

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 23, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, May 23, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Auditor, Craig Hinchman called the roll; all Council members were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Attorney Don Baugher.

All members approved the amended agenda.

All members approved the April 18, 2011 Council meeting minutes.

Department Head Reports

Tim Gropp from the Economic Development Alliance gave the 2010 annual report to the Council members and briefly discussed it.

LaPorte County Assessor, Mike Schultz and Scott Potts from Tyler Group gave a report on the progression of the reassessment project. They stated that 20 per cent of the data collection has been completed. There have been fourteen people hired from LaPorte County to work reassessment. Mr. Schultz reported that two large appeals have been settled since he took office. These appeals should have been settled by the prior administration.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer reported that his overtime costs will increase through the end of the year. This is due to being four officers short now. The shortage will further increase in August. He gave the Council members a report of items paid for from his commissary fund for the period 2007 through current. He reported spending \$538,964. After a heated discussion between the Sheriff and Councilman Cunningham, a request was made of the Sheriff to give a full listing of every dollar spent from that fund since he took office in 2007.

Liaison Reports

Mrs. Sosinski reported meeting with the E-911 advisory board. There is a pending meeting with GIS department who is requesting another full time employee. She stated that she has also had reports of County vehicles being used on the weekends.

Mr. Yagelski is requesting a workshop or meeting regarding the county general fund being approximately ten million dollars in the red. The meeting is to be held at 6:00 on June 27, 2011 prior to the regular Council meeting. Commissioners will be invited also.

Mr. Bernacchi complimented the Assessor's office and Auditor's office for working together to move forward regarding the tax situation. Provisional tax bills should be mailed out on Thursday, May 26th.

Mr. Cunningham attended the Community Correction meeting and reported that a new director has been hired. He cannot release the name at this time.

Mr. Garner reported meeting with MS4 Director, Rick Brown regarding the concrete for the new Purdue Extension building. There are also issues that need to be resolved regarding the Soil & Water Department moving into the new building.

Mr. Ford had nothing to report.

Mr. Mrozinski had several meetings on the KIP project. The resolution regarding this issue will be brought up under new business.

Public Comment

None

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

BUILDING MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Requested to replace a janitor with maintenance position at the Juvenile Center. No additional funds needed
Motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Requested payment of unused sick days for Don Tonsoni who is retiring after twenty four years. \$4,500.00
Motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

DOROTHY S. CROWLEY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER

Requested permission to spend from account #0551-20200-000-0551 to replace a vehicle that was totaled In an auto accident \$19,800.00
Motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Requested funds from either Riverboat (272) or Win tax (257) Or CCD (216) to purchase a Drainage Board Field Crew Vehicle From the trade in by the Sheriff's department. \$6,500.00
REQUEST WAS REMOVED FROM AGENDA

LAPORTE COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Requesting a full time employee
REQUEST WAS REMOVED FROM AGENDA

LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Requested a transfer from extra hire account (100-10130-000-147)
To payroll account (100-10173-000-147) and the transfer of the part time
Employee position to full time. \$23,000.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested an additional appropriation into the Communicable Disease Non-
Reverting fund (526-20200-000-526) to allow for timely payment
Of claims \$40,000.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requested an appropriation into the new reimbursable fund #0718
For the 2011 Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Grant \$13,169.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4)

Requested an appropriation from the MS4 non-reverting fund into
(351-20200-000-351) for the BMP concrete for the front walkway
On the new Purdue Extension Building. \$1,500.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Requested the annual payment to Cender & Company for the
TIF Neutralization Worksheets from either Riverboat (272) or
Win Tax (257) not to exceed \$6,000.00
Motion to allow the request but to be paid by the
LaPorte County Assessor from the Reassessment fund
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

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

Requested funds from the Major Moves Fund (223)
For the sewer project from LaPorte to Rolling Prairie \$1,100,000.00
REQUEST WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Don Baugher presented information on the Resolution for the KIP project. Several changes were made to the original resolution. There is now a date on which construction must begin and a change on the legal issues regarding who repays the loan if in default.

A motion was made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Ford to have Auditor Hinchman read the resolution by title only. Resolution to be known as 2011-03

Mrs. Sosinski voted against the motion/resolution

All other members voted in favor.

Motion was approved

Mrs. Sosinski explained her no vote: She was not given the opportunity to review this resolution prior to the meeting and since this is such an important decision for the County to make, she wanted the time to fully review it before voting. Mr. Mrozinski stated that several meetings with the "big boys" went into this resolution and the Council Attorney was in full agreement with it. Mrs. Sosinski stated that she wasn't included in those "Big Boy" meetings, she needed more time before she could vote to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner is in favor of the KIP project, he thinks that it will be good for the County.

Mr. Cunningham is also in favor of the project and thanked everyone that was involved.

Mr. Bernacchi agreed with Mr. Cunningham's comments.

Mr. Yagelski reminded everyone about the Flag Day celebration in Michigan City's Millennium Park.

Mrs. Sosinski had no comment.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that there will be a Flag Day ceremony at the Rolling Prairie VFW and Memorial Day is a day to honor all the Veterans who served and all those who serve the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.