

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2012

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting to be 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 agenda was approved by all members with the removal of the Sheriff's request to transfer \$30,000.00 and the removal of the request by the Worthy Women Recovery Home. This item will be a special workshop prior to the November 26, 2012 County Council Meeting.

**The 2013 County Budget was approved by all members
This is known as Ordinance 2012-05**

**Adoption of the 2013 Solid Waste District Budget was approved by all members
This is known as Ordinance 2012-06**

Mr. Turner reported that the user fee increase was going to be reviewed every year. He stated hopefully the increase will be for only one year.

The September 17, 2012 Council Minutes was approved by all members

Department Head Reports

County Assessor Mike Schultz reported receiving an outstanding achievement award from the Manatron Company, k/n/a The Thomson Reuters Company for the progress the County has made getting the tax situation resolved. He also reported that great progress has been made and there is total cooperation between the Auditor's Office, The Assessor's Office and the Treasurer's office in getting this done. He was asked about a possible law suit being filed by Mr. Wendt; he replied that no decision has been made. He is communicating with Mr. Wendt's people. Mr. Schultz and Mrs. Sosinski praised IT Director, Darlene Hale with her help in resolving the tax problems.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer requested permission to pay for flowers from his commissary fund \$110.00
All members voted to allow

He reported that the 5th floor of the jail will probably be opening the first week of November. He is in the process of training new jailers so that it is possible to open that floor. He reported that the jail population is now at 330, and he is trying to obtain an early release for a pregnant inmate so that she

won't be incarcerated during her delivery. He announced a mini riot in the jail due to overcrowding after closing the 5th floor. He announced that the annual Halloween trick or treat party will be on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the park just north of the Jail.

Public Comments

John Mills, wheeled in a wheel barrow full of items to demonstrate ways to raise money for the "Save The Barn"

Dick Reel from Friends of the Barn thanked the Council for their funding of the new roof and their support.

Sonshine Trouche appeared to request her item for the Worthy Women Recovery Home be taken off tonight's agenda and instead requested a workshop to present her program. The Council agreed to hold this workshop at 6:00 p.m. just prior to the regular November meeting.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner reported meeting with the Sheriff's Merit Board regarding the pending litigation against Lauren Arnold. A letter was read from Jim Kimmel supporting the litigation against Mrs. Arnold. He wants full restitution. He also reported a discussing regarding the MS4 program; he stated that at this time there is too much confusion to make any decisions.

Mr. Ford has two items on the agenda, EMS and the Surveyor; he is urging both requests to be granted.

Mr. Cunningham reported meeting with Judge Alevizos and Magistrate Friedman to discuss the new Drug Court

Mr. Mrozinski reported attending several Veterans affairs. He also attended the AIC conference, the ground breaking ceremonies for the Thomas Rose Industrial park and the KID project. The Veterans Day Program will be at the Civic Auditorium on November 9, 2012. November 10, 2012 the medals will be handed out for LaPorte County Veterans.

Mr. Yagelski stated he was not for or against the litigation against Mrs. Arnold; he is just concerned about the funding.

Mrs. Sosinski deferred her liaison report until later

Mr. Bernacchi attended the Plan Commission regarding the fees to be addressed later in this meeting.

Mr. Cunningham reported the resignation of Don Martin from the Michigan City Library Board of Trustees. He asked to have interest persons to apply to the Auditor's Office by November 12th.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY

Requested the November 2012 CEDIT draw \$2,000,000.00

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION

Transfer from LPC Adult Probation Supplemental

Fund #2102

To

Programs #2102-30096-000-0334 \$10,000.00

Equipment #2102-41007-000-0334 \$30,000.00

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Request approved

FRIENDS OF THE BARN

Requested permission for the County to open a special fund

Designated for donations to "Save the Barn"

This request was approved by all members with the stipulation that a steering Committee be formed and an ordinance will be presented for approval with all Details of the management of the fund.

LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Requested funds from the Major Moves Fund (1171) for

The Hupp Road Project \$800,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request

Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted against

Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham,

Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Request approved

Requested an additional appropriation into account
#1000-30072-000-0143 for the Swanson Center \$ 56,227.50

A motion was made to approve the funding from the
Riverboat Fund (1191)

Mr. Yagelski abstained

All other members voted in favor

Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SMALL ANIMAL SHELTER

Requested a transfer from the Dog License Fund
(0283-01079-000-0283)

TO

Part Time Help account (0100-10130-000-0156 \$7,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Request approved

WORTHY RECOVERY INC. D/B/A

WORTHY WOMEN RECOVERY HOME

Requested funds from either Riverboat Admissions
Tax (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

To help fund the restoration and maintain their home at
1001 Maple St., LaPorte, Indiana and to help with people

With a substance abuse addiction. \$260,000.00

This was tabled, a work shop will be held before the
November 26, 2012 County Council Meeting

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Permission to spend from the Misdemeanant Fund
(1175-20200-000-0591) to Lieberman Technologies for the
Yearly license fee for the Tax Warrant/Cash Book System \$4,000.00

A motion was made to allow the Sheriff to pay this from
His Misdemeanant Fund

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested a transfer from the Misdemeanant Fund
(1175-20200-00-0591)

To:

Jail extra hire Fund (1000-10130-000-0145) \$30,000.00

This item was removed since it was approved at
A previous meeting

EMS

Requested an additional appropriation into
The fuel account (1000-20025-000-0140) \$10,000.00

A motion was made to pay this request from the
Riverboat Fund (1191) \$6,000.00

All members voted in favor

Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SURVEYOR

Requested permission to spend from the Surveyors
Corner Perpetuation Fund (1202-20200-000-0271) \$25,000.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Request approved

LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.

Requested permission to receipt a donation not to exceed

\$2,500.00 into the seasonal/part-time account
(1000-10130-000-0155)

\$2,500.00

A motion was made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Request approved

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

LAPORTE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 151.27 (building Permit Fees Schedule)
Of the LaPorte County Building Code
#2012-04

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Ordinance approved

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Garner had no comment

Mr. Ford had no comment

Mrs. Sosinski has no comment

Mr. Yagelski had no comment

Mr. Mrozinski attended the Commissioners meeting and felt he was not respected when he was questioned about the Council's authority in the spending of County money.

Mr. Cunningham rebutted the claim of a mini riot in the Jail.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.