

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

JUNE 25, 2012

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, June 25, 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

Auditor Craig Hinchman called the roll: all members of the council were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Council Attorney Douglas Biege.

The agenda was approved by all members

The May 21, 2012 Council Minutes were approved by all members

Approval of two appointments to the newly formed ethic committee

Tabled from the May 21, 2012 Council Meeting

A motion was made to take this off the table

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Nomination was made to appoint Andy Wolf to a two year term

All members voted in favor

Mr. Wolf was appointed

A nomination was made to appoint Mike Sanders to a one year term

All members voted in favor

Mr. Sanders was appointed

The underfunding of the Swanson Center by the County was discussed

A motion was made to authorize Mr. Yagelski to negotiate with the Center and its attorney to reach a settlement.

Mr. Yaagelski abstained

All other members voted in favor
Motion approved

Department Head Reports

LAPORTE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Requesting the creation of two new Probation Officer Positions.

This item was removed from the agenda

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner met with Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer, Chief Sosinski, and Mr. Ford regarding the flooding situation in the jail complex. Mr. Ott is taking action to correct the situation. The new cars for the Sheriff's Department were also discussed. It was decided to have one tone cars with signs and decals.

Mr. Ford also reported about the flooding situation. Mr. Ott has fixed part of the drains and sprinkle system to alleviate further flooding problems. He complimented County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks for the work that has been done on the Kankakee River.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Public Defender's office can access funds from a dormant account. That fund has approximately \$270,000.00 available for their use.

Mrs. Sosinski had no report

Mr. Yagelski reported that the County has underfunded the Swanson Center by approximately \$294,000.00. He volunteered to negotiate with them for a reduced amount or at least an installment plan.

Mr. Mrozinski reported on the open house at the county Home. He reminded everyone that the traveling wall will be at PNC in July. He also reported that only one more signed document is needed for the KID project, and then construction will begin. He complimented Tim Morgan on an excellent job he does managing the Park and Recreation Department.

Mr. Bernacchi reported that the field work for the reassessment has been completed and data entry of the information in the Assessor's office is ahead of schedule.

Public Comments

Mr. John Mills spoke in support of saving the dairy barn at the LaPorte County Home.

Mr. Bob Carpenter also spoke in support of saving the dairy barn at the LaPorte County Home.

Mr. Todd Zieter from Indiana Land Marks also spoke in support of saving the dairy barn at the LaPorte County Home.

Several members of save the barn committee spoke in support of saving the dairy barn.

A discussion followed these speakers and several ideas were offered. The Council is allowing a special fund to be set up for donations to help save the dairy barn. Mrs. Sosinski will be the liaison between the Council and the Committee.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Requested funds from the Riverboat Fund (1191) for
Repairing and replacing the Court house security system
In both LaPorte and Michigan City and the LaPorte county
Complex \$37,510.50

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

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested funds from either Cty.Cumulative Capital Development
Fund (#1138) or Riverboat Fund (1191) or Win Tax (#4220)
To purchase vehicles. \$198,458.62

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

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

AND

Requested funds from the Riverboat Fund (1191) or Win Tax (#4220)
For the purchase of new bullet proof vests \$17,328.00

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

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Chief Sosinski stated that these vests must be purchased by the
County per IC Code # 36-8-10-4.5

LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Requested approval to expend money from our non-reverting
Capital fund (1179-20200-000-0560) to repair a leak in our
water system. Not to exceed \$8,500.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Requested additional appropriation into the salary account (1000-10111-000-0134) to cover additional payment of salary (Ray Hamilton was paid vacation from this account) \$3,625.00
A motion was made to table this request until more information is obtained.
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
This will be tabled until the July 23, 2012 meeting

Requested additional appropriation into the salary account (1000-10117-000-0134) to cover the step due to longevity \$135.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requested the transfer from our non reverting fund (2067-02061-000-0246) to (1257-20200-000-0357) \$30,000.00
To be used for demolition in the County.
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

FRIENDS OF THE BARNS

Requested funds from either Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220) \$80,000.00
To repair and restore the Dairy Barn located at the LaPorte County Home
After a lengthily discussion a motion was made to table this request until the July 23, 2012 meeting.
Mr. Garner abstained
Mr. Mrozinski voted against
All other members voted in favor
Motion approved

A motion was made to approve a \$40, 00.00 contributions
To the new Save the Barn fund.
Motion died for lack of a second

A motion was made to appoint Mrs. Sosinski as liaison to this project and be the Contact person.
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

Council appointment to the Michigan City Library Board

A motion was made to appoint Judy Lang to the Board
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
Judy Lang was appointed

The payment of the reconciliation tax bills was discussed. Several taxing units are
Against allowing the extension of the collection period without penalty. It is felt that this
would just delay the units receiving their funds from the tax collection.
A motion was made to make no changes to the collection period.
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
There will be no extended collection period. Bills will be due as normal.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner reminded everyone that the LaPorte County Fair will be earlier this year. Starting on Sunday
July 8th, 2012.

Mr. Ford had no comment

Mr. Cunningham suggested that the committee to save the barn set up a donation booth at the Fair.

Mrs. Sosinski reported that Burt Cook from Economic Development want to set up individual meetings
with the Council Members, she is not in favor of this; it should be a joint meeting with all or a workshop.

Mr. Yagelski suggested to the Save the Barn Committee to have a fund raiser at the Fair, maybe a kissing
booth or a dunk tank.

Mr. Mrozinski stated to remember the Veterans on the 4th of July.

Mr. Bernacchi agreed that it is a great idea to set up a booth at the fair for Save the Barn.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.