



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 24, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on August 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. (local time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex located at 809 State Street, La Porte, Indiana, 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

La Porte County Council President Mark Yagelski called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Yagelski asked that everyone pause for a moment of silence for Lisa Parrett-Hock, who passed away on August 23, 2015. Lisa was an employee of the Auditor's Office and left behind her husband Eric, her parents Bev and Johnny Parrett, and her children Aly, Nick and Zoey, and her good friend and sister, Mike Mauer.

President Yagelski asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Yagelski asked that everyone, except emergency personnel, to please turn off their cell phones at this time.

President Yagelski acknowledged the La Porte County High School students in attendance and thanked Mr. Mrozinski for consistently bringing the students to the Council meetings.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Councilmen Kirkham, Bernacchi, Yagelski, Santana, Novak and Garner and Councilwoman Sosinski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 24, 2015 AGENDA

A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Santana to approve.

Prosecutor Espar addressed the Council to request that his Agenda item, regarding the Full-Time Deputy Prosecutor, be removed and instead be put on the January 2016 Agenda.

A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to approve as amended.

The Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 27, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Motion was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the July 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes. The Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William Trowbridge, President & CEO of Michiana Resources, 4315 Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360

Mr. Trowbridge explained he had provided literature to the Council Members regarding funding for the Council on Aging and Michiana Resources. He went before the Commissioners last month and was approved for funding under I.C. 29.12.1-1.

He continued that Michiana Resources took over the Council on Aging and received funding from the County last year. However, transportation and guardianship services are expensive and require additional funding. Surrounding counties support their Council on Aging and Developmental Disability Centers, but La Porte County does not. The money received from the County was only used during negative months and Mr. Trowbridge would like to be able to keep the account at a minimum of \$50,000 monthly. The account would need approximately \$19,000 at this time. He also explained that they are receiving grant funding from the Indiana Supreme Court and will give Michiana Resources up to \$50,000 if equal local matching funds are raised. To receive the \$50,000, they would need an additional \$32,000 of matching local funds. Therefore, he is asking for \$32,000 for guardianship and \$19,110 for transportation.

President Yagelski replied that he was confused as to where the information came from regarding any additional funding, but that the funding given was all that was going to be provided. He continued that whatever decisions made by the Commissioners do not reflect the decisions made by the Council. Therefore, he will not consider this item at this time.

Councilman Santana added that he wanted to see the Minutes from the Meeting when the original funding was approved, but agreed with President Yagelski and said no additional funding was to be given.

Mr. Trowbridge said he signed a document stating he could not return for funding for one year, so the minutes will be looked at to determine what is correct.

President Yagelski asked for a Motion of endorsement for the additional funding.

Councilwoman Sosinski commended Michiana Resources for taking over the Council on Aging and is asking for additional time to look over the information.

Michiana Resources will be put on the Agenda for next month's Meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Jerry Cooley, Head of Building Maintenance, La Porte County

Mr. Cooley dispersed information to the Council. He then discussed the salary for the prospective employee, what was spent on various projects and the costs for contracting services and his budget for this and next year.

President Yagelski clarified that approximately \$33,000 was spent over 6 months and Mr. Cooley replied yes.

Mr. Cooley also reported that putting Adult Probation on the first floor of the Courthouse and remodeling the old Work Release building are projects being discussed. He said the building is in pretty good shape, could become ADA compliant, and could be used for the next few years. Other projects are being looked at, but additional bids are necessary to move forward.

President Yagelski asked if there was money for these projects, but Mr. Cooley said he will, most likely, be coming before the Council for additional funds.

Councilman Santana asked for a report on the ADA compliance. Mr. Cooley gave an update and said compliance might be completed within the next month. Mr. Cooley is waiting for some pricing from Larson-Danielson and that ADA compliance is an ongoing issue, as codes consistently change.

Robert Young, Superintendent, La Porte County Highway Department

Mr. Young distributed information to the Council. He added that the County bucket truck went down and explained the report on its repair and that it was beyond repair and failed all tests. He believes he can find one for approximately \$60,000 for 2007-2008 with low mileage, but new would be approximately \$200,000. He also said he could remove the boom from the bucket truck and the truck could be used as a maintenance vehicle.

A Motion was made by Councilman Bernacchi and seconded by Councilman Novak to approve not to exceed \$60,000. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Cooley re-approached the Council to request approval for Nancy Jabloski's sick days to be paid (\$75 times 60 days for a total of \$4500), as she is retiring. Attorney Biege said no approval was necessary, as it was previously in the budget.

Craig Braje, La Porte County Chief Public Defender

Mr. Craig Braje said he was asking for an additional Appellate Public Defender in his Budget. He said none of their costs are discretionary, as everything they do is to meet the guidelines set by the Indiana Public Defender Council to get their reimbursement. He went on to explain the various caseloads of the Public Defenders and the cost of transcripts. The Indiana Public Defender Council mandated the only raise received by the office. The next cost for the additional position would be approximately \$19,000. Mr. Braje explained how reimbursement occurs and how many cases each entity can handle. He also said that private attorneys do not handle most appeals because the person cannot afford it and it is handled by the Public Defenders' office. He also discussed the changes in the law relating to Juvenile Court detention hearings. Mr. Braje expressed his frustration over not being able to use his budgeted money effectively and having to pay for various extraneous expenses such as interpreters and requested transcripts.

Councilman Kirkham confirmed that Mr. Braje was asking for one additional Appellate Public Defender. President Yagelski confirmed it was for next year and said that Mr. Braje would not have to come back before the Council next month.

Seeing or hearing no additional Department Heads, President Yagelski closed Department Head Reports.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Novak discussed the serious issue with the County radios. The Sheriff's Department and EMS still have spots where there is no communication with the 911 Center. He also attended the Sheriff's golf outing which supports the Canine Unit and the Worthy Women's Recovery Fund.

Councilman Santana read the email regarding the award received by EMS. They were awarded the Indiana ALS (Advance Life Support) Provider of the Year. This is the 5th time La Porte County EMS received this award, the last being in 2000.

Councilman Kirkham discussed his upcoming meetings.

Councilwoman Sosinski said three of her Departments are coming up for appropriations this evening and she will be representing two of those.

Councilman Bernacchi said PTABOA hearings are continuing, and he will be attending a weeklong conference in Indianapolis to continue his education to maintain his Level 2 for the Assessor's Office.

President Yagelski said he was chosen by the State Senate and the House of Representatives to attend a summer session on issues of courts in September. President Yagelski then asked Auditor Winski that because of the Circuit Breakers, are we are going to make it?

Auditor Winski replied that she appreciated the question and she had spoken with the DLGF. And although they received an excess levy last year, one will not be received this year. She requested an additional Budget Hearing Workshop so necessary cuts can be determined.

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for September 28, 2015 at 5:30, therefore the first budget advertisement is September 4th. It was decided that there will be a 2nd hearing on September 14th at 5:30 p.m. The Budget Workshop will be at 6:00 p.m. on September 28th and the Adoption Hearing will be on October 26th.

Councilwoman Sosinski and Auditor Winski discussed the 3% raises. Auditor Winski said it was not previously advertised because it wasn't done until the middle of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Sheriff John Boyd, La Porte County Sheriff

Sheriff Boyd discussed the loss of 3 of their Deputies and the cost of training new Deputies. He said the losses are due to the salaries.

President Yagelski asked if there is promotion from within. Sheriff Boyd said as of now, 6 people are up for promotion.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Highway Department
Requesting Permission to Replace
Employee Who Terminated Employment

A Motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Santana to approve. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Young from the La Porte County Highway Department said that it was discussed replacing the employee in Hanna.

Councilman Bernacchi said it might be beneficial to hire a full-time person, as it would be a cost-saving issue if the full-time and overtime were eliminated.

Councilwoman Sosinski asked that if the overtime was cut now, what will happen in the future and asked that things are kept in a real context.

Mr. Young said he would look over the figures.

President Yagelski asked if anyone would want to be appointed to the Well Committee. Councilman Novak agreed.

La Porte County Treasurer
Requesting Permission to Transfer
1000-30005-000-0103 TO 1000-20001-000-0103
for Office Supplies

\$1,000.00

A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Santana to approve. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilman Kirkham abstaining.

La Porte County Clerk
Requesting Permission to Spend
CLERK'S PERPETUATION FUND (1119)
for 7 Computers and 2 HP Desktop Printers

Not to Exceed
\$20,000.00

Lynne Spevak said the quote had come in before the newspaper deadline, so it was actually \$10,265.63. A Motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to approve. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Human Resources

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
RIVERBOAT (1191), WIN-TAX (4220) OR CAGIT (1110)
for Pre-Employment Drug Test Screening \$2,500.00

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Sosinski and seconded by Councilman Bernacchi to approve out of RIVERBOAT (1191). Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Recorder

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
WIN-TAX (4220), RIVERBOAT (1191) OR CAGIT (1110)
for Fidler Scanning Agreement \$59,530.95

A Motion was made by Councilman Santana but died because there was no second. A Motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to table. Recorder Dean will asked to attend the next Council Meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Prosecutor

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
4220 (WIN-TAX), 1191 (RIVERBOAT) OR CAGIT (1110)
for Full-Time Deputy Prosecutor Child Support Division (IV-D) \$77,488.27
Removed from Agenda by Prosecutor Espar's Request

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS


Attorney Biege added that at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning, a Purple Heart will be awarded to Jeremy Vorhees and a Two-Star General will present it. Also, on September 1st at Michigan City Courthouse, the Veteran's Treatment Court will present its first graduation at 6:00 p.m. On September 13th, the VFW Post 1130 will announce its Veteran of the Year and tickets are \$10 at the door.

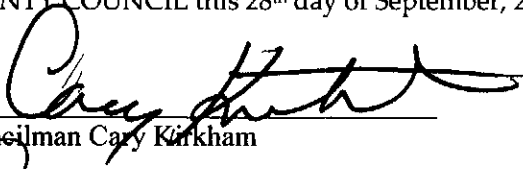
Councilman Garner discussed the Coroner's vehicle. As of today, the vehicle did not have a sign affixed to it as was per the request of the Council. Councilwoman Sosinski, as the Coroner's Liaison, asked if there was a time frame. The Council agreed a sign needs to be permanently affixed by the next Meeting or the vehicle will be taken away.

ADJOURNMENT

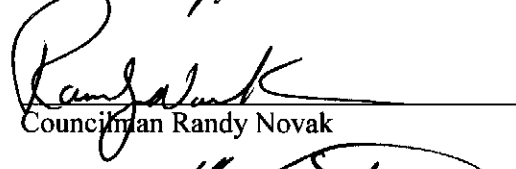
A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Santana to adjourn the Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28th day of September, 2015.

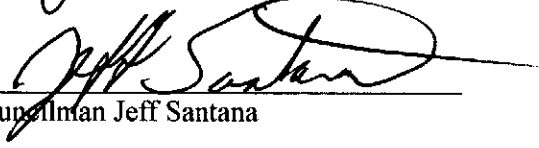

Councilman Matt Bernacchi

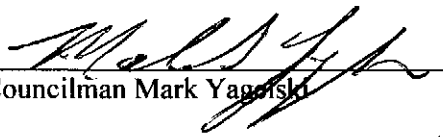

Councilman Cary Kirkham



Councilman Terry Garner


Councilman Randy Novak


Councilwoman Lois Sosinski


Councilman Jeff Santana


Councilman Mark Yagorski

ATTEST: 
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor