

*LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350-3490*

**MINUTES
LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2013 6:30 PM**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Meeting was called to order by President Yagelski, who began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Auditor Winski proceeded with the Roll Call. Council Members present included: Councilwoman Lois Sosinski and Councilmen Matt Bernacchi, Rich Mrozinski, Mark Yagelski, Earl Cunningham, Jeff Santana and Terry Garner. A quorum was present for the Meeting to proceed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion was made by Councilman Cunningham and seconded by Councilman Santana to approve the November 25, 2013 Agenda. The Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Motion was made by Councilman Cunningham and seconded by Councilman Santana to approve the October 28, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. The Motion carried 7-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Judge Jennifer Koethe – Judge of Superior Court Number 3

Judge Koethe stated that she had an unusual Department Head Report. She wanted to bring to the Council's attention a new Administrative Rule passed by the Indiana Supreme Court and also to request the Council's assistance. On September 13, 2013, the Indiana Supreme Court passed an Administrative Rule requiring all Courts to prepare a security plan and adhere to the minimum Court security standards that were previously adopted by the Indiana Judicial Center back in 2002. With the new Administrative Rule, which goes into effect on January 1st, Judge Koethe is required to prepare and adopt a security plan. In response to that, she has contacted the Indiana Judicial Center and requested a security assessment. The head of that department will come up and visit the La Porte Superior Court 3 and will conduct a security assessment on behalf of the Court, and will make some recommendations based on their minimum standards. One of the cornerstones of those minimum standards is to make sure that you eliminate all weapons in a courthouse. She stated that she has a copy of the administrative rule and the security standards that she can provide if the Council needs them. Those minimum standards define a courthouse of record as any building that contains a court of record, which means that the County Complex is a Court of record, as it contains Superior Court Number 3. Their recommendations include screening and eliminating all entrances except one and having screening conducted in that entrance and exit of all individuals. That is similar to what happens at the Courthouse in Michigan City as well as the courthouse in La Porte. Judge Koethe has come before the Council to discuss an option or a suggestion so that they can develop a security plan together. She spoke with the Commissioners earlier in the

month about the possibility of obtaining a plan for possible relocation of Superior Court Number 3 into the Courthouse.

Many years ago, Judge Baldoni had a plan to relocate the Court into the Courthouse. His plan was not viable because it reduced the Court size by about half. Since they are the largest Court in the County, that would interrupt the services that the Court could provide and the expense was extreme. Judge Koethe contacted Architecture Meadows, who designed the original plan that Judge Baldoni had approved years ago, and asked them to go back and take another look to see if there was anything else that could be done. It is her understanding that it may be feasible to accommodate a Court of this size over on the second floor. What would be necessary would be to have a further study conducted, which would include whether or not it would be a feasible option with the electrical and HVAC, etc. The Court does have enough funds to pay for this second plan to be done and what the cost would be. There would be only minor structural changes that would need to be done. The cost is \$5,000 to do that, and the Court has just enough funds to pay for the study. She wanted to get the Council involved because the security plan is something that the Council is required to do. The second step with that kind of plan, if it was feasible, which she does not know if it would be, would be to pay for a second study to see if it would be feasible to relocate probation and LADS to the space where the Superior Court is currently. There are only 3 options to look at here. She is willing to sit down and discuss this after she has received the results of the study. She wanted to make the Council aware of this issue and look at exactly what is an option because the Court is required to do this. If they were to do nothing, the liability and the consequences on the County if something would happen would be horrible and extreme. She wants to start a dialogue and look at this.

Councilman Yagelski asked what year Judge Baldoni's plan was approved.

Judge Koethe stated that she would have to look. It was around the same time that a 911 study was done.

Councilman Yagelski stated that they've been looking at this since he's been on the Council, especially when they purchased the building across the street. They looked at using the second floor of that for this purpose. It is well worth the study in his opinion. He is ok with this because it's something they've done already and he doesn't think there are a whole lot of nuances to what they have to do until they get into the actual heating and water, etc.

Councilman Santana, after stating that he is in favor of this as well, asked Judge Koethe who they will be seeking out to do this study initially.

She stated that she has been in contact with Mr. Gerometta who did the original study. He did update the plans. She wasn't sure if even looking at a Court of her size would be a possibility, and if it wasn't a possibility, then they needed to go onto the next option.

Councilman Santana clarified that this is to the tune of the \$5,000 that she has.

She stated that it was and that she had a copy of his written proposal which includes the specifics of what he will be looking at. The initial \$5,000 includes just the money for the court to relocate. If that looked feasible, then the next step would be for them to do a study of the space downstairs, which would be a separate study, to see about probation and LADS moving down there. That would be the space where the Clerks' office and the Court is now.

Councilman Bernacchi asked if Mr. Yagelski is looking for a Motion.

Councilman Yagelski stated that it can just be a recommendation since it's not on the Agenda tonight.

Councilman Garner stated that he believes that they are all in favor of it. He believes that Mr. Gerometta also did Judge King's studies too, so he is familiar with the courts of La Porte County.

Councilman Mrozinski stated that they've talked before about having all of the Courts in the same area, and he thinks they all agree that it's a good idea.

Councilman Bernacchi made a Motion of recommendation to move forward. It was seconded by Councilman Garner. The Motion carried 7-0.

Fran Tibbot – La Porte County EMA

A mitigation grant has been going on for about two years to see if the state is going to give them the money or not and they've had a committee that's been formed. She has received notification from Homeland Security mitigation that the monies are there at the state. They are trying to figure out how they are going to distribute it. It will be a 75-25% grant. She sent Jan Criter an e-mail, and Jan said that it is a 75-25% match, so the 25% is the County's responsibility. The approximate amount for the match is around \$6,000, but the personnel that will be working on this grant and the Meeting space that they use, management etc are eligible costs that they can take off of that 25%. They can charge that money back to the state. It probably will not be the \$6,000 that the County is responsible for. After the last storm that we had, she sent all of the information to the state. It was not a declaration but still the state likes to know from all of the small towns what they had. The County highway has sent their information to the state, also, as far as the overtime that they used for their employees and if there were any damages, so that has all been taken care of too. It's not a declaration, but still they like to know what happens during even a small storm anymore. It gives them a little heads up to what's going on.

She was awarded a Homeland Security Grant of \$10,000. That is to use on the EOC for La Porte County. Michigan City EOC has radios that were put in this year. Everything is there and there was no cost to the County or Michigan City. It was just some money that they had gathered in from another place. It was the hospital that had an agreement for three years because they'll use the EOC also. The radios were put in this year, the tower is up and grant money was used for that. The \$10,000 Homeland Security Grant applied for will be used for a camera on top of the complex. Since they are in the basement, they do not see outside very well. If there's a storm coming, they can watch it there in their own area. Also, they'll have a camera for the hallway that comes down to where they are because they can't see anyone that gets in their office until they're there, it's a security issue. They are also going to put up cameras so that they can see the boiler room from their location and also the outside of the boiler room, the door coming into the boiler room for security purposes for homeland security. They won't have any money that they need to get from the County. She just has to do a study on the building for historical purposes. She is in the process of that now. The grant was awarded, so she is just letting the Council know that, if they agree that it was a good expenditure for the area down there. Also, they've worked with several of the departments on drills this year and also the special events that they had in the area, and they're also sitting on the School Safety Board that was formed this year. Also, they were awarded again this year, they had the top score for our District. Between Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, and La Porte Counties, La Porte had the top score again this year, so very proud of that.

Councilman Santana said that he was going to mention that too and offered his congratulations, stating that this is the third year in a row.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer

Sheriff Mollenhauer had two quick updates. One was on the video visitation system. It is up and running, and it hasn't had much of a problem. There have been a couple of little minor glitches, but everything has been going extremely well. It's enabling the jail staff to have a little bit more time for other duties back there instead of what it has been in the past. It's been a big safety issue, but it has helped that the kiosks have been installed in the cell blocks as well as in the room right off the lobby because with the ones that are in the kiosks by the inmates, they visit right from there. There is no longer a need for the jailer to remove the inmate from the jail cell and take him over to the fourth floor, either up or down or across and have them visit there. They stay right in the cell. The person that's visiting comes in and registers and goes into the room off the lobby. There are 8 kiosks in there. One is for handicapped. They visit right from there, free of charge. It makes the scheduling more convenient. They get one free visit a week, and there is no longer a long line on certain days of the week, especially on Wednesdays. It freed that up and helped the safety issues not only with the jailers but also with the public coming in and out. There is less chance of contraband. If the person wishes to visit from home, whether it is out of state or in this state, whether it be in Michigan City or right here in La Porte, they can do so on their home computers. There is a charge for that. Right now it is only \$5. The company that did the installation of all of the equipment granted that reduction in cost to let the people see how convenient it is and see if they want to make the decision of coming in and visiting or possibly doing it right from their home.

The second thing Sheriff Mollenhauer wanted to speak about was approximately two years ago, he and the Chief were contacted by a company about the idea of a book for fourth or fifth graders. At that time, they put it off. Last year, they purchased them, but there was a delay in shipment, so they weren't able to get them out until recent months, and they have a couple of schools to go to yet after Thanksgiving, 4 or 5 or 6 of them. The book is called Be the Best You Can Be. It's for fourth and fifth grade students, and they have distributed that to a number of schools. All of the school corporations in La Porte County will have this book as soon as they are finished with that. It is being proactive. It is about self-esteem, and they've had good reactions from the teachers and many of the students so far. That was paid for through the Commissary Fund. They purchased 2,600 books.

Dr. Kora – Commissioner

Dr. Kora stated that he has come before the Council because Commissioner Milsap is out of town. He wanted to share some of the items that they are working on. Recently, they have been working on getting Work One back to Michigan City. As we are all aware, unemployment is pretty high in this County and especially in the Michigan City area. They have negotiated an agreement in principle with the regional Work One board to return the Work One office to Michigan City. They have been providing rent-free space at the 8th street, and since the building is already heated and cooled and furnished and secure, that's the kind of contribution they want to make. That's the kind of contribution that the Work One board was looking for to bring it back to Michigan City. What this will do is bring access to the residents of Michigan City for job skills training and job postings and recertification that has become necessary. At the request of Mr. Yagelski, who wanted to have the IT presence in Michigan City, they are working on creating some space in the back area of the Health Department to make sure that IT

continues to be present there. With the unemployment numbers being very high, all of the Commissioners shared how important this is and they all feel very happy that Work One is coming back to Michigan City. They are also happy about this tentative agreement.

The second item is that the Commissioners had a very productive Meeting on the 25th with the Mayors of Michigan City and La Porte and Mr. Turner from PNC. It was a collaborative Meeting. They are working on instituting a bus service between La Porte, Michigan City, and PNC. There was some very creative work done by Michigan City's Transportation Director, Mr. Rob Strader. They can make federal funds for this project of only about \$64,000 per year for three years coming from the four participating entities. They will probably be coming back to the Council once they have this firmed up a little bit more because there has to be a local match and that will come up to about \$16,000 from the County share. For the probation and social services and other areas needing transportation between Michigan City and La Porte, this will be very helpful for the residents of the County. Once the three years are over, with the fares that are generated, they should be able to become self-sufficient.

One of the aspirational goals they have had over the past several months is to see if they can create a learning community in La Porte County, not only for students who are coming out of high school but also for adults because in the economy of the future, adults who currently have jobs will need ongoing training and skills to make sure that they can keep their jobs or aspire for better jobs. This kind of transportation would definitely help in promoting that concept. Lastly, Dr. Kora wanted to mention that they had a presentation by Mr. Eric Neagu about the Deercroft Facility, and they are looking forward to having a work session with the Council to discuss some of their ideas. They have done work on this before and the Commissioners want to make sure that they get together and discuss some of those ideas and see what can be done together to make sure that this light that is present at the entrance of Michigan City is converted to something beautiful.

Councilman Garner thanked Dr. Kora for coming up. He said that his presentation was one of the best they've had this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Metheny – 6757 W 450 N, Michigan City

"Well, mine won't be quite as good as Dr. Kora's. I see on here additional appropriations for a UTV and ATV for EMS. I don't think we need any vehicles. They can drive an EMS truck for a parade. Why do they need to spend \$16,000 for that. Maybe they could cut somebody's bills a little bit. I think they're about 750 a trip, plus x dollars a mile. The other thing I see is La Porte County Assessor, Board Members, Medicare, and employee insurance. I can't understand why board members need to have insurance and medicare. Let them pay their own. When I was on the health board many years ago back in 95, I got paid by a check, but I didn't get any of that. I paid my taxes out of my own check. It's just my opinion from what I'm reading on here. I don't have the rest of the information, and I'm not upset with Joie. She does a good job, so don't take it to heart here. It's just my opinion. The other thing, this Deercroft landfill, I don't know that we ought to go and look at that as a park. We have County parks right now. I remember when I was the trustee from 2011 through 2010. The park department always came to us, the trustee and the board, for more money to maintain the park on 400. So, I personally think, since that's in Coolspring Township, I would certainly hope that that's not another park Coolspring Township's going to have to front some money to, because the park department for the County doesn't have enough money to maintain it. So, I would certainly like to not use that as a landfill, and I did call

after the last Meeting that I attended at the Commissioners. I did talk to one of the Commissioners after the Meeting, and I called over to Chicago EPA at the region 5 office, and I've not received a call back yet, but I will be calling again tomorrow since this was brought up today. I did not get an answer back on the material that is being hauled out of there and dumped in La Porte. I was informed it was not hazardous material, but when I worked at NIPSCO in the 80's, that was hazardous material, and it was being hauled to Hammond and disposed of properly. I was informed that it was hauled to La Porte now, dumped through their waste system, so I'm still going to find out an answer on that because I can't hardly believe that it is almost good enough to drink. As the pond's there, I certainly wouldn't eat fish out of there. I don't believe it. It's just my opinion, but I think to put any more money in another park in this County when this County is in financial problems with the money that we're late on taxes and things like that, I would certainly appreciate if you would reconsider it. We need to take care of what we've got before we get anything else. Thank you."

Steven Grott – 4304 N 400 E, Rolling Prairie

"I am here representing Am vets, American Veterans, and just for the record, we are a functional post in the state of Indiana in the Rolling Prairie area."

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilwoman Sosinski had no liaison reports.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that he has two things on the Agenda tonight, with the Assessor's Office. He stated that he would clarify at that time about the Board Members and the other expenses for Mr. Metheny.

Councilman Mrozinski that on November 19th he attended the event sponsored by the Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City to welcome the new Executive Director, Clarence Hulse. Mr. Hulse has a very long list of accomplishments. Everyone at the Economic Development Office there is very excited about signing a new Director. It took 6 months to find him and they can expect a lot more good things coming out of that organization. On November 20th, he attended the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation Meeting and after listening to the list of potential business leads that they are looking at, it was very encouraging. There are a lot of people looking at La Porte County to either transfer here or expand here. It's a shame that the County is no longer part of these two successful organizations. They're both doing great business. It is the time of year to have your pet's picture taken with Santa at Tractor Supply Company on December 7th and 14th from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Also, the Animal Shelter is coming along very nicely on the building. They are starting to paint in the building extension. It is really going to be pretty fine when they get it going. The County home has a transfer on the Agenda tonight. It is a transfer from the fund that can only be used for residents there, so he encourages the Council to transfer that.

Apparently there are also some Meetings going on about the future of the County home, but the Advisory Committee hasn't been invited to the Meetings, to Mr. Mrozinski's knowledge. He doesn't really know what's going on, but he's sure that before they get to a point that it's already done that the people at the Meetings will include the advisory board. That is what they are there for. They advise. They can't advise if they don't know what is being done behind their backs.

Councilman Garner thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers about him. He stated that he missed the last Council Meeting. He had two clogged arteries and a stent put in and one more yet to go in December. He appreciates all of the prayers. He stated that he did have the opportunity to attend the Community Corrections Meeting. They've moved into their building and are having some minor issues with their heating and electric and so forth, and they are looking into that.

He had the privilege along with Mr. Cunningham, to also sit in with the State Board of Accounts audit of the Treasurer and the Auditor. It was very enlightening. It was the first time he has been asked to attend one of those, and he found it very informative. He can see why two of them needed to be there so they don't have to take one person's opinion of what was stated because there were quite a few different things brought up that you would doubt whether it was actually factual, but it was brought up and it is true. They also had a Meeting with two firms for work on the County government buildings for energy savings. They will be coming before the Commissioners to ask for funding for that in the future.

Councilman Santana again congratulated the EMA for their top score in the Indiana home security. He said that he did pass out what Surveyor, Tony Hendricks, gave him. He read the statement. 'La Porte County Surveyor's Office has accomplished a variety of tasks this last year. The section corner division has updated the approximately over 300 section corners. The drainage division has accomplished various storm water drainage projects such as the Mill Creek watershed through 19 grant applications, the log jam and obstruction removal along the Kankakee, the MS-4 partnership program renewal, an Enbridge pipeline construction oversight, and other County department partnerships, storm water enhancements, including the 400 North and 900 West right there at Woodland. He teamed up with the County Highway at 525 West Serenity Springs. These are just a few of the projects that they have accomplished with other County departments during 2013. The other thing that Councilman Santana talked about was that they will be hearing from Pat Pease, the EMS Director as she approaches on a number of items on the Agenda.

Councilman Cunningham stated that as Mr. Garner said, they attended the State Board of Accounts Meeting with the Treasurer, Commissioners, and the Auditor. They were also present at the Community Corrections. They are working on the committee for rehabbing some of the buildings and energy savings and so forth. He was also with Mr. Mrozinski at the County Home Meeting in Michigan City and the following night he attended the NAACP Town Hall Meeting with nearly 100 in attendance. It was a very good and very informative Meeting. Mr. Metheny was there as well. The turnout was particularly good for the night that it was since it was rainy and cold. He's been busy the last couple of weeks, but he has been with Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski or Mr. Bernacchi at some point in time.

Councilman Yagelski thanked everyone for all of the cards and letters and support after his sister-in-law's passing. He also stated that in response to Mr. Metheny's comments, they've been looking at this thing for quite some time for the last ten years about the Deercroft Landfill. The Commissioners at the time that they approved it had two options, if they took the majority of the money they wouldn't get anything in return, and if they took lesser money, at the end they can develop it. The County decided at the time, for whatever reason, to take all of the money, so after a few more years, it is going to be ours, whether they like it or not, so they are going to have to maintain it. The idea was that they could find ways to see what they could do to prevent it being a cumbersome cost to them. In 4 or 5 more years, it's going to become the County's. That's for any County that has a landfill. They are looking at some possibilities to try and see what they can do for it. They've looked at some ideas even for something strange as a solar blanket on the south side. This is already hooked up to the network for electricity, so they are looking at maybe getting some electricity from it, or using it for maybe a toboggan run where

they pull people to the top. It's not necessarily that they are going to spend the money, but they can't wait for the day that they hand the keys over and say it belongs to them. It's not on the Agenda for any expenditure now.

NEW BUSINESS

Heartland Footwear

Matt Reardon stated that the Council has before them a preliminary resolution to consider granting a tax abatement on personal property and real property for Heartland Footwear. They would be located at 4744 E Oak Knoll Rd in Rolling Prairie. They are considering a relocation from their current facility in Arkansas and consolidating facilities here in La Porte County. Part of their request was consideration for a property tax abatement on real and personal property to make this location possible. They set a timeframe that is between March 1 and April 1 of 2014. He is recommending that the Council considers the preliminary resolution and subsequent to that, request any additional information that may be necessary or any Council people may want to know about this company. They are going to create about 50 jobs. They are moving the needle to about \$2.2 million, so that's pretty good for the County. Companies such as this that have taken a look at La Porte County in total, whether it's in the city of Michigan City or the city of La Porte, are getting a better understanding that La Porte County is La Porte County. They have a very favorable taxing climate, and they have a County Council and Commissioners that are willing to consider helping and working with them that are open for business candidly. They have had a lot of inquiries about what is going on here. What they tried to do is not to undersell themselves and/or buy themselves out of a marketplace between creating unnecessary competition between municipalities and County. They have open communication, and he is glad to hear that Michigan City has found an Executive Director. That is good to hopefully get a little more continuity.

They've had a lot of turnover between both organizations. They can get that together a little bit more. That is going to be very beneficial to what they have, but for today, it is a preliminary request. They presented the information to Attorney Biege. There will be a public hearing that would be required to consider the full request. At that time they will have representatives here from the company to explain the process. The one thing that he likes the best is that it is an empty building right now, or partially empty. So they are filling these up as they go. It is off of S.R. 2 and Oak Knoll Rd. Because there is another part of their company there, they're willing to make an investment of approximately \$1.5 million. His recommendation would be to request the Council to move forward on the preliminary resolution to create the economic revitalization area to approve the tax abatement.

Councilman Santana stated that he has read up on some of these things, and it's been a rubber stamp in his opinion where you can ask for a tax abatement from one to ten years. More times than not, as he's seen, they're always offering ten years. His point is that he could see going 5 years. He understands that they have to meet all of the criteria and it comes forward and a report has to be made each time, but he is wondering why it's always just kind of been that stamp that gives them ten years. He is in favor of this project and economic development, but he wants to ask the Council this.

Mr. Reardon stated that it has not always been ten and it has not always been any. There are many investments that have occurred in La Porte County, whether it be in the County outside of the jurisdictions that have not been awarded tax abatement because there was not a need requested. They didn't pursue it. When he looks at these projects, he listens to the circumstances related to the investment. So they have an existing building, which is good because he likes to fill those. They have an

existing business that's going to benefit from an additional investment by somebody else, which is also a benefit. The state of Indiana is also offering incentives for this project. He says that Councilman Santana can look at it this way: what are they going to have with an empty building? What are they going to collect? The information that he is seeking will be provided before the next Meeting. What he does is create the existing conditions. He has an empty building and an operator that says he going to claim obsolescence. The Assessor knows what it is. He tries to create a balance in his recommendations to say here is where they're at today. If they don't do anything, which is ok and always an option, or follow some recommendations that say the state of Indiana has agreed to fund some of this project to do this. They've agreed to do this, and if they don't agree to do this, the Council has the option to rescind the abatement. That is what they tie into the final confirmatory resolution as well as the fees associated that will come back to the County. So, they make sure to hold everybody accountable based on their level of benefit and what they're going to bring to the table. If this was a retail establishment that was going to be selling stuff, his recommendation would be good luck and hopefully your zoning is correct. If it's not, go to the zoning Meeting and get it done. This is a manufacturing opportunity that creates pretty good jobs and moves the meter from his estimation and can create up to \$2 million of revenue or income for employees at the place. That's why his recommendation is there.

Councilman Cunningham asked if it was true that even with the tax abatement they're not going to pay less taxes than they're already paying.

Mr. Reardon stated that they're never going to pay less. They are always going to pay more.

Councilman Cunningham stated that when he says tax abatement he thinks there's not going to be any taxes.

Mr. Reardon stated that if they don't come here, they are back to whatever the building was going to pay in obsolescence and all of that. Essentially, with simple math, if you come into a place you're going to pay 50% of what you paid for up to ten years. It's a little different on equipment based on depreciation but let's say it's 60-40. So, is the County gaining every time somebody comes here and an abatement is granted? Absolutely they do. 100% of zero is zero. If they're not going to come here, you're not going to gain anything. Being able to fill a structure with a like manufacturer and putting it together, it's pretty good.

Councilman Cunningham stated that the people who are working there are paying income taxes as well as state minimum taxes and buying gas here and groceries and so on.

Mr. Reardon agreed.

Councilman Garner stated that each taxing unit gains so much more each year.

Mr. Reardon said that this is true.

Councilman Garner asked if they benefit by it each year that that company is in existence.

Mr. Reardon confirmed this.

Councilman Santana asked Mr. Reardon if he thought that it would not bring them here if they offered them five years. He asked if they have to offer the max or not get them.

Mr. Reardon stated that he just reports what has been requested by the companies to him, and he presents the facts to the Council to make those determinations. They will weigh the facts and circumstances related to the property tax, the fact that there's personal property tax here, where they're at currently, the level of wages, how much investment they have to make in the place, and then they're going to make a decision. Any time a request comes in, and not every request is about incentives, some are about zoning and utility access and so on. In this instance, this is what was requested. There is an existing business in there. It's an empty building, and in his view having a full building or a partially full building is much better than an empty building when you start doing the math.

Councilman Santana said that while he was reading through the proposal, he saw that they are also asking for \$100,000 for moving expenses to come here.

Mr. Reardon clarified that no, that is not what is being requested today from the Council. This is merely a request for property tax abatement. As he discussed with the company, in the future, unless he was instructed by the Council and Commissioners to, say, offer them \$100,000 to move here, he believes that what they can do is, with the math, explain to them that over the period of ten years that they are actually going to save approximately \$100,000 and therefore that is going to cover that cost. He did not recommend that. He is just talking about property tax abatements.

Councilman Bernacchi said that, to put it in layman's terms, if they aren't going to offer that ten years, Porter County or Lake County or someone else is. One thing they have is someone like Matt, who irons all of it out. The thing La Porte County has most in its favor is logistics. That's one of the things that, he understands, you need the taxing aspect of it too since he works closely with the assessor's office. It's just like an empty field. You're only going to make so much on an empty field, but if there's a business there and they bring 100 employees and you're making \$1,700 an acre, now it's taxed at \$20,000 an acre. In the beginning, no, you don't see it, but in five years' time, you've tripled your money. Plus, it's jobs here and everything else. There are a lot of things to put in the equation to get the answer.

Councilman Cunningham asked if Mr. Reardon could answer one more time approximately how many employees there are and the average wage per hour.

Mr. Reardon said that they were looking at 52 employees and taking salaries to \$2.02 million as reported by the company. That's good news. It's a good thing when you start looking at it that way. It's a lot of revenue into a jurisdiction. Will they all be residents of La Porte County? Maybe not, but a lot of them will be because of the proximity of the plant and where it's located. You're going to draw from the local area. The company has also confirmed that they will make the best efforts to employ La Porte County residents. The fact that they are getting closer with Work One is even going to start bearing more fruit as that continues to happen.

Councilwoman Sosinski asked if Mr. Reardon knew what the average salary is.

Mr. Reardon said that it's approximately \$18,000 but that he did not do the math.

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion to approve the preliminary resolution and set the public hearing after that. It was seconded by Councilman Bernacchi. The Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Yagelski stated that there will be a separate public comment on that.

Councilman Mrozinski stated that in the past they had an alliance to look at all of the abatements that were outstanding and make sure that everybody was in compliance. He asked if the Economic Development committee plans to do that this year.

Mr. Reardon said that they absolutely do. He understands that there was a request for additional information that was included in the Council packet. There is a to-date expenditures related to Economic Development group. They are subject to the State Board of Accounts review, unlike the other private organizations. They welcome any questions and will make sure that everyone is in compliance, and if they aren't, they will make those recommendations to the Council. He also stated that there will be a Meeting of the advisory board on the 23rd and that the Council members are invited to attend. It will be at PNC.

Councilman Mrozinski stated that he submitted a request through President Yagelski. What they are looking for, and they have put a sizeable amount of County taxpayer money into the venture here, and in the past years with the alliance, at the end of the year they'd get a nice little brochure with information about all of the prospective businesses in the County and things that they've moved forward with. Commissioner Milsap wanted information about the alliance. The alliance paid for an audit to account for each year. There'll be one for the end of this year because they considered it a three-year project. All of those audits are available at the GLEDC office.

Mr. Reardon stated that the process of creating the report that they will get this year has to do with the board and what they came up with as far as goals, objectives, and strategies, and how it's going to be taken care of. There will also be success stories about the local companies who have made investments here. This is the third time that he's been before this Council seeking incentives, and every time the state of Indiana, through their coordination, has worked with them to make sure that happens. So, they will be happy to provide a comprehensive report at the end of the year. If there are any questions regarding the alliance or the expenditures that will be fine. They are part of the County government, so they will be audited by the State Board of Accounts. If there are any anomalies, they will be pointed out as they are with any other department. They have no problem providing exactly what they have done and how they have done it. It's been an innovative process. Their firm has the capacity to do a lot of different things, from environmental to engineering to providing information about planning and economic development finance. They are trying to keep the budget low and stay within budget, which they are, and to save the taxpayers money. They are not paying for insurance. They are not paying for travel. That was the goal when he started and they started having meets with the group to talk about the advisory board. They've been advised and they've been through the planning process, so on the 23rd they are going to culminate that. These are the goals and this is how they are going to roll it out. Those are going to be the goals for 2014.

Councilman Mrozinski stated that last month they spoke about the proposed project at Johnson Road and 20 and he suggested that somebody refer back to the Plan Commission because he was on the Plan Commission some years ago when this was suggested, and the Plan Commission shot it down. He checked with the plan commission, and they said that no one has come back to them yet to talk about that. He sees a lot of things in the paper about proposed stuff. He said they might want to go back and do as they suggested because the issue was that if you put development in that area, you're going to have lawn chemicals and chemicals on sidewalks and salt, etc. There is a wetland there leading directly to Trail Creek, which leads to Lake Michigan. Down the road, they could have a potential, really expensive situation if they start killing fish and polluting the water. This is why the Plan Commission

shot it down before, so he is nervous about the way things are going on when he reads things in the paper about putting roads in, etc.

Mr. Reardon says that they put in the paper what they want and what they hear, but the facts and circumstances are as follows: that unless there is a legitimate site plan presented that addresses all of the issues with all of the authorizing bodies up to and including the DNR, IDEM, and the La Porte County Drainage Board, there won't be a presentation. It won't happen. You can try and pursue development, but unless you have a site plan in place. Unless you've taken your drainage and you've done your calculations and understand the impacts and the sheet drain and the surface runoff and what the requirements are in the parking lot and how to do all of those things, you don't get a permit. Most importantly, you don't get a permit from the County you're trying to do it in. Period. While that was a very nice article and very hopeful, hopefully that their firm, whoever they're utilizing, is able to achieve all of those goals to get the permitting necessary to bring that to the plan commission, where they're able to agree to the following, that we like your plan, it is understandable, we agree to it with the following exceptions, you will have all the permitted uses necessary for the following, storm water, wetland mitigation, and so on. That's pretty common practice. I wouldn't expect the County to approve anything unless they had it and unless they're willing to do it, then I guess that's not a project that the County should consider funding in any way at this time.

Councilman Santana stated that he appreciates Mr. Reardon's explanation and that of the other Council members, because he won't pretend to act like he knows everything. He does ask questions and appreciates everyone enlightening him on that information.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was a letter received from Ameenah Starks. She is from the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership. She apologizes for being a week behind in getting this to the Council. She stated that they come before the Council every November just to approve the allocations for the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership. She stated that this year they received almost \$10,000 less than they had in the previous years, so out of the \$92,412.00, they have to split that into 4 different categories in the areas of administration, justice, prevention, and treatment. The Council has a sheet showing what is requested and what is allocated. A couple of them received full funding, such as the Open-Door Adolescent Help Center and some of the Prevention programs, but everybody that applied did receive some type of funding. She just needs to go ahead and give the money out.

Councilman Yagelski stated for Mr. Santana that the money has already been appropriated and that they just have to give permission for it to be spent.

Councilman Santana stated that he spoke with the Chief Deputy Auditor about this and that it comes out of Fund 1148 and the money is there for her.

Councilman Bernacchi made a Motion to grant approval to make the expenditures. It was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2014 Salary Adoption

Councilman Yagelski stated that this is a second reading.

Auditor Winski stated that they have Ordinance Number 2013-16, An Ordinance Adopting County of La Porte, Indiana, Salary, Schedule, and Compensation Policies.

Attorney Biege stated that this was tabled from last Meeting because they didn't have the correct schedules. There wasn't a vote last Meeting.

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion to approved Resolution 2013-16 by Title Only. It was seconded by Councilman Santana. The Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion to approve the second reading of Resolution 2013-16 by title only. It was seconded by Councilman Santana. The Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans' Court Resolution

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion to approve a Resolution to support the Veterans' Court by Title Only.

Auditor Winski stated that this would be Resolution Number 10. A Resolution Supporting the La Porte County Veterans' Treatment Court.

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Santana. The Motion carried 7-0.

APROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Commissioners
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
For Telephone and Employee Health Insurance \$891,065.91

Councilman Yagelski asked if this was everything that was asked for last time when they tabled the Commissioners.

Auditor Winski stated that it was revised from last time. It was revised down.

Councilman Cunningham made a Motion to take this off the table. It was seconded by Councilman Mrozinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Mrozinski asked if this was for telephones and employee health insurance.

Auditor Winski stated that it is.

Last month's request was considered dead from lack of a Motion.

Councilman Bernacchi made a Motion to take it all out of Riverboat.

Councilman Yagelski asked if this was for both telephone and health insurance.

Auditor Winski clarified that the amount for the health insurance was \$838,280.56, and the telephone is \$52,785.38.

Councilman Bernacchi made a Motion to take them both out of Riverboat. It was seconded by Councilman Garner.

Councilman Mrozinski asked if this was a lot higher than last year.

Auditor Winski stated that it was not. It is somewhat higher for the health insurance, but the problem is that since they are self-insured, they can never allocate enough money. It all happens at the end of the year. Last year, it was around a half million.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that GIS just told them that next year they're thinking of a savings of around a million dollars.

Dr. Kora stated that next year the insurance will be renegotiated from SunLife to Anthem, and it will save the County a million dollars. The Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Yagelski asked Dr. Kora if he could ask the Commissioners, because the Council has always allowed the commissioner's stuff to come up in front of the Commissioners and that's a courtesy because most of the stuff comes directly to them. What happens is how a lot of stuff that's being reported at the Commissioners Meeting is coming out as gossip. An example is that road being put in. The Commissioners need to make it clear that that vote is just a Commissioners vote to support, or like the money going to Purdue, for example. As this comes to the Commissioners, it is really coming out the wrong way and people are misunderstanding it, or that Deercroft thing. They're not building it tomorrow. It's not being presented properly to the newspapers. Maybe find a way to get a press release back to them so that they understand because it's not working out as it is now.

Dr. Kora said that he will emphasize again what they do. When they adopt a Motion, they are giving people permission to approach the Council. The Council is the fiscal body. Somewhere along the line, people have misunderstood it. If there is anything the Commissioners can do to correct it, they will do it.

La Porte County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Requesting Permission to Spend
Clerk's Perpetuation (1119-20200-000-0341)
For Symantec Endpoint Protection License \$7,262.00

Councilman Garner made a Motion to approve and seconded by Councilman Mrozinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County EMS
Requesting a Transfer

(1000-30161-000-0140) to (1000-20025-000-0140)

For Fuel

\$10,000.00

Councilman Bernacchi made a Motion to approve the transfer and seconded by Councilman Mrozinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

Requesting Permission to Spend

EMS Non-Reverting (4013-05811-000-0581)

For UTV/ATV for EMS Stand-By Events

\$16,000.00

Councilman Garner asked if they even have to come before the Council to ask for this.

Pat Pease stated that the resolution that established this fund says that it does need Council approval. She gave the Council a list of all of the stand-bys that they do on an annual basis. For the last 8 years, they have been letting this money build up in there for this purpose.

Councilman Bernacchi clarified that this is money that they have. It is not an additional appropriation.

Mrs. Pease stated that this is money for the use of Ambulances at the stand-bys. The event organizers pay for the use of the ambulances. So, they figured how appropriate it would be to invest that in the events for a vehicle to be able to access the patients a lot easier.

Councilman Yagelski asked how they are planning on getting this to the events.

Mrs. Pease indicated that they are planning on getting a trailer. They can pull it with a support vehicle. The trailer would be about \$1,000. The second page lists all of the quotes. They recommend Riggs because it is local and diesel because it lasts longer.

Councilman Yagelski stated that he doesn't understand why they would want diesel because unlike their other vehicles, these would only be run at events.

Councilman Garner stated that he wouldn't want a diesel one, but that's just personal.

Andrew McGuire, Field Supervisor, stated that he was advised by the vendors when he went around and got all of the quotes that diesel was better and would last longer. It was just a recommendation by the vendor.

Councilman Garner stated that they're talking another \$3,000 just for the diesel. It's not worth the extra money.

Councilman Yagelski stated that if they were running this thing continuously that he could understand the diesel, but for the events they are going to do it's not good.

Mrs. Pease stated that they can certainly do more research into that. She basically came for the dollars to get the vehicle and stated that they were going with that because of what they were informed.

Councilman Mrozinski clarified that they have the money in this account and just want permission to spend it.

She indicated that he is correct.

Councilman Mrozinski made a Motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Bernacchi.

Councilman Cunningham asked Mrs. Pease how many of the events listed that they would anticipate using the ATV at.

Mrs. Pease stated that it would be probably about 50% of them.

Councilman Santana suggested that Mrs. Pease check with the Michigan City police. They've got two and the fire department has one. DNR has a couple, and they are all gas. He also clarified to Mr. Matheny that these are not just for parades. These things come in really handy, especially on the beach for making patient access and getting somebody off the beach and from a remote area that an ambulance can't get to. They're going to be able to move that patient on this vehicle and get them to the ambulance that will be in the parking lot. The Motion carried 7-0.

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

Riverboat (1191) or CCD (1138)

For Lifepak 15 Replacement Monitors

\$45,000.00

Mrs. Pease stated that this may not be. She is just signifying the intent or the commitment by the Council if they do get awarded the grant. She is getting ready to submit a grant for \$300,000 to replace the Lifepak 15's. She won't know if she even gets the award until next year. The current monitors are 13 years old and will no longer be serviced after 2015 or 2016. She has been informing the Council every budget year and putting it in there, but she is going to try to get the money an alternate way, so she thought she would start early. She is getting ready to submit the grant tomorrow. She has been working on it for a couple of weeks. If they get it, it is a 90-10. So, she would need \$30,000 to be ready for the County's share if they got awarded the grant.

Councilman Garner made a Motion to approve \$30,000 for the County's share of the grant out of Riverboat. It was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski.

Councilman Yagelski asked Mrs. Pease to clarify what the Lifepak 15s are.

She stated that these are the cardiac monitors.

He asked when they were purchased.

She stated that it was in 2000.

Councilman Yagelski made a comment to the whole County that he won't approve it tonight because they never utilized that packs that they were supposed to last time. He said that they had some ridiculous person come to tell the Council that they would pay someone to go and check and push a button to make sure it worked ok.

Mrs. Pease stated that he was wrong. He is thinking of the AED's. Those were not her purchase. These monitors are monitors in the ambulances.

Auditor Winski stated that if the Council could just give her a commitment to have the money available if she gets the grant that they shouldn't allocate the money right now because they will have to put it into a fund. She said it would just be better if they make the Motion that they agree to make a commitment for \$30,000.

Councilman Garner amended his Motion to make an agreement for the commitment. Councilwoman Sosinski amended her second to agree with that. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Surveyor

Requesting Permission to Spend
Surveyor Corner Perpetuation (1202)
For Equipment, Supplies, and Service Contracts \$25,000.00

Councilman Cunningham made a Motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Mrozinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Assessor

Requesting Permission to Transfer Funds
Reassessment (2451)
For Board Member, OASI, Medicare, Employee Insurance \$16,010.00

Councilman Bernacchi stated that Board Members do not receive any of the employee insurance, Medicare, or anything like that. There have been more board Meetings this year, and that fee has gone up. He has also gone over a little bit in his office for his full-time. It's just a transfer of funds.

Auditor Winski stated the exact amounts. Professional Services \$16,010. \$3,500 of it will go to the board members. \$1,300 to OASDI. \$150 to Medicare, and \$11,000 to employee insurance.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that that was for the full time because the board members do receive any of those benefits.

Auditor Winski stated that these are benefits paid out of the Reassessment Fund for full-time reassessment workers.

Councilman Cunningham asked Mr. Bernacchi how many board members there are.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that there are five voting members and one non-voting member.

Councilman Cunningham clarified that they are basically talking around \$700 per board member because of additional Meetings.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that this is correct.

Councilman Garner made a Motion to approve \$16,010. It was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski. The Motion carried 7-0.

Michigan Township Assessor

Requesting Permission to Transfer Funds	
(1000-10130-000-0130) to (1000-20001-000-0130)	\$110.00
(1000-10130-000-0130) to (1000-20032-000-0130)	\$3,390.00
For Carpet Cleaning, HVAC, and Books	

Councilman Cunningham made a Motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilman Mrozinski asked if they did not have a County building.

Mr. Bell stated that they are.

Councilman Mrozinski asked why the maintenance people are not doing the carpet cleaning.

Mr. Bell stated that they are. The \$110 is for books that they use in the office.

Councilman Bernacchi asked what the \$3,390 is for.

Mr. Bell stated that it is for HVAC work.

Councilman Mrozinski asked who is doing the HVAC work.

Mr. Bell stated that the maintenance department had someone come in the previous week, and it is one of the companies that the County regularly uses. They are waiting for a quote from them.

Attorney Biege stated that they did not advertise for the transfer for books. You have to specifically state what the transfer is for.

Councilman Yagelski asked what the transfer numbers mean.

Auditor Winski stated that the 10130 is part-time. She said that it was advertised for carpet cleaning and HVAC.

Councilman Yagelski stated that as long as the numbers were advertised that it's correct. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting an Additional Appropriation	
Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)	\$30,000.00
For Inmate Food and Pension	\$815,659.00

The \$30,000 is the amount needed for the Inmate's food. From the beginning of the year through October, they served a total of 343,764 meals. That is excluding November and December. They also served an additional 29,764 meals to the work-release center from January through October. The total is 373,488 meals. The supplement needed for the pension fund is \$815,659. That's the remainder for this year.

Councilman Cunningham asked if they agreed at the budget hearings this year to transfer that earlier next year because they are drawing a higher interest rate than the Council. He said that basically this is an obligation they've built up over the year, and they have agreed next year to pay it earlier because the pension board is drawing a much higher interest rate than the County is.

Councilman Mrozinski asked that they see some numbers from the consultant about employee contribution. The rest of the County employees are paying 3% out of their wages towards their own pension, and your officers are only paying \$1 a year towards their own pension. We wanted to see some numbers on what that would do so that they're not coming up here for \$800,000 at a whack. They could reduce the burden on the taxpayers if they let the officers start paying some for their own pension.

Sheriff Moldenhauer said that he will pass it on, but he just wants to remind the Council that no one else contributes \$381,584 a year either out of legal process fees to reduce that amount needed.

Councilman Garner made a Motion to approve the \$30,000 out of Riverboat for the Inmate Food and also the \$815,659 for Pension out of the Riverboat Fund for this year. It was seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilwoman Sosinski asked Attorney Biege if she had any conflict of interest in the matter of the pension. Attorney Biege stated that she does not. The Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Mrozinski voting Nay.

Requesting Permission to Spend
Misdemeanant Fund (1175)
For Inmate Safekeeping \$2,371.50

Sheriff Mollenhauer stated that he just received from Connie Trojanowski another bill from the same gentleman at the DOC as the safekeeper for \$2,132.48 from October 4th through November 1st. He asked if they could group that together tonight or if he should come back next Meeting and ask for it.

He was informed that this would be ok. The total would \$4,503.98.

Councilman Santana made a Motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Garner. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Home
Requesting Permission to Spend
Ruth Rohrabough Memorial (4108)
For Resident Enhancement \$750.00

Councilman Cunningham made a Motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Santana. The Motion carried 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Mrozinski wanted to say thank you for all the kind words of support and condolences for the passing of his father-in-law on the 9th. He was a WWII veteran. It was very nice to get the support

and the letters and the visits and the flowers. Also, he wants to thank Cutler funeral home for their outstanding treatment of veterans' funerals. He also thanks his fellow VFW members and AMVET and Men's Auxiliary members for their support.

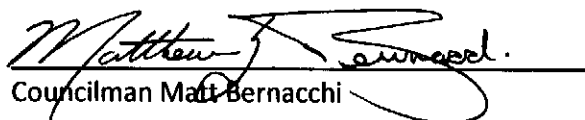
Councilman Cunningham stated that Mrs. Winski brought some correspondence to their attention earlier in the Meeting that was received today, and they handled that well and did the right thing. He wants to share with the Council that on the previous Wednesday, he sent a letter to the Commissioners apologizing for not being able to attend the Meeting. As of that day at 1 PM, the general fund was in the red \$24,394,491.64. Also, the funds balance is now \$77,255,429.21. This represents a decrease of over \$34,000,000 since February 28th of this year.

He thanks the Commissioners in his letter for making this a part of the public record. He says that unfortunately, the Commissioners did not make that a part of the public record. They said that the letter was received too late and that they would just share it with the Commissioners. He thinks that the Council needs to understand that you can't send a letter a week in advance and give an up-to-date dollar amount. This was the dollar amount that the general fund was in the red as of the Commissioner's Meeting. As of this evening, the general fund is in the red \$24,323,436.36. More importantly, the cash funds balance is down to \$76,438,174.92, which represents a decrease of \$35.5 million since February 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski. The Motion passed 7-0.

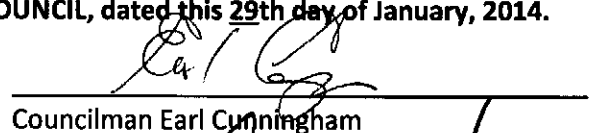
EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL, dated this 29th day of January, 2014.

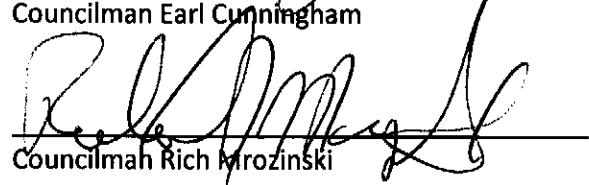

Councilman Matt Bernacchi

absent
Councilman Terry Garner


Councilman Jeff Santana


Councilman Mark Yagelski


Councilman Earl Cunningham


Councilman Rich Krozinski

absent
Councilwoman Lois Sosinski

ATTEST: 
Joie Winski, Auditor La Porte County