

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
March 21, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, March 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 along with Council co-attorney, Doug Biege and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray

The agenda was approved after the addition of the requests from Assessor Mike Schultz.

The February 21, 2011 Council minutes were approved by all members.

President Mrozinski issued a welcome to the 4-H people in the audience.

Department Head Reports

Assessor Mike Schultz reported that all the members of his staff with the exception of one (who has thirty years of experience) have now reached their level two assessors status. The Pro-Val training was held last week. When he took office there were over 300 appeals pending; now there are only 25. On March 23, 2011, there is a meeting in Indianapolis with DLGF, State Board of Accounts, Manatron, Tyler Group, Assessor's Office, Auditor's Office, Treasurer's Office, Commissioner's Office and County Council. He also reported that all Mobile Homes and Personal Property are up to date in the computer.

Liaison Reports

Mrs. Sosinski stated that she is the Council representative for the ethics committee. Their first meeting is March 24, 2011. GIS requested a full time employee. They were directed to provide information to the Human Resources Department so that they can develop a job description before the personnel committee reviews the request.

Mr. Yagelski reported that the City of Michigan City is preparing to annex a portion of the joint 400 N project which is under our TIF District. Commissioner Ken Layton has not been contacted regarding this.

Mr. Bernacchi stated that Assessor Mike Schultz brought everyone up to date on the reassessment project. He stated that Treasurer Nancy Hawkins reported that the reconciliation tax bills for 2006 pay 2007 will be sent next week. He reported that the reconciliation bills would be sent out per year, not four years combined.

Mr. Cunningham met with Community Corrections regarding a new director. Three internal candidates have been interviewed and more from outside will be interviewed.

Mr. Ford reported that County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks has all section corners now in the computer.

Mr. Garner reported that rules for off duty County Officers have been established. He stated that the patrol cars must be in the two-toned colors. He stated that the Purdue Extension Office was moved from the complex eight years ago by a Commissioner without the approval from the County Council. He stated that he is in favor of building the new building and asked for the Council's support.

Mr. Mrozinski reported the American Council of Engineers gave praise on the 200 East and 300 East bridges. He met with Joe Donnelly on Veterans issues. He warned that a VSO organization collecting money for Veterans was a scam. He also has raffle tickets benefiting Janet Lantz who is under treatment for Cancer. He also commented that the workshop with Purdue Extension was successful.

Public Comments

Lou Ann Troxel, a dairy farmer, stated that the Purdue Building has been a long process and the best plan is now in place. It's time to move and make progress.

Katrina Bolen stated she is a past 4-H member along with her three children. We must invest in our youth. It's time for no more rent; the building could have already been paid for. 4-H is a wonderful program and its time for their own building.

Dave Decker gave the Council credit for the investment in KIP, if we build it, businesses will come.

Bruce Stevens stated that 4-H is the finest youth program and develops leadership, its time for the County to commit to a building, no more rent.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requested the use of funds from the Sales Disclosure Fund (340) for Preferred Corporate Training \$ 3,070.00

Requested the use of funds from the Sales Disclosure Fund (340) for training on data entry Assessment software \$ 3,600.00

A motion was made to approve both requests
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

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

A motion was made to approve
Mr. Yagelski voted against
All remaining members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested approval and funding of the Purdue Extension Office Building Project from either County Cumulative Capital Development Fund (216), Cedit Fund (208), Riverboat Fund (272) Or a combination from those funds. \$850,000.00

A motion was made to approve from the following accounts:
County Cumulative Capital Development Fund #216 \$175,000.00
Cedit Fund #208 \$175,000.00
Riverboat Fund #272 \$500,000.00

Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Ford stated they voted against building a new building but were in strong support of the Purdue Extension and 4-H programs
Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested an additional appropriation to allow for Timely payment of claims (526-20200-000-526) \$ 35,000.00

Motion was made to approve as long as it was not from the General Fund
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

CLERK OF THE LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT

Requested permission to fill a recent vacancy in the Michigan City Superior court # 4 Clerks' office.
Funds are already budgeted, no additional funding needed.
All members voted in favor. Permission to hire was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner stated that there will be a need later in the year to fund the Sheriff's Pension Fund.

Mr. Ford had no comment

Mrs. Sosinski said she will be glad that the County will no longer have to pay rent for the Purdue Extension Office but is worried that the project will cost more than \$850,000.00

Mr. Bernacchi stated that he was happy that he passed his level two assessors certification

Mr. Cunningham made comments about the recent jail inspection report. He stated we have been put on alert about potential law suits. He urged the Council to read and study the Jail and State Board of Accounts reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.