stated that EMA is asking for a reimbursable fund for radio equipment.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the search for a department head for Community Corrections is still ongoing.

Mrs. Sosinski reported that she was going to talk with the Director of Human Resources but due to the holiday, was unable to.

Mr. Yagelski reported that INDOT awarded a grant to repair bridges in the Rolling Prairie area.

Mr. Bernacchi reported meeting with the Assessor regarding the use of Transfer Fees to purchase the necessary computers for the re-assessment project. He reported that the reassessment is going well. He also met with the Auditor's office and reports that the reconciliation bills will be completed soon.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that Veteran Awards will be given out on April 16, 2011. He also attended the AIC Legislative session and stated it was very informative.

#### Public Comments

Fred Dougherty spoke out against all the frivolous law suits the County is involved in. He stated that the County should get rid of two of its canine units and settle the law suits. He also said that there is no reason to buy 17 new cars. He suggested putting them in a rotation and allowing more miles on them before trading them in. The Sheriff responded by saying that he agreed the law suit on the RPM fest could have been paid from the commissary fund. He said that all the County Council had to do was indemnify him but they would not. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner said that wasn't true. Mr. Cunningham said they were not worried about having to indemnify as they had written approval from Bruce Hartman, the head of State Board of Accounts, to pay the claim from the Commissary Fund.

John Doyle presented a proposal to reconstruct Welnetz road complete with drains and sewers. Packages of information and maps were given to the Council.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS**

##### **LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**

Permission to replace an employee who passed away in January.  
All members voted to approve this request.

##### **LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

Requested the approval of the Compensation Agreement in Lieu of Statutory fees between Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer and County of LaPorte. (100-10111-000-105)

\$125,647.00

There was a discussion if this was necessary since it is State Statue.  
Motion to table was approved by all members

##### **LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

Requested the purchase of 17 vehicles/equipment  
From the Cty.Cumulative Capital Development Fund (216)  
Chief Deputy Jim Sosinski stated that he received another  
Bid from Kelly Chevrolet for \$286,646.71 to be considered.

A lengthily discussion followed regarding the need for replacing  
Some of the cars under 100,000 miles and the need for two toned  
Painting of the cars, and the option of trading in cars or selling them outright,  
a motion was made to purchase the 17 cars from  
Kelley Chevrolet for \$286,646.71.

Voting in favor were: Mr. Bernacchi, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford  
Mr. Yagelski

Voting against: Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner  
Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested the approval and funding of a non-reverting fund  
For Serv-Safe exams. From Either Win Tax (257) or  
Riverboat (272)

\$8,000.00

Motion was made to approve the request from  
The Win tax #257

All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Requested approval and funding of two reimbursable funds  
For extra points on LaPorte County Emergency Management  
Assessments

\$3,692.71

Foundation Grant for radio equipment

\$3,997.00

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

Motion was made to approve the request from Riverboat #272

All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

Requested the approval of the following transfers:

From 327-20200-000-327 into 343-20200-000-343 (Claims)

\$182,636.50

From 327-20200-000-327 into 508-11019-000-508 (Health Ins.)

\$ 6,500.00

Motion was made to approve the transfers

Mr. Garner voted against

All other members voted in favor

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Requested approval to use funds from the sales disclosure fund (340) for 12 computer work stations. \$18,000.00  
Motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Requested approval to move CEDIT funds (208) into the LaPorte County Highway Department MVH fund (200) \$500,000.00  
After a discussion regarding staying within the budget and not overspending a motion was made to approve the request using funds as needed.  
Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Ford voted against  
Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor  
Motion approved

### **LAPORTE REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT/ OAK TREE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Requested funds from the Major Moves Fund (223) \$1,900,000.00  
For the sewer project from Rolling Prairie to LaPorte  
A motion was made to approve  
A lengthy discussion followed. Too many questions remain regarding how many people would participate in the project, and how much a hook up charge would be and how much the cost would be per month. And how long would it take to pay back the loan of \$1,900,000.00  
Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor  
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted against  
Motion failed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Reading and adoption of an ordinance repealing the Ordinance Creating the Jail Bond Elimination Fund (2001-08)  
Motion to approve the ordinance (first reading)  
All members voted in favor  
Motion to approve the ordinance (second reading)  
All members voted in favor  
Ordinance 2001-08 was eliminated

A motion was made to eliminate the Sheriff's clothing allowance of \$1,500.00

(100-20014-000-105)

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted against

Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Motion approved

The Council requested that Attorney Baugher prepare the document amending the salary ordinance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Detective Bureau of the Sheriff's Department is again asking for a full time position. They have tried to obtain two part time employees but since it is a very detailed job, no one has met the requirements. The Personnel Committee has determined that this is a comot 6 position. They will be presenting this again at the special meeting being called on March 14, 2011.

### **COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Mr. Bernacchi said he was embarrassed by the Council's behavior and lack of respect for each other. He stated that they should all work together and quit the bickering.

Mrs. Sosinski stated that in a perfect world crime and drugs would be decreased and we would not have the need to increase emergency personnel.

Mr. Cunningham stated that after the State Board of Accounts audit report noted serious violations, there is definitely a communication problem with the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that he knows the Rolling Prairie Business owners are very disappointed about not getting approval of the funding for the sewer project. He said that we definitely need this project and hopes the Council will reconsider.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment at approximately 9:00 p.m.