



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 27, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on June 27, 2016 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Terry Garner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Garner asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and except for emergency personnel, to please turn off their cell phones at this time. Councilman Santana was asked to lead the Pledge.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were all members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE June 27, 2016 AGENDA

A Motion was made by Councilman Yagelski to accept the Agenda as printed. The Motion was supported by Councilman Novak.

Councilwoman Sosinski questioned the appropriation for the Juvenile Services Center which was then removed. Councilman Yagelski restated his Motion to accept the Agenda as amended. Councilman Novak again seconded the Motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Auditor Winski said that there was one more piece of business that had to be voted on. She asked Attorney Biege speak on this. Mr. Biege said there was an emergency action taken on the purchase of a generator for the complex building by the Council President and the Commission President. He stated that the Council should now take action to verify this. Councilman Yagelski then made a Motion to approve this from the CCD Fund. It was supported by Councilman Santana. Discussion took place. The Motion carried 7 - 0.

APPROVAL OF MAY 23, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kirkham. The Motion carried 7 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Metheny, 6757 W 450 N, Michigan City, IN 46360

Mr. Metheny commented on the new generator and said the County should be consistent/uniform with the type of generator purchased. He also commented on the "Low Birth Weight" Presentation. He thinks the heroin problem is a much more critical problem as well as an alcohol problem in this county than the low birth weight.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

John Dudek, E 911

Mr. Dudek spoke on the air conditioning unit that was replaced at the 911 center. Because Mr. Cooley's staff did the work, they saved the County over \$9,000. He wanted to publicly thank Ms. Cooley and the Council.

Jerry Cooley, Building Maintenance

Mr. Cooley, along with staff members from Ameresco, made a presentation of a plaque that will be placed in the Courthouse commemorating the "Energy Efficiency" Phase I project. Jeff Rayburn, senior project manager from Ameresco, presented the plaque. Doug Munz of Ameresco thanked the Council for their time and patience.

Mr. Cooley then commented on the generator that was being replaced. It was installed in 1991 but parts were only available for a certain period of years, and because the turbo went out, it is no longer available. Our new generator will be from Caterpillar. It will take several months to be delivered to us. They are made to order.

He then commented on the Rolling Prairie highway garage which is in bad condition. The building's roof is leaking and when they tried to fix it they fell through the roof. The well there is dry. A discussion took place between Councilman Yagelski, President Garner and Mr. Cooley.

Councilman Novak asked for a breakdown of the generator costs. \$125,000 is the generator and the remainder is labor.

President Garner asked about scaffolding to repair the courthouse. A discussion took place on the scope of the project and cost. Mr. Cooley said he is waiting for Mike Yacullo to give him some idea of the scope and cost and he will then come to the Council. Mr. Yagelski joined the conversation. Mr. Cooley suggested that the County look at a different firm for the tuck pointing project. President Garner said that they keep putting money into this project with no results. He asked that Commissioner Decker come to the microphone. President Garner said he would like the Council and Commissioner's to sit down with Mr. Cooley – he asked that the Commissioner's set a workshop with the Council. A workshop was set for July.

John Espar, Prosecuting Attorney

Mr. Espar appeared with Ms. Kristine Harlow to request that the Council give him permission to hire a Full Time Investigator for Adult Protective Services. A part time data entry position will be eliminated. All monies to fund the position will come from the Adult Protective Services Grant and will be zero cost to the County. This position will last as long as the grant lasts. A Motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Santana. Councilwoman Sosinski asked how much the amount received was. Mr. Espar stated there was \$42,000. A discussion took place. All expenses are paid from the

grants. Ms. Harlow stated that APS gets zero dollars from the County. Their entire budget comes from the state FSSA grant that is a reimbursable grant and not the County General Fund. This fund does not come before the Council at budget time. APS has 3 investigators for 3 counties. President Garner stated that this is more or less a formality. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Lynn Spevak, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Ms. Spevak came to the microphone to speak on Senate Bill 61 which deals with voting for more than one person on a straight party vote and may require additional or new software. She will come back with request in a couple months. She just came to give them a “heads up”. She will keep the Council informed on updates. Councilman Santana asked about the verbiage on the ballot – i.e. “Vote for 3” – he would like it to say “Vote for up to 3”; Ms. Spevak told him that the State gives the verbiage.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Vidya Kora gave the Council a presentation only, they are not asking for any funding at this time, on the problem of Low Birth Weight babies born in our County. Matt Burden of the Swanson Center also spoke and answered questions.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Bernacchi stated that Assessor Schultz would be coming before the Council to ask for permission to spend for scanners that were table last month and for dues to join the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors.

Councilman Novak said he attended quite a few meetings this month. 911 is on agenda for chairs, Juvenile Services came off this month for doors but will probably be put back on next month. Councilman Novak gave a short update on the 800 MHz project, the completion date could be as early as next May. Looks like the project is ahead of schedule.

Councilman Santana concurred with Councilman Novak on the 800 MHz project. His other liaisons, Mr. Cooley has already spoken. He gave kudos to Mike Yacullo, Bob Young, and Nancy Hawkins, for answering his questions from the public.

Councilman Kirkham attended the Rail Summit in Chicago; also attended the State County Council Conference in Shelbyville.

Councilwoman Sosinski said the Evaluation Committee was meeting on Wednesday.

Councilman Yagelski had nothing at this time.

President Garner met with Sheriff Boyd this month about his medical & nursing staff; also discussed an officer for the Tri County School liaison. They are willing to pay 70% of the fee. They also discussed the number of jail inmates – 268 the day he was there – and the new cars will be delivered by the end of the year. Also discussed the sheriff’s office losing \$6,500 per month from Commissary Fund because of new FCC regulations regarding the inmate calling.

He also met with Auditor Winski on spending and was in the office when State Auditor Crouch came in.

Reminded everyone about the upcoming County Fair and the Pyrotechnics Fireworks Show.

Budget Hearings will be August 1st, 2nd and 3rd if needed. Hearings will start at 8:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recorder Barbara Dean requests the Council's reconsideration. President Garner said this was taken care of last year and will not be taken up.

Councilman Santana asked if it wasn't over a year and called Mrs. Dean up to the microphone to answer questions.

President Garner stated that she should have contacted her liaison and followed proper procedure. At this time he would not recognize her to speak. Mr. Biege was asked for his opinion and he said the President sets the agenda and it is his option to let her speak. President Garner said she could not speak at this time and moved on to Additional Appropriations.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

Kankakee Township

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from the Kankakee Township Fire Debt (1182) Fund. This request was for Capital Outlay only.

A Motion to accept was made by Councilman Santana and supported by Councilman Kirkham. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Assessor

Assessor Schultz requesting permission to spend \$1,780.00 from the Sales Disclosure Fund (1131) for scanners. A Motion to accept was made by Councilman Bernacchi and supported by Councilman Santana. The Motion passes 7-0.

Mr. Schultz also requested permission to spend \$869.00 for a membership in the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors. A Motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Recorder

Mrs. Dean requests an additional appropriation from the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund (1189) in the amount of \$1,189.98 – for a computer. A Motion was made to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Santana. The Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Sheriff

Sheriff Boyd requesting an additional appropriation of not to exceed \$90,000 for the Upgrade Advanced Correction Health Contract.

A Motion to approve from Riverboat (1191) funds was made by Councilman Bernacchi and supported by Councilman Kirkham. The Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

La Porte County 911

Mr. Dudek requests an additional appropriation for 8 dispatcher chairs at a cost of \$11,120.00.

A Motion was made to approve the funding from Riverboat (1191) by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Yagelski. The Motion carried 6-1 with Councilman Bernacchi voting nay.

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting permission to spend from Probation User Fees (2102) for laptop and docking stations for five chairs - \$5,229.64.

A Motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and supported by Councilman Bernacchi. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Yagelski requests that the October meeting be moved to the 4th or the 5th since he will not be here for the regularly scheduled date of October 24th. Council will vote on it next month.

President Garner reminded everyone of the Budget Hearings on the August 1st, 2nd and 3rd if needed at 8:00 a.m.

The La Porte County Fair Board requests a workshop on July 7th to discuss the sewer on the fairgrounds; Adult Probation requesting a joint workshop with the Commissioners to discuss the probation renovation of their offices and finally a workshop to prioritize need repairs with building maintenance. Workshops to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Complex Meeting room.

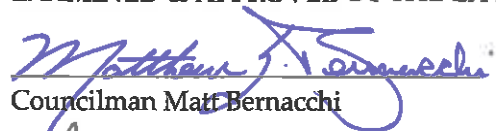
Councilman Santana reminded all of the County Fair and other events this summer. He would also like an update on the replacement of cameras and other equipment in the meeting room.

Councilman Novak requested that the Auditor contact Department Heads for capital outlays for the next year.

ADJOURNMENT

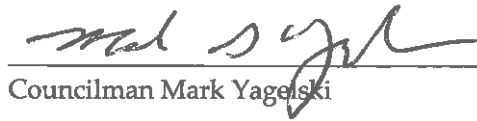
A Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL, this 25th day of July, 2015.

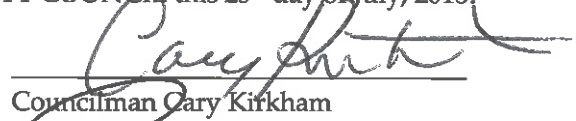

Councilman Matt Bernacchi

ABSENT
Councilman Terry Garner


Councilwoman Lois Sosinski


Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor


Councilman Cary Kirkham


Councilman Randy Novak

ABSENT
Councilman Jeff Santana