

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

May 21, 2012

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, May 21, 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 led by LaPorte County Sheriff, Mike Mollenhauer

A moment of silence was observed for a Porter County Officer that was killed in an auto accident.

Auditor Craig Hinchman called the roll. All members were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Council Attorney Doug Biege.

The agenda was approved by all members with two corrections.

Approval of the May 21, 2012 Council Minutes. It was noted that in the minutes a transfer from the LaPorte County Recorder back to the General Fund that was announced at the May 23, 2012 meeting has not been approved by the State Board of Accounts. Therefore, there will be no funds transferred from the Recorders corner Prep fund to the General fund.

Approval of two appointments to the newly formed ethic committee

 Tabled from the April 23, 2012 County Council Meeting

A motion was made to take off the table

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Mrs. Sosinski spoke with H.R. Director, Joyce Leon and she stated that she didn't have the time right now to review the ordinance and create guidelines

After a discussion, a motion was made to re-table

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Department Head Reports

County Clerk, Lynne F. Spevak requested approval to fill a vacancy due to voluntary termination. This position is already budgeted.

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

A presentation was made on the CR 400 N Economic Development Project
Then

Requested funds for the CR400 N Economic Development
Contract-B-L-N Contract and Right of Way purchases from
The Major Moves account (1172) \$500,000.00

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

Public Comments

Mr. Ken Purze reported that he is now the Liaison for the County Commissioners in the MS4 program. He stated that progress is being made and feels confident that Michigan City will stay in the program.

Liaison Reports

Mrs. Sosinski reported meeting with the H.R Department regarding the ethic committee. She also attended the Personnel/HR. evaluation meeting. Any changes in classifications will be presented at budget time. She also conferred with Wagner, Irwin and Sheely, our employment advisors and the information that the Prosecutor gave at the last meeting regarding the surrounding counties pay schedule for the deputies didn't match what she was told by our advisors. She attended the fallen officers' memorial service held last week and was impressed with the service. She wanted to thank all EMS workers and encouraged the public to attend the awards service for EMS to be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the County Complex meeting room.

Mr. Yagelski wanted to thank the Purdue Extension service for a good meal and informative program. The meeting rooms in the new building are being used at 100 % and the partnership with the Solid Waste Department has been great.

Mr. Mrozinski had the same comment regarding the Purdue meal and program. He also gave reports on the LaPorte County Home, Animal Shelter and reported that the Animal Care Camp—care for pets will be held soon. The Economic Development at KID is still on hold until the Army agrees with the terms then progress will be made. He announced that the New Veterans Officer is George Watkins. He then reported on several Veterans' services coming up this summer. There will be a no smoking session with the state legislatures on May 24th.

Mr. Garner also stated what a good meal and program by Purdue Extension. He reported that this year is the highest 4-H membership in 25 years. He commented that he would like to see Alco television to continue to televise the county meetings.

Mr. Ford had no report

Mr. Cunningham also thanked the Purdue Extension. He attended the community correction meeting. He also attended the Alco Board meeting. Also, he praised the 4-H program for their contribution to the youth of the area and having the largest membership in 25 years.

Mr. Bernacchi reported on the 400 North Economic developments. He fully supports it. He attended the fallen officers program and stated it was very good. He met with Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer and his Chief Deputy Jim Sosinski to try and come up with a solution to fix the flooding problem in the jail. He also thanked the Purdue extension staff for a good meal and program. He has been meeting with the Treasurer, Assessor and Auditor's offices regarding re-assessment. The reassessment is moving forward a good pace and there is light at the end of the tunnel for the tax situation.

There was a group input of support regarding the 400 North project. All members had positive comments. This will have a wonderful effect for the County.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested additional funds from Riverboat Fund (1191) to be Transferred into the following accounts to cover the change

In seniority increases (steps)

1159-10119-000-0219 Clerical	\$1,817.00
1159-10117 000-0219 Admin.Assist.	694.00
1159-10169-000-0219 Nurses	1,572.00
1159-10195-000-0219 Program Supervisor	<u>840.00</u>
	Total \$4,923.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested funds from either Riverboat (1191)
Or Win Tax (4220) into the Jail Food
Account (1000-20039-000-0145) \$280,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request from
The Win Tax Fund (4220)
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requesting funds from either Riverboat (1191) **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**
or Win Tax (4220) for purchase of four
Portable air conditioners for the jail cellblock
control rooms. \$2,200.00

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested funds from either Riverboat (1191) or
Win Tax (4220) or CCD (1138) for the last
Lease payment on the Road Patcher and Sweeper. \$68,988.71

A motion was made to approve the request from
The CCD Fund (1138)
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Requested funds from the Riverboat Fund (1191)
Regarding the water line issue down Ziegler Road.
The Community Correction Facility Project \$130,000.00

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of a letter of support to partner with the LaPorte County Parks, The LaPorte County Parks
Foundation, Inc and the Bicentennial Nature Trust on their project to acquire 15 acres of land adjacent
to Luhr County Park. Requested by Councilman Rich Mrozinski
A motion was made to approve with the signature of President Matthew Bernacchi
All members voted in favor
Motion approved.

Amendment to ordinance #2012-01 regarding rollover's in the General Fund.

A motion was made to approve the amendment by reading title only
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford and Mr. Cunningham had no comments

Mrs. Sosinski wanted all department heads and employees to be aware if a job classification is changed, it is possible to decrease the level and decrease the salary.

Mr. Mrozinski stated he wanted a workshop regarding salaries and holidays.

The budget hearings will be on August 2 & 3, 2012 starting at 8:00 a.m. both days.

There will be a special workshop meeting on June 25, 2012 in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Complex at 5:30 p.m. regarding the LaPorte County Sewer District.

There will be a special workshop meeting on July 23, 2012 in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Complex at 5:30 p.m. regarding 2013 salaries and expenses.

President Matt Bernacchi thanked the council for supporting the 400 N Project.

ADJOURNMENT

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