

LAPORTE
COUNTY COUNCIL

January 30, 2012

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, January 30, 2012 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, Matt Bernacchi

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Auditor, Craig Hinchman called the roll: all members were present

The agenda was approved by all members.

The November 22, 2011 Council Minutes were approved by all members

Department Head Reports

County Prosecutor, Robert Szilagyi gave a status report on his department and informed the Council that he will be asking for additional funds to move two part time deputies to full time due to the additional workload.

Former LaPorte County Plan Commissioner, Ray Hamilton, requested a new truck and brought up issues regarding items being removed from the agenda. A discussion regarding the payment of Plan Commission Board member, County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks, being paid for attending Board Meetings. It was explained that the funds to pay Mr. Hendricks had already been encumbered. Mr. Hamilton said that he was uncomfortable paying him until he could come before the Council to inquire about this. Mr. Mrozinski stated that in his opinion, no elected official should be paid to sit on a board. It was then stated that the Council had not agreed to hold out money to pay items from last year's budget. Chief Deputy Auditor Mary Ray, then explained to the council that the County does not pay bills during the month of December therefore any services or goods received in December were a part of that year's budget that could not be paid till January, thence it is encumbered under the proper year's budget. She stated that this was a proper practice and not done just for the fun of it. There was no further discussion on the matter. Council Attorney, Douglas Biege stated that state statute stated that all board members shall be paid. The Plan Commission Board voted to pay all members including Mr. Hendricks. A motion was then made By the Council not to pay Mr. Hendricks
For the year 2011

Mr. Ford voted against
All remaining members voted in favor
Mr. Hendricks will not be paid.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer gave a report on the jail population being 462 inmates with a jail capacity of only 368. He also reported that funds received for notices to quit were deposited in the continuing education fund for officer's further training:

2008 \$12,040.

2009 \$14,280.

2010 \$12,425.

2011 \$14,455.

He also stated that the Indiana Sheriff's Association has forty \$500.00 scholarships available to college students studying criminal courses. Applications are available at the front desk of his department. There will be a box in the lobby to collect medicines that people wish to dispose of.

Mr. John Riggits reported on a follow up visit to IMM regarding their tax abatement. He reported that the promises had not been kept and no definite schedule could be given.

A motion was made to remove the tax abatement for IMN

All members voted in favor

Motion was approved

Tax abatement will be removed

Assessor, Mike Schultz and Scott Potts from Tyler Technologies gave a report regarding re-assessment. Progress is on schedule with the projected time line. Mr. Potts stated that this problem was created before the current administration came into office He also stated that since Mr. Schultz came into office, the Treasurer's and Auditor's offices and his office are finally working together to get the county back on schedule. There is total cooperation now, not like before. He stated that it took several years to create this problem so it will take time to dig out. Mr. Cunningham asked how many new homes have been built in the last few years. Mr. Schultz said it would be hard to estimate. He then asked if the treasurer's office refused pre-payments and Mr. Schultz stated that that was a Treasurer's question, not his. He then complimented all employees working on the re-assessment process and the tax bill process.

Treasurer, Nancy Hawkins read a statement of all the various problems that we have faced over the last few months in an effort to get the 2007 pay 2008 reconciliation bills processed. She is very hopeful, after four tries; to be able to get those bills in the mail by next week with the due date being February 24 th.

County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks wanted to set the record straight. His request for payment is not a new issue. He informed Mr. Hamilton, in writing, quoting the IC Code, in January of last year of his desire to be paid.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Mrozinski reported that Ms. Tibbot, the Emergency Planning Director will be asking for the correction in her funding request for the narrow bonding radios. In error it was stated last meeting that the money was to come from the E911 fund. It should have been from the Riverboat Fund. He also announced the building of a new VA Clinic in South Bend. He stated that Kay Felton, LaPorte County Home wishes to put up no trespassing signs to prevent the public access to unsafe barns on the property. He met with the VA advisory board to replace the County Veterans Officer who is leaving at the end of May. He reported that progress is being made on the proposed Community Correction Center. He also reported that Mrs. Jane Bernard, director of the Animal Shelter has been given a large donation and she requests a committee be formed to advise her on investing and spending the donation. He also stated that he and Commissioner Ken Layton will be visiting the LaPorte High School to speak about their experiences in the 1960's, Viet Nam and being an elected official. He also reminded everyone about the "Wall" being on display at PNC from July 3rd through the 7th.

Mr. Yagelski had no report

Mrs. Sosinski reported that since the longevity rules have been changed by the Commissioners there could be a shortfall in some budgets for 2012. She is asking all departments to figure that shortage as soon as possible so steps can be taken to adjust the budget. She was to attend the Employee evaluation committee meeting on January 25th but since there was not a quorum, it has been rescheduled. She also attended the 911 advisory board meeting and the ethic review meeting. She asked Commissioner Layton why a private contractor for the County, being paid by a 1099 and not being on the County payroll has been allowed to have County Health Insurance. He answered that he will check into it and if there is a problem, it will be rectified. She asked if the money had been transferred to GIS by all departments who were willing to help fund the full time employee for that office. Mrs. Ray reported that only the Building Commissioner's office has complied. The Council has given its permission for these transfers.

Mr. Garner and Mr. Ford had no comment

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Bernacchi said their comments have already been addressed.

Public Comments

Daniela "Sonshine" Troche request that some of her supporters be allowed to leave without being rude since the meeting is lasting so long

LaPorte Mayor, Blair Milo spoke highly of the Worthy Recovery Inc. program. She stated that the director "sonshine" has done remarkable work keeping women from re-offending after their release. She stated that the program has saved the county a huge amount of money by keeping these women from returning to jail. She strongly recommends that the Council grant her request for funds.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Requested the correction of account number given in error
At the November 28, 2011 meeting. Account Number should have
Been #1191 (Riverboat Admissions)
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

LAPORTE COUNTY CLERK

Requested allocation from Clerk's Record Perpetuation
Account to the document storage fund.
(1119-20200-000-0341) \$40,000.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requested permission to fill a vacancy due to the
Employee terminating the position.
No additional funding needed
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Requested to replace an employee who is retiring
No additional funding is needed. This was amended to
Permission to replace three employees due to retirements

And a promotion for an employee to Building Commissioner
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Requested funds for the construction of the
Community Correction Building from Riverboat
Admissions Fund # 1191 \$6,000,000.00
After discussion the request was amended to \$350,000.00 Amended to \$350,000.00
At this time for architectural work to be done on the project
Money to be placed in building fund #0052 to be controlled
By County Engineer Jeff Wright.
A motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY EMS

Requested funds for outdated radio equipment and
To reprogram existing radio equipment from
Riverboat Funds #1191 \$17,500.00
A motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION

Requested that Fund #2102 be renamed to LPC Adult Probation Supplemental,
To encompass the departments as one department

Requested the Adult Supplemental Accounts be combined into Fund #2102

From #2105	\$15.00
From #2104	\$215,866.41
From #2103	\$81,321.15
From #2101	\$66,509.68

For further appropriation into the following

#2102-31001-000-0334 Drug testing	\$30,000.00
#2102-30137-000-0334 Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00
#2102-30096-000-0334 Programs	\$30,000.00
#2102-30027-000-0334 Educational Training	\$30,000.00
#2102-30007-000-0334 Maintenance Contracts	\$20,000.00
#2102-10130-000-0334 Extra Hire	\$20,000.00
#2102-10140-000-0334 Overtime	\$10,000.00
#2102-41007-000-0334 Equipment	\$209,000.00

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

WORTHY RECOVERY INC.d/b/a WORTHY WOMEN RECOVERY HOME

Requested funds from either Riverboat Admissions (#1191) or
Win Tax (#4220) for Moral Reconciliation Therapy \$7,600.00

After a heated discussion, a motion was made to
Donate the funds to the program
Mrs. Sosinski voted in favor
All remaining members voted against
Motion denied

It was then announced that the Sheriff's commissary fund will donate \$5,000.00 to the program.

A motion was made to allow the Sheriff's commissary fund to donate the additional \$2,600.00
Discussion followed that the Council has no control over the commissary fund; they just have to see the
report.

A vote was taken
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Ford voted against
Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor
Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Requested a reimbursement loan from the
Major Moves Fund (1172) \$250,000.00

After a discussion regarding the legality of this, it was decided that the money would be allocated to the
Commissioners and they would enter into a loan agreement pending approval of the Council and County
Attorneys.

Motion was made to allow this.
Mr. Garner abstained from the vote
All remaining members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Asked for the approval of an ordinance authorizing grant accounts to maintain a negative balance.
Ordinance # 2012-01
A motion was made to approve this ordinance
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Asked for the approval of an ordinance relaxing the Riverboat Fund rules and allowing the 9 million 2011
loan from the emergency reserve fund be repaid and then allowing the re-borrowing of the loan then
reinstating the Riverboat Fund rules. Known as ordinance #2012-02

Motion was made to approve the ordinance
All members voted in favor.
Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Yagelski commented that he would like to keep the meetings civil and he was disappointed by the Sheriff's comments.

Mr. Mrozinski is very upset with the legislatures' regarding the right to work bill.

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford and Mr. Bernacchi had no further comment

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.