

**LAPORTE**  
**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

**MARCH 19, 2012**

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, March 19, 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, Matthew Bernacchi.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited then a moment of silence was observed for the Officer that was killed by a vehicle in Lake County.

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

The amended agenda was approved by all members

The February 27, 2012 Council Minutes were approved by all members.

**Department Head Reports**

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer read from a prepared statement (attached to the minutes)

There was rebuttal by Mr. Mrozinski saying that "it is all about the money, I'm sick and tired of it. They should know how to order cars by now."

The Sheriff replied "You, Mr. Mrozinski, went as far as to go to the local car dealers stating that when you bid the sheriff cars this year we only want white cars bid or we, the council, won't give the sheriff any cars this year. You even told one dealer which make of car you wanted to purchase, unethical to say the least" Mr. Mrozinski denied saying this.

Mr. Cunningham stated that a solid car would have more trade in value and would be less expensive; the Sheriff replied that tradition is part of it; I am keeping the cars browns.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Garner had no report

Mr. Ford reported attending EMS meeting, he stated that the ambulance in question is in bad shape and the new ambulance on the agenda should be approved.

Mr. Cunningham reported meeting with Community Corrections Department  
Mrs. Sosinski reported that all paperwork regarding the GIS funding transfer for a full time person has been presented to the Auditor's Office. She reported that Darlene Hale, IT Director and her staff are doing a wonderful job assisting with the tax resolution. She is displeased regarding e-mails to various department heads inquiring about H R Department Head, Joyce Leon's job performance. All persons she has talked to have high praises for Ms. Leon and Barb Mossman, her assistant.

Mr. Yagelski had no report

Mr. Mrozinski reported meeting with the following departments/meetings:  
LaPorte County Home—he is trying to get VA aide for veterans to reside at the County Home.  
Veteran's affairs in Washington  
PNC traveling wall  
Rail Summit  
Veterans Advisory Committee to replace John Wantuch

Mr. Bernacchi reported that the Treasurer, Assessor and Auditor and staff members traveled to Indianapolis to meet with the tax software vendor, and the DLGF regarding the tax project work plan. He also reported on the 400 & 950 project. He urges that the Council Members refrain from commenting on those giving public comment. He wants the public to limit their time to three minutes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Sosinski, Chief Deputy Sheriff stated that Joyce Leon from HR has been very helpful and she serves the citizens with respect and has given his department great guidance.

Jim Kimmel, President of the LaPorte County Sheriff Department Merit Board, read from a prepared statement (attached to the minutes)

Detective Andy Hynek stated that he has been a member of the Sheriff's Department for twelve years. Many officers are here tonight to support the Sheriff. He is not after Mrs. Arnold personally but the merit pension is for officers who have served for twenty years, not civil employees. If it was Mrs. Mollenhauer in question, all hell would break out. He also stated that the last thing road officers need to worry about is old cars. It's a safety concern.

Mr. Steve Swanson and Ms. Pam Christman stated that the town of Westville will be honoring the Medal of Honor winner, Danny Bruce, in a ceremony on May 26<sup>th</sup>. His effort in Viet Nam saved the lives of three marines; his family will be in attendance along with two of the men whose lives he saved.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS**

##### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Requested the May 2012 CREDIT Draw \$2,000,000.00  
A motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

Requesting funds from either Cty. Cumulative Capital Develop Fund (#1138) or Riverboat Fund (#1191) or Win Tax (#4220) \$254,742.94  
To purchase vehicles  
Tabled from the February 27, 2012 Council meeting  
(Not taken off the table)

Requested funds from either Riverboat (1191) or Winn tax (4220) \$5,415.50  
For the costs of the Narrow Banding  
A motion was made to approve from the Riverboat Fund (1191)  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

Requested a transfer of funds from Garage overtime (1000-10140-000-0141) \$3,500.00  
To: Jail Extra Hire (1000-10130-000-0145)  
A motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE PROBATION**

Requested authorization to create a statutorily mandated account in which  
The LaPorte County Juvenile Probation Department would deposit funds  
Collected by probationers paying an application fee for a transfer of  
Supervision through Interstate Compact  
A motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LYNNE SPEVAK, CLERK LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT**

Requested approval to purchase equipment from the following  
Accounts:  
IV-D CHILD SUPPORT ACCOUNT (8899) \$25,000.00  
CLERK'S PERPETUATION FUND (1119) \$61,500.88  
A motion was made to approve the request  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY EMS**

Requested funds from either CCD (1138) or  
Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220) to purchase

A new ambulance

\$140,000.00

A detailed report was given to all members then

A motion was made to approve the request from the  
Riverboat Fund (1191)

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Yagelski reported that the IT Department will need extra funding this summer for part time help.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Appointment to Regional Sewer Board

Clay Howard –re-appointment

Tabled from the February 27, 2012 Council Meeting

A Motion was made to remove from the table

All members voted in favor

A motion was made to re-appoint Clay Howard

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Sosinski had no further comment

Mr. Yagelski had no further comment

Mr. Mrozinski stated that the council does have prior information on the agenda items; they must have that prior information so that they can make decisions at the meeting. He complimented Mr. Bernacchi on doing a good job as president.

He also stated that the comments he made regarding Mrs. Arnold’s pension were his personal opinion not the opinion of the Council.

Mr. Garner said that he will be glad to attend the merit meetings if he is informed of those meetings.

Mr. Ford had no further comment

Mr. Cunningham agrees with Mr. Mrozinski regarding Mrs. Arnold's pension. He has no opinion until he does the research. If the county can save money then do it but it is the Merit Board's decision, not his. He also stated that the last thing road officers need to worry about is old cars. It's a safety concern. Mr. Cunningham stated that he is offended that people think this is about an officer's safety; it is strictly a financial concern. He would never deny purchasing new cars if it was a safety issue. A car isn't any safer being two toned or one color.

Chief Jim Sosinski stated that all the cars are safe but they have outlived their use for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Bernacchi addressed Dennis Metheany's comments. He stated that all the address and phone numbers of the council are published so the public can call ahead and ask questions or state comments. He wants to avoid confrontations at the meetings.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.