



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 22, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on August 22, 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 Bernacchi was asked to lead the Pledge.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Winski took the Roll Call. Councilman Randy Novak was absent due to the pending birth of his grandson. All other member were present.

APPROVAL OF THE August 22, 2016 AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as read on a motion made by Councilman Mark Yagelski and supported by Councilman Jeff Santana with the addition of new business. A 6 – 0 vote was recorded.

APPROVAL OF July 25, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes were approved as read on a motion made by Councilman Mark Yagelski and supported by Councilman Jeff Santana. A 6 – 0 vote was recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Earl Cunningham, 6311 W. Shiva Drive, La Porte, IN, complimented the Council on the Budget Hearings for this year and told them they did a great job.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jeremy Sobecki, Parks and Recreation Department Head, updated the Council on the Lakes and River Enhancement grant received for Creek Ridge County Park. The total grant received was \$64,000 and he is receiving a \$16,000 donation for the matching funds so it will not cost the County any money. The grant will be used to repair 600' of creek bank and set up several fish habitat structures.

President Garner asked Mr. Sobecki if he foresees any major problems or projects coming up in the next year. A discussion took place on upcoming projects.

Jerry Cooley, Building Maintenance, told the Council that the new podium came from the County Home. There was some flooding in the basement of the courthouse during the heavy rains last week and there is a silver maple tree on the courthouse lawn that may need to be removed. He is trying to do what he can to save the tree. The County Home auction will be combined with the Highway department and they are working to get the items together for both. It will be held either in the fall or next spring.

President Garner inquired about the microphones and asked if everyone could hear in the back. Darlene Hale, IT Department Head, explained that the microphones need to be adjusted and there are a couple new microphones ordered that have not come in yet. A discussion took place.

LIAISON REPORTS

Matt Bernacchi – PTABOA hearings continue. Approximately 200 appeals remain throughout the county.

Jeff Santana – working with the Surveyor and the Drainage Board on a problem on 400 N. He is planning on attending the EMA meeting on September 7th at 1:00 p.m.

Cary Kirkham – NIRPC developed a brochure on the bicycle, swimming and walking paths.

Lois Sosinski – the Clerk has a request on the Agenda for a replacement hire. She has an Insurance meeting in September and also a Redevelopment meeting soon.

Mark Yagelski – NICTD – has seen an increase in ridership since they opened the trains to bicycles. Talked with Bob Young about the preliminary truck list. County Highway is putting together a better list of trucks and equipment with the value of each. Talked with engineer about new study that will be done next month but would like to see the report that was just finished first.

Terry Garner also commented on the County Highway list. He briefly discussed the Prosecutor's budget and the inclusion of two ICAC team members. He has met several times with the Auditor regarding the budgets. He also thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers with his wife. He appreciates everyone's kindness and patience.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on September 19th, 2016. The continued budget hearing will be at 5:00 p.m. to continue the discussion on the 100 accounts and 6:00 p.m. will be the Public Hearing on the budget adoption. 6:30 p.m. will be the regular monthly meeting. The October meeting will be held on October 17th, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL REVIEW

Auditor Winski recommended to approve the estimated levy limits provided by the DLGF for non-binding units and no representatives were noted in attendance. Vote carried 6-0 to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

Mark Heirbrandt, Ameresco, presented a rebate check from energy savings from NIPSCO to the County.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Circuit Court Clerk

Requests permission to hire a replacement full time employee for Superior Court 3 Clerk. Vote carried 6 – 0 to approve.

La Porte County Circuit Court

Requests permission to transfer & spend \$433.01 for a computer. (1000-20001-000-0148 to 1000-41001-000-0148 Circuit Court budget).

Motion was made by Jeff Santana and supported by Lois Sosinski. Vote recorded was 6 – 0.

La Porte County Adult Probation

Steve Eyrick requests permission to spend/purchase \$1,451.98 for a computer & Microsoft Office software for Superior Court 3. From Probation User fees.

Motion was made by Jeff Santana and supported by Cary Kirkham. A discussion took place on a previous computer purchase from the same funding source. The request was made last year but was never expended. Vote recorded was 6 – 0.

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting permission to spend/purchase for Circuit Court - a clock, microphone and 2 shelves for a total of \$468.93 from Probation User fees.

Motion was made by Lois Sosinski and supported by Matt Bernacchi not to exceed \$1,000. Vote recorded was 6 – 0.

La Porte County Prosecutor (Adult Protective Services)

Requesting permission to spend \$2,724.29 for a printer, 2 notebooks, cases and software for Adult Protective Services from their budget – 8173-41007-000-508.

Motion to accept was made by Mark Yagelski and supported by Jeff Santana. A 6 – 0 vote was recorded.

La Porte County Sheriff

Permission to replace battery backup for jail. A discussion to place on transferring the excess money from the nursing account in the General fund to the computer supply account in the General fund. Attorney Biege and the Auditor will look into the reimbursement/additional appropriation of those funds from the County Corrections (Misdemeanant) fund.

A motion was made to approve spending \$5,125 for the replacement of the battery backup by Mark Yagelski and supported by Jeff Santana. Vote recorded was 6 -0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Yagelski thanked the Judges, Darlene Hale and Jerry Cooley for the microphones and upgraded system.

Councilman Kirkham inquired about the Swanson Center and how their stipend from the County is figured. The Auditor gave an explanation. Attorney Biege also gave an explanation.

He also inquired about Structurepoint and the master plan.

President Garner stated that the Finance Committee had a meeting with ALCO and will speak more about that at the budget hearing continuation.

Attorney Biege reminded everyone that the Guardian Riders were having a fund raiser at Fox Park in La Porte on Saturday.

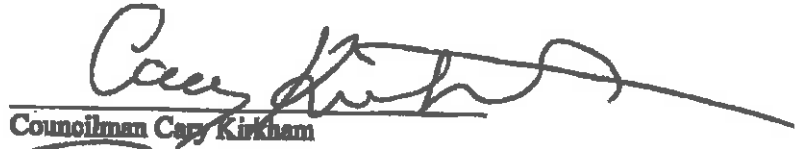
President Garner also expressed the Council's condolences to Attorney Biege on the passing of his father. He reminded all that the next meeting would be on September 19th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

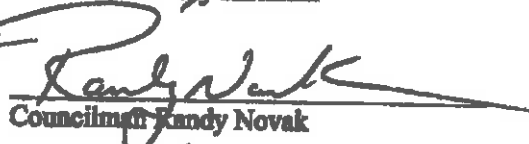
Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. on a motion by Lois Sosinski and supported by Mark Yagelski. Vote recorded was 6 – 0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 19th day of September, 2016.


Councilman Matt Bernacchi


Councilman Cary Kirkham


Councilman Terry Garner


Councilman Kandy Novak


Councilwoman Lois Sosinski


Councilman Jeff Santana


Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor