



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

**MINUTES  
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 4, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.**

*(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)*

The Reorganization Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on January 4, 2016 at 5:30 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 Auditor Joie Winski called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Nomination and Election of 2016 County Council Officers*

Auditor Winski opened up the floor to Nominations for President of the La Porte County Council.

A Motion was made Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Bernacchi to nominate Councilman Terry Garner as President.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Sosinski and seconded by Councilman Santana to nominate Councilman Mark Yagelski as President.

Hearing or seeing no other nominations, Auditor Winski closed nominations.

Attorney Biege stated that both nominees must be voted on separately.

Chief Deputy Auditor Smith called the roll for Nominee Garner:

Ayes – Councilmen Garner, Bernacchi, Novak and Kirkham (4).

Nays – Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Santana and Yagelski (3).

4-3 in favor Nomination of Councilman Garner passes.

Chief Deputy Auditor Smith called the roll for Nominee Yagelski:  
Ayes – Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Santana and Yagelski (3).  
Nays – Councilmen Garner, Bernacchi, Novak and Kirkham (4).  
3-4 Nomination of Councilman Yagelski fails.

Auditor Winski congratulates President Terry Garner and turns the Meeting over to him.

President Garner acknowledged and appreciated all that Councilman Yagelski did as President for the County Council and hoped that this Council can work together as a Board. He does not want parties represented, but the taxpayers of the County.

President Garner opened up Nominations for Vice President of the La Porte County Council.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Sosinski and seconded by Councilman Yagelski to nominate Councilman Jeff Santana as Vice President.

A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Bernacchi to nominate Councilman Mark Yagelski as Vice President.

Hearing or seeing no other nominations, President Garner closed nominations for Vice President.

Auditor Winski called the roll for Nominee Santana:  
Ayes – None (0)  
Nays – Councilmen Bernacchi, Garner, Kirkham, Novak, Santana, and Yagelski and Councilwoman Sosinski (7)  
0-7 Nomination of Councilman Santana fails.

Auditor Winski called the roll for Nominee Yagelski  
Ayes – Councilmen Bernacchi, Garner, Kirkham, Novak, Santana, and Yagelski and Councilwoman Sosinski (7)  
Nays – None (0)  
7-0 Nomination of Councilman Yagelski passes.

Congratulations to Vice-President Yagelski.

#### **PLANNING FOR YEAR 2016 (APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING DATES)**

All Meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m., local time unless specified otherwise.

Monday, January 25, 2016  
Monday, February 22, 2016  
Monday, March 21, 2016  
Monday, April 25, 2016  
Tuesday, May 23, 2016  
Monday, June 27, 2016  
Monday, July 25, 2016  
Monday, August 22, 2016  
Monday, September 19, 2016  
Monday, October 24, 2016  
Monday, November 28, 2016  
December (will be determined at a later date if necessary)

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISONS**

President Garner would like to keep the 2016 Liaisons almost the same as 2015; with the exception of the Swanson Center. President Garner would like to take over that Liaison position.

Vice President Yagelski would to hold off on County Council Liaisons appointments until they could be reviewed further. President Garner agreed and asked Council Members to review and put in their requests to him before the January 25, 2016

Cary Kirkham clarified that he is not part of the EDC Alliance. Assessor Schultz is.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

President Garner said the Finance Committee, which consists of himself, Councilmen Novak and Bernacchi, will determine if they need to get together and meet again.

Auditor Winski gave Council Members a list of Board positions that are expiring or have expired as of December 31, 2015.

The Board which needs to be addressed tonight is the PTABOA and Auditor Winski attached three letters of interest. Two out of the three interested candidates currently held a spot on the PTABOA Board.

Matt Bernacchi: Currently a PTABOA Member who holds Level 1 and Level 2 Assessing Certifications, President of the PTABOA, and a Member of the Board for the last five years.

Bob Bailey: Currently a PTABOA Member who does not hold any Level Certifications, but and holds a Real Estate License.

Ken Purze: Currently holds a Level 3 Assessing Certification.

President Garner reiterated that these three individuals are outstanding citizens in our Community and opens up the floor for nominations.

Councilman Yagelski made a Motion to nominate Bob Bailey, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski.

Councilman Santana made a Motion to nominate Ken Purze, which was seconded by Councilman Novak.

Councilman Novak made a Motion to nominate Matt Bernacchi, which was seconded by Councilman Kirkham.

President Garner asked Attorney Biege how many times an individual on the Council could vote.

Attorney Biege stated there is no limitation on voting because you are voting for that individual as that vote goes.

President Garner wants to be clear that it will be the top two individuals who will be PTABOA representatives and Attorney Biege agreed.

Auditor Winski calls the roll for PTABOA Members.

Bob Bailey

Ayes: Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Garner, Bernacchi, and Yagelski (4)

Nays: Councilmen Novak, Kirkham and Santana (3)

Ken Purze

Ayes: Councilmen Kirkham, Novak, and Santana (3)

Nays: Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Yagelski, Bernacchi, and Garner (4)

Matt Bernacchi

Ayes: Councilmen Novak, Yagelski, Garner, Kirkham and Bernacchi (5)

Nays: Councilwoman Sosinski and Councilman Santana (2)

Matt Bernacchi and Bob Bailey will represent the PTABOA Board for 2016.

Councilman Yagelski notes that Members of the Library Board are in the audience and asks if any letters were received for appointment to the Library Board.

Auditor Winski stated none were received for the Library Board or the Alcohol Beverage Commission.

A Motion was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to table all appointments so that individuals have the opportunity to submit letters. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **HAZ-MAT SALARY**

Councilman Bernacchi stated Auditor Winski accidentally left Haz-Mat and MS-4 off of the salary listing. Since MS-4 is a classified position, that position will receive the 1.8% increase only and would have to go before the Job Evaluation Committee if a reevaluation is warranted.

Councilman Yagelski stated the \$50,405 would be the annual salary and be an approximate a \$900 increase for the Haz-Mat position.

Motion to approve the Haz-Mat increase was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham.

Councilman Santana questioned if Haz-Mat gets step increases and Auditor Winski stated there are no step increases for that position at it is an appointed position.

Councilman Yagelski stated this position will get a 1.8% increase.

There was discussion in regards to the Hazmat salary increase.

President Garner reiterated this will basically be no salary increase, just the 1.8% raise.

Auditor Winski stated that whoever wasn't covered by a salary increase would get the 1.8% raise.

Councilman Bernacchi stated that he will readdress the Haz-Mat salary with Auditor Winski and bring this up at the next Meeting.

Councilman Novak withdraws his Motion.

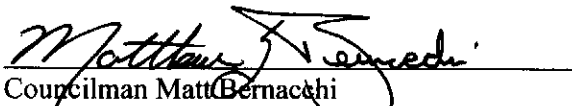
Attorney Biege suggests that the Haz-Mat increase be tabled until the next Meeting. The Motion is made by Councilwoman Sosinski and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing or hearing no other business, President Garner call for adjournment.

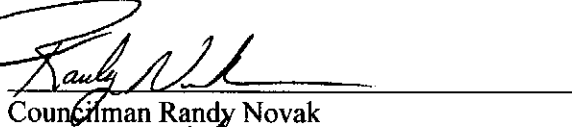
Councilman Santana made a Motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski. Motion carried 7-0.


EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

  
Councilman Matt Bernacchi

  
Councilman Cary Kirkham

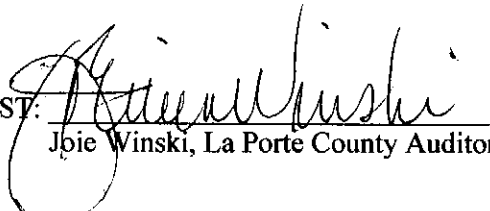
  
Councilman Terry Garner

  
Councilman Randy Novak

  
Councilwoman Lois Sosinski

  
Councilman Jeff Santana

  
Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor