

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 28, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, November 28, 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 members present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and County Council co-council Attorney, Doug Biege

The October 24, 2011 Council Minutes were approved by all members

The October 24, 2011 Budget Adoption Minutes were approved by all members

The 2012 County Council meeting dates were discussed and approved by all members as presented

There was a motion to re-open the 2012 budget.

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

The 2012 budget was re-opened. Discussion followed.

A motion was made to include the part-time employees in the bonus. All part time employees with an average of at least 21 hours per week will receive \$600.00. All the same rules affect full time employees will apply to part time employees. (Exception is those seasonal employees that qualify to be paid the first half on March 15, 2012 and July 2012 for the second half.)

A motion was made to approve
Mrs. Sosinski voted against
All other members voted in favor
Motion approved.

The question of the Sheriff's salary was discussed. The council is not willing to grant another contract for the year 2012. They argued that the last three years contract was not accurate, even though it was signed by the President of the Council. The minutes of the meeting stated another amount. The Council stated that they would not pursue any back wages from the Sheriff, but wants to move on with another proposal for his salary. They asked the Sheriff if he would accept 90% of the prosecutor's salary. He replied no. He expected 100%. The Council then offered a salary of \$114,552.37 less an average of tax warrants collected \$25,144.00 for a total salary of \$89,408.37 plus the tax warrant income.

A motion was made for this salary
Mrs. Sosinski voted against,
All other members voted in favor
Motion approved

Department Head Reports

Mr. Scott Bell, Jail Commander, requested an increase of \$125,090.00 for Jail Nurses. After a lengthy discussion regarding the over population of inmates to nurses and the overtime required of the two nurses presently employed, a motion to approve an additional \$125,000.00 for part time nurses was made.

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor
Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Ford voted against
Motion Failed

Then there was a motion to approve an additional \$50,000.00 for part time nurses
All members voted in favor
Motion approved.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer reported that he will be coming back to the Council to request additional money for food and medical expenses due to the fact that they have 486 inmates at this time. This is far more than was originally budgeted for. He also read a letter from the LaPorte City Police Department complimenting Canine Officer Dallas Smythe and his partner Marko for the wonderful job they did in helping apprehend the armed robber of Archie's restaurant.

Mr. John Regetz, Executive Director MCEDC, announced the program "Made in LaPorte County" to be held at Marquette Mall on Friday, December 2, 2011 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Community Corrections Director, Dick Buell, gave a full report on the building of a new Community Corrections Center. He stressed that the building and new procedures will save the County money since this facility will be "bare bones" with the inmates paying their own way. He is asking for the Council's support to go to the next step by obtaining a detailed presentation. All members gave their support to go to the next step in planning.

LAPORTE COUNTY DOROTHY S. CROWLEY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER

Requested permission to fill a vacancy---No additional funds needed
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

GIS

Requested the approval of a full time employee—proof of additional funding was provided for the year 2012.

After a discussion, a motion was made to approve this for the year 2012 as long as the employee is trained to do the full job when necessary. An agreement is to be drawn up by Attorney Biege stating that this is a year to year job that needs to be re-evaluated each year. Mrs. Mischke must provide the Auditor's office with signed transfer letters authorizing the transfer of funds to fund this position.
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

A motion was made to close the budget hearings
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Commissioner Huston voiced her support of the Community Corrections project along with her support of Emergency Management installing loud speakers at both Washington Park and the LaPorte County Fairgrounds.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner met with the committee regarding the Sheriff's salary agreement and funding of the pension fund. He supported moving the detective bureau to the third floor to avoid any more damage from flooding.

Mr. Ford spoke on supporting the requests on the agenda tonight for the EMS and the Surveyor.

Mr. Cunningham complimented Superior Court #1 in their effort to help pay for requested items.

Mr. Yagelski attended the insurance meeting and is opposed to the proposals so far. He wants to be more involved in the process of choosing a plan.

Mrs. Sosinski reported talking with the Treasurer regarding tax collections. She reported that a total of 82.88% of taxes were collected for the 2011 tax provisional bill. Approximately 6 million will be put in the County General Fund.

She also is not satisfied with the insurance proposal. Even though she is on the committee, only a short notice was give to her so she could not attend. She stated that if there is a free clinic, there would be a start up cost of \$115,000.00 for each site. LaPorte and Michigan City. There are too many variables in the plan. She stated that she thought the employees were "taking it in the hinny" because the deductible went up to \$1,000.00 per year and co pay went from \$20.00 to \$40.00 for each visit. Mrs. Huston said that there had not been a definite decision as of yet. Mr. Yagelski stated that a free clinic

was not a good idea due to the fact that there would be too much time lost during working hours to attend the clinic; there are too many lost hours as it is now.

Mr. Mrozinski asked the council to support the Animal Control's request on tonight's agenda. He announced that a tribute to Vietnam Vets, 911 and public services employees will be July 3 to the 7th, 2012. A tribute wall will be on display. He reminded everyone that Wednesday, December 7th is the 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Anyone wishing to be considered for the 2012 Council appointments for the following boards must have their request into the LaPorte County Auditor, 555 Michigan Ave, Suite 555, LaPorte, IN 46350 by December 31, 2011

LaPorte County Public Library Board of Trustees -- one

LaPorte County Alcoholic Beverage Commission--- one

LaPorte County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)—two

One must be at least a certified level two assessor/appraiser

Public Comments

Brian Hurley, a LaPorte County Bridge Tender spoke out regarding part time/full time/seasonal employment. He received conflicting letters regarding the Bridge Tender's classification. Mr. Mrozinski will meet with HR Director, Joyce Leon to discuss her authority to change an employee's status.

Mrs. Dawn Bell, a HR professional, spoke about her major concerns in the County's HR department. She said that Mrs. Leon needs to be present at the meetings to answer questions. She was appalled regarding the employees needing to decide on an insurance coverage without a full disclosure of changes and fees.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Requested a transfer of funds from:

Clerks (10119)	\$3064.00
TO	
Building (20027)	\$ 300.00
Educational (20058)	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies (20001)	\$1,764.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested additional funds into the Pension Fund #238-20200-000-238

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

\$738,828.00

A motion was made to approve the request from Riverboat Fund (272)
All members voted in favor
Motion Approved

LAPORTE COUNTY DRUG FREE PARTNERSHIP

Requested the yearly draw on the Community Drug Free Fund
To be into #331-20200-000-331 \$90,094.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion Approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SMALL ANIMAL SHELTER

Requested a transfer from account #283-01079-000-283
Dog License Fund
To
Account #100-10130-000-156 Part time/seasonal help \$2500.00
A motion was made to approve; the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SURVEYOR

Requested permission to spend money from the Surveyors
Corner Perpetuation Fund Account #271-20200-000-271 \$20,000.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1

Requested a transfer of funds from
Extra Hire (10130) \$500.00
Bailiff Supplies (20048) \$250.00
Dues (30009) \$200.00
Travel/Training (30027) \$500.00
\$1,450.00

TO
Psychological Services (30088) \$1,450.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Requested permission to spend from the 911 Surcharge account (598)
For the expense of the narrow banding of all LaPorte
County Sirens \$170,673.79
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
Mrs. Tibbot reported that she wants to upgrade and re-locate some

Of the County sirens. She also wants to include loud speakers at Washington Park and the Fair grounds to be able to warn the public and inform them what the sirens are sounding for. She will be presenting this at a later meeting.

LAPORTE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Requested the funds from:

Pre-Trial Diversion Account (327-03276-000-327)	\$11,391.00
Infraction Deferral Account (327-03277-000-327)	\$45,465.00

Be appropriated into the following accounts
327-20200-000-327

For further appropriation into:

Claims (343-20200-000-343)	\$43,276.00
Salary (343-10134-000-343)	\$12,610.00
OASI (343-11007-000-343)	\$ 790.00
Medicare (343-11009-000-343)	\$ 180.00

A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution # 2011-11—LaPorte County Council supports the efforts of our local Senators and Representatives in opposing the “right to work legislation” commonly known as “right to work for less”
A motion was made to approve the resolution
All members voted in favor
Resolution approved

OLD BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS:

Tax Abatement Report—Kevin Keift

It was reported that four out of the five companies under the tax abatement program were in compliance with only Indiana Melting not in compliance. All were approved for the tax abatement EXCEPT Indiana Melting.

Requested funds for the Water and Sewer Extension for the
Palatek Project

Funds from either Riverboat Fund (272) or Win Tax (257)	\$100,512.60
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A motion was made to approve the request from Riverboat Fund (272)
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

A CONFIRMING RESOLUTION...A RESOLUTION OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL DETERMINING THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ECONOMIC REVILIZATION AREA HAVE BEEN MET AND CONFIRMING A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR SULLIVAN-PALATEK, INC. (PERSONAL PROPERTY) Resolution #2011-10

Tabled from the October 24, 2011 Council Meeting

All members voted to take off the table

A motion was made to approve the resolution with an additional addendum

All members voted in favor

Resolution approved

A CONFIRMING RESOLUTION OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL DETERMINING THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA HAVE BEEN MET AND CONFIRMING A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR SULLIVAN-PALATEK, INC AND/OR GOGUAC, LLC (ITS AFFILIATED REAL ESTATE HOLDING COMPANY) (REAL PROPERTY) RESOLUTION #2011-12

A motion was made to approve the resolution

All members voted in favor

Resolution approved

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

A motion was made to cancel the December 2011 County Council meeting

All members voted in favor

Motion approved, there will not be a December 2011 Council meeting.

Mr. Yagelski stated that Indiana Melting has broken promises for four years regarding the tax abatement. They have not complied yet with the promises made. That's why he is in favor or rescinding the abatement for them.

Mr. Garner had no comment

Mr. Ford had no comment

Mr. Cunningham commented about the solid color verses two colors on the sheriff's department cars.

Mr. Bernacchi had no comment

Mrs. Sosinski had no comment

Mr. Mrozinski is upset with the article in the LaPorte Herald Argus regarding Commissioner Millsap's comments.

He then wished Merry Christmas to all.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was finally adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

