

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

JULY 23, 2012

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, July 23, 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

Mr. Hugh Tonagel from the Purdue Extension/4 H presented a duplicate trophy to 4/H member, Kylie Harlow. Ms. Harlow, after originally winning the trophy, she in turn presented it to last year's winner, Hannah Mahlka whose pony had died prior to this year's competition. This shows a true spirit learned through the 4H program.

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

The agenda was approved by all members

The June 25, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes were approved by all members

Department Head Reports

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer reported that at the budget hearings he would be asking for a change in an employee classification and would be asking for an additional jailer that was cut last year from his budget and to add a part time nurse... He commented about the newly formed FACT Team. This unit investigates DUI accidents. He also stated that area police agencies helped with extra man power at the Michigan City Fireworks which helped deter any problems.

Assessor Mike Schultz suggested that the Council speak with Kurt Ott from the DLGF regarding 2008 and 2009 financial information. He spoke that the reassessment is on schedule. They are now down to number crunching.

Public Comments

Dennis Methney commented that the Friends of the Barn should be kept on the table; let them raise their own funds. Regarding the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project, Gene Jonas should not be on the board, he has a definite conflict of interest. This project is for his own personal gain. Hold off on any Council spending until the amount of rebates are determined due to the overpayment of taxes resulting from the decrease in assessment for Nipsco and Blue Chip.

Burt Cook from the Redevelopment Commission, Mike Sites, LaPorte Chamber of Commerce, Fonda Owens, LaPorte Public Library, Gene Jonas, and a local resident all support the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project.

Mr. John Mills supports the Save the Barn Project, he stated that every LaPorte County taxpayer owns that barn and it should be fixed up.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Garner reported that the LaPorte County Fair had good projects and had a high attendance. There was no sickness from any of the Animals contrary to rumors. The big Fire Work convention is coming in August and that should be a help to our economy.

Mr. Ford, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Bernacchi had no report.

Mr. Mrozinski reported attending the legislative breakfast. He congratulated Tim Morgan and his staff for the National Award for the Park Department. Had a discussion with the director of the County home regarding Veterans living at the home. Requested the Council to approve the Rolling Prairie Sewer District Funding.

Mr. Yagelski thanked the Purdue Extension/4 H program for a positive influence in the community. He asked for a line item in the budget for the Swanson Center and there is a meeting planned to work out the financial problems.

Mrs. Sosinski asked Mr. Biege to research with the SBOA regarding the generous donation to the Animal Shelter. She attended the E-911 advisory meeting for July but there was not a quorum. She understands that the GIS mapping for the 911 Center is behind in the schedule, this is a major issues because there is a chance of losing the 2 million grant money. Friends of the Barn reported to her that they have over 700 people signed up to help and also give donations. She also was not happy that she was not included in some of the economic development meetings.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

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
Tabled from the June 25, 2012 meeting
A motion was made to take off the table
All members voted in favor
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Request approved

FRIENDS OF THE BARNS

Requested funds from either Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
To repair and restore the Dairy Barn located at the LaPorte County

Home \$80,000.00
Tabled from the June 25, 2012 meeting
A motion was made to take off the table
All members voted in favor
Another motion was made to re-table the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved
The request is re-tabled

LAPORTE COUNTY SURVEYOR

Requested an additional appropriation into the salary account (#1000-10129-000-0106) due to longevity increase. \$173.84
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requested permission to fill the position of an employee who is Retiring after 29 years.
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requested permission to spend from my non-reverting Sales Disclosure Fund (1131-41006-109-0340) to purchase a Refurbished HP 4345X MFP/Fax/Scan/Copy/Duplex machine \$2,500.00
A motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TEAM

Requested approval to update Hazmat ID equipment
With a three year service contract and three years of training
And upgrade to our chemical library.
From either Riverboat Fund (1191) or Win Tax (4220) \$15,000.00
A motion was made to approve the request from the Riverboat Fund (1191)
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Requested approval of the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project.
A motion was made to appropriate the amount of 2.4 Million Dollars from the Major Moves

account (1172) contingent on the Council Attorney researching and preparing an agreement for a Guaranteed pay back of the funds to the County, to be brought back Before the Council for a final approval to fund the project.

Mr. Bernacchi abstained

Mrs. Sosinski Voted no because she wants details finalized, too many unanswered questions

Mr. Ford voted no also

Mr. Garner, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Mrozinski voted in favor

Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made to move the September 24, 2012 County Council Meeting to Monday, September 17, 2012

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

A motion was made to have Council Attorney, Doug Biege research labor laws regarding salaries for Officers working the County events.

Mr. Sosinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Mrozinski voted in favor

Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted against

Motion failed

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

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

Mr. Yagelski stated his disapproval with the decision not to have Police Officers working public affairs.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that Mr. Bernacchi was not given any authority to e-mail Attorney Biege that as of January 1st, 2013 he would no longer be Council attorney . He stated this was a serious and Mr. Mrozinski had given Mr. Bernacchi a chance to retract his e-mail. Mr. Bernacchi had no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.