

## **LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, September 17, 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

A moment of silence was observed for Michael Hendrixson, Cass-Clinton Volunteer fire department who lost his life in a motor vehicle accident.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Auditor Craig Hinchman called the roll, Mr. Mrozinski was absent, and all other members were present along with Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Council Attorney, Douglas Biege

The agenda was approved with two additions

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

The Budget Hearing Minutes for, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 were approved by all members present.

Department Head Reports

LaPorte County Sheriff, Mike Mollenhauer read a letter of appreciation from Michigan City Police Chief Swistick regarding the cooperation and assistance he received after a fatal shooting in his city. LaPorte County Police off duty Detective Andy Hynek assisted his department in the investigation. The Sheriff then read an e-mail from the detective back to Chief Swistick thanking him for the total cooperation between the two departments.

The Sheriff also reported he purchased a vehicle for his use out of a state discretionary fund and not the general fund. He thought that the Council would be appreciative and not upset. There was a very heated discussion between the Sheriff and most council members. The Council's issue that the fund the Sheriff used must have council approval.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to see all activity from January 1, 2012 through current of all the discretionary funds that the sheriff has available.

All members voted in favor of the motion

Request granted

The Sheriff is to provide the information to the Council members

He was then asked to comment on the law suit that is being brought against the former jail matron, Mrs. Arnold. He stated per attorney instructions, he was not allowed to discuss this. He will notify the Merit Board's Attorney that Council Attorney Douglas Biege would like to discuss this.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner had no comment

Mr. Ford reported that the KID Development is having a ground breaking ceremony on September 27, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. He stated that that is a start of good things to come for LaPorte County economic development.

Mr. Cunningham reported meeting with the Community Corrections regarding the new building plans.

Mrs. Sosinski reported that the mapping for the 911 is making progress. She stated that the step increase process was changed in midyear resulting in additional appropriations being necessary, not bad budgeting. She reported that the position of bad check coordinator was re-evaluated and it dropped from a COMOT 5 to a COMOT 4. A lengthy discussion resulted about the request made to get a new job description or a re-evaluation. This matter will be discussed at the October 22, 2012 County Council Meeting.

Mr. Yagelski reported looking for a new Health Department Officer. He also reported meeting with the NICDT to discuss the high speed rail service. He questioned Mrs. Sosinski about the re-evaluation of the Bad Check position. Mr. Garner defended the position, stating that it was never the intention to have the position re-evaluated.

Mr. Bernacchi reminded that the Public hearing for the 2013 budget is being held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 and the Adoption of that budget will be at the regular County Council Meeting on October 22, 2012. He also stated that since we have money left in the energy/light fund in the Maintenance Department Budget, that we should use \$14,000.00 to replace the roof on the barn on the County Home property.

Mr. Yagelski stated that we must replace cameras on the Franklin Street Bridge on an emergency basis.

The Sheriff reported that with his request for Jail extra Hire money being refused, he will have to cut jailers because of safety issues and transfer approximately 100 prisoners at the cost of \$35.00 per day per inmate to other facilities due to the safety of both jailers and prisoners.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY

Permission to hire three equipment operators and one laborer  
A motion was made to approve three equipment operators and one laborer  
Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted in favor  
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Ford voted against  
Motion failed 3/3  
A motion was made to hire three equipment operators  
All members present voted in favor  
Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Requested additional appropriation to the part time account #10130  
In order to meet the State Mandated deadline \$15,000.00  
A motion was made to approve the request  
All members present voted in favor  
Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY VOTER REGRISTRATION

Permission to transfer funds from:  
1000-30003-000-0132 Travel  
TO  
1000-20001-000-0132 Office Supplies \$300.00  
A motion was made to approve

All members present voted in favor

Request approved

#### LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY

Requested funds from the Major Moves Fund (1172)

For the CR400N/CR950W Economic Development Project \$995,000.00

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Request approved

#### EMS

Requested additional appropriation from either the  
General fund (1000) or CCD (0068) or Riverboat (1191)

To:

Ambulance Equipment acct#1000-41007-000-0140 \$15,000.00

Mobile Radios acct#1000-41023-000-0140 \$ 6,000.00

A motion as made to approved the request from

Riverboat Fund #1191

All members present voted in favor

Request approved

#### LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested additional appropriation for

Overtime –Sheriff Department (1000-10140-000-0105) \$10,000.00

Overtime-Garage (1000-10140-000-0141) \$ 3,000.00

Jail-extra hire (1000-10130-000-1045) \$70,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request

Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Ford Voted against

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Garner voted in favor

And Mr. Cunningham voted in favor after asking what the vote tally was

Motion Failed

A motion was then made to approve the request for the Overtime-Sheriff Dept  
\$10,000.00

(1000-10140-000-0105)

Mr. Cunningham voted against

All other members present voted in favor

Request approved

A Motion was made to approve the Overtime-Garage for \$3,000.00

And Jail Extra hire for \$70,000.00 from the Riverboat Fund (#1191)

This motion died for lack of a second

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Since there is money left in the Maintenance Department's fund for the  
Updating of the lighting, a motion was made to allow \$14,000.00 from that fund

To pay for a new roof for the Barn on the County Home Property

Mr. Cunningham voted against

All other members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Due to an emergency situation, a motion was made to allow the funding from the Major Bridge Fund

To replace or repair the camera's on the Franklin Street \$50,000.00

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

A motion was made to transfer \$35,000.00 from the Supplemental Public Defender

Services Fund to the Public Defender's Budget to cover ligation expenses.

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Sosinski had no further comment

Mr. Yagelski had no further comment

Mr. Garner was very disappointed with the lack of cooperation tonight.

Mr. Ford had no further comment

Mr. Cunningham had no further comment

Mr. Bernacchi stated that he is pleased with the progress on the 400 N/950 W Economic Development Project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.