

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND ADOPTION
OF THE 2013 COUNTY BUDGET
October 22, 2012**

The LaPorte County Council Budget adoption meeting was held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Matthew Bernacchi

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray called the roll: all members were present along with Tammy Lidgard of the Auditor's Office and Council Attorney, Doug Biege.

The meeting was officially opened, all members voted in favor.

MS4: The budget was discussed .It was decided to keep the submitted budget for 2013 until all problems and decisions were made. There may be adjustments done at a later date.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: The position of bad check co-coordinator was discussed. The position was reevaluated and the COMOT V was restored by the personnel committee. The position will remain as full time at a COMOT V.

Prosecutor Szilagyi asked for permission to make a part time deputy into a full time deputy, he stated that the salary from the county would remain the same he would supplement from his discreconary account. A motion was made to allow this for the 2013 budget year with no promise after 2013. All members except Mrs. Sosinski voted in favor. Motion approved. Mr. Cunningham stated that the employee should receive a letter stating that this is only guaranteed for one year and Mr. Cunningham requested a copy of that letter.

A letter from Commissioner Milsap was read. He was asking for the Commissioners budget be restored to what was submitted. He wants the legal fees account and the liability /accident claim pool restored. A motion was made to approve, Mr. Yagelski and Mrs. Sosinski voted in favor Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Mrozinski Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted against Motion failed.

A heated discussion followed with the following comments:

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Mrozinski doesn't trust Mr. Milsap, Mr. Milsap was asked to appear at the meeting tonight but he stated he would be out of state. He lied. Mr. Cunningham questions all things that Mr. Milsap says. Mr. Garner stated that Mr. Milsap is trying to get former Assessor, Carol McDaniel's attorney fees paid for. The Council has voted that they will never pay that bill. Mr. Milsap said in his letter that there was no communication with the Council. All members took offense; they stated that there s good communication between the Council and Commissioners Barbara Huston and Mr. Layton.

Mr. Mrozinski talked about the merit officers' pension fund. He is worried that ultimately the County will be paying the attorney fees for the law suit brought against Lauren Arnold to stop her pension and repay the pension fund she is accused of wrongly receiving. He stated to make the fund solvent; he

made a motion to have the officers contribute more than \$1.00 per year. For 2013 it would be 1% of their salary in 2014 it would be 2% and in 2015 it would be 3% just like the rest of the County employees have to pay. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion, Council Attorney was asked his opinion and he said the plan would have to be amended. Mr. Cunningham requested Mr. Mrozinski to amend his motion to have the increase start in 2014 so that the Attorney could look into the matter. Mr. Mrozinski refused to amend his motion so Mr. Cunningham withdrew his second. Motion died for lack of second. It was stated that there is litigation pending regarding Mrs. Arnold so it should not be discussed. Attorney Biege is to look into the matter.

Mr. Mrozinski asked Mrs. Sosinski and the personnel committee to re-evaluate all unclassified personnel (dept. heads and directors)

Mrs. Sosinski stated that per the new federal law, any employee working more than 30 hours per week must be furnished health insurance. A motion was made to include \$10,000.00 in the Commissioners budget to cover the insurance cost. Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford voted against
Motion failed

A motion was made to adjust all part time employees to one hour under the law for health insurance. Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Garner voted against
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Ford voted in favor
Motion approved
All part-time employees will work one hour less than the minimum time required to have health insurance furnished to them.

A motion was made to approve the 2013 budget
All members voted in favor
Budget for 2013 was approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.