

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, September 19, 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

Roll Call was taken by Auditor, Craig Hinchman, All members were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and County Council Co-Council, Doug Biege.

The agenda was approved by all members

The August 11th & 12th, 2011 budget minutes were approved by all members

The August 22, 2011 Council minutes were approved by all members

Department Head Reports

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer wanted to thank LaPorte County Prosecutor Bob Szilagyi for donating from the deferral fee fund to purchase protective vests for the department. He also gave Council Attorney, Doug Biege the information he received regarding the IRS changes for the retirement plan. He also stated that the Commissary fund donated \$1,040.60 to the MRT program for 40 books. Sunshine thanked the Sheriff for the donation and she stated that her program for women

in the jail has been a huge success. Only 16% of the women that completed the program have re-offended.

President Mrozinski welcomed students from South Central School.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner had no report.

Mr. Ford reported that a grant for 1.3 million dollars was received for economic development for the 421 corridor.

Mr. Cunningham attended a meeting with Community Corrections regarding a new facility.

Mr. Bernacchi had a joint meeting with the Assessor's Office, the Auditor's Office, the Treasurer's Office, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mrozinski and Commissioner, Barb Huston regarding the tax billing.

Mr. Yagelski reported that the 505 Bridge is called a select bridge so no federal funds can be used to demolish it. He attended a public meeting of N.I.R.P.C. stating that they received a 1.2 million dollar grant for the South Shore.

Mrs. Sosinski reported her meetings with the H.R department and the personnel committee. She also met with the new 911 director. She plans to meet with Clerk, Lynne Spevak.

Mr. Mrozinski reported on plans for a new Community Corrections building and reported another meeting will be held next month. Progress must be made before the existing center is shut down. He also stated that procedure was correctly followed regarding the recent escapes. New procedures are now being discussed. He also went to a United Fund breakfast. He commented that only eight County employees donated this year, but yet they complain about not getting a raise.

Public Comments

Detective, Andy Hynek said he takes offense towards what Mr. Mrozinski said about the United Way. He would love to donate but employees need their money. Some employees now are below poverty level. He stated that Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Mrozinski were both involved with unions with collective bargaining. Mr. Mrozinski stated that he didn't feel the County had money to give raises. Mr. Hynek stated he thought the financial situation was manipulated.

Sunshine said that the County has been generous supporting the MRT program. She reported purchasing a building for a recovery home. She also stated that the United Way has not supported this program.

Mr. Rip Ludlow stated he has never given to the United Way but always has given to the charities of his choice. When he received his money from the RPM Fest settlement, he donated it all to a local program called Roof Set to help underprivileged children of LaPorte County for Christmas presents.

Detective Brian Piergalski appreciated the Council attention and stated that the Sheriff's department is there to serve the people and have no plans to walk away or take legal action, they just want to work together for salary adjustments. Mr. Cunningham spoke against the request for higher raises in the department; he stated that the starting salary for an officer is \$38,500.00 but only \$36,500.00 average for other County employees.

Sunshine announced at there is a meeting the first Wednesday of every month for the Drug Free Partnership. This organization wants to help clean up addiction and drug abuse.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

SHERIFF MICHAEL F. MOLLENHAUER

Requested the payment of sick time for Jail Officer Raymond Thorpe
He was permanently disabled as the result of an accident with an inmate
In the jail in February 2009.

\$2,184.38

Tabled from the August 22, 2011 meeting

Sheriff Mollenhauer requested this be removed from the agenda

A motion was made to remove from the table
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
Motion was made to remove this request from the agenda
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

SHERIFF MICHAEL L. MOLLENHAUER

Requested funds from either Riverboat (272)
Win Tax (257) or
CCD (216)
Provide wiring to cellblock control pods to operate new monitors,
Provide wiring to individual cellblocks for operation of electronic kiosks
Provide wiring for future video visitation equipment \$30,000.00
A motion was made to approve this request from the Riverboat
Fund (272)
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

TONY MANCUSO, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested the authority to proceed with the employment of a Medical Billing Coordinator
And to implement a non-reverting fund which will enable the program to be
Self supportive.

Tabled from the August 22, 2011 meeting

This matter was discussed and voted on at the prior budget hearing. The request was approved for the
Hiring of a medical billing coordinator but denied to implement a non-reverting fund.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT OF LAPORTE COUNTY

Final review/hearing of the 2012 budget
After a discussion, Mr. Turner announced that his board will comply with the decision of the County
Council Regarding salary raises in 2012.
Then the motion was made to approve the budget for 2012
All members voted in favor.
Motion approved, budget approved.

EMS

Requested funds from either Riverboat (272)
Or Win tax (257)
Or CCD (216)
For the purchase of two ambulances \$280,000.00
Amount amended to \$225,328.00

For the purchase of two support vehicles \$ 75,000.00

Amount amended to \$55,873.50

For the purchase of equipment for the
Ambulances \$ 26,000.00

Total request amended to \$307,201.50
A motion was made to approve the amended request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner stated that there are several construction issues with the jail.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that the Maintenance Department wants to replace a person who left in July.
No action will be taken on this until Mrs. Sosinski does further research.

Mr. Ford wished the LaPorte High School Girl's Golf Team good luck.

Mr. Cunningham stated that Mr. Hynek was incorrect by stating he was involved in the teacher strike
over salaries, it was not, it was in regards to binding arbitration.

Mr. Bernacchi had no comment

Mr. Mrozinski had no further comment

Mr. Yagelski had no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.