



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

**MINUTES
LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The La Porte County Council Meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by La Porte County Council President Jeff Santana who stated the Pledge of Allegiance was done earlier before the Workshop. President Santana reminded the audience that unless you are emergency personnel, please silence or turn off your cell phone or electronic device.

ROLL CALL

County Auditor, Joie Winski, called the roll. All members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 24, 2017 AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Sullivan. Motion passed 7 – 0.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 27, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

A clarification of the minutes was made – President Santana appointed Councilman Garner to the Job Evaluation committee but in speaking with the Commissioners, Mr. Santana realized that the appointment should have been made by Mrs. Mossman. Therefore, Councilman Mollenhauer will now serve.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Bob Young, County Highway Superintendent – reported that the sign grant project started today in Springfield Township and will continue until the entire County is complete.

A discussion took place and Mr. Young stated that these are information signs, not road signs.

Lynne Spevak, County Treasurer - updated the Council on the tax bills. They were sent out last week and her Office is now working on mail that has been returned with incorrect addresses on them.

LIAISON REPORTS

Terry Garner – nothing at this time.

Mike Mollenhauer – attended the Health Department Board meeting and the topic of discussion was the Opioid and Heroin problem in the County. He also attended the Michigan City Common Council meeting and the La Porte County Commissioner's meeting. He met with Sheriff Boyd and Chief Deputy Heeg to discuss some questions he had.

Mark Yagelski – Had a meeting with NICTD and would like to thank all the elected officials for their support of the Double Tracking project.

On another note, he expressed disappointment in the passing of HB 1350 and that Charbonneau and Solliday voted against it. He appreciates those legislature members who supported it. We'll lose more money in the years ahead from the Riverboat because of this.

Jeff Santana – his Departments are on the Agenda tonight.

Randy Novak – Juvenile Services is here tonight for permission to hire; 911 is on the Agenda to ask for a transfer; had a meeting with the Judges on issues they had; went to Indianapolis to testify for the double tracking.

John Sullivan - There will be a RDC meeting on Wednesday and on the Agenda will be the selection of an attorney to represent the RDC.

Cary Kirkham – Animal Shelter renovation is in progress and should be finished by the end of the week. It should have taken 2 weeks and is now in the fourth week. Park Department Board is next meeting and they have a meeting prior to talk about grants for Luhr Park.

Randy Novak – There is a Problem Solving Court graduation ceremony on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in this room. Great program and all are invited.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Sheriff Boyd Proposal and Request for Approval for Unmarried Death Benefit and Life Insurance Increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000.00 (tabled)

Mark Yagelski made a Motion to remove this item from the table and it was supported by Randy Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0 to remove from table.

A Motion to retable this request was made by Mark Yagelski and supported by Randy Novak. Motion passed to retable 7 – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

An Ordinance establishing the La Porte Co. EMS Public Outreach and Community Education Fee Creating a Non-Reverting Fund was read on first reading and carried over to the May meeting for second reading.

President Santana said that the ordinance is sponsored by Councilman Kirkham and he would like to be added as a co-sponsor.

A Motion was made by Randy Novak and supported by Cary Kirkham. Attorney Friedman added that this would be on First Reading. He stated that it could be read on second reading but normally it is read at two meetings.

A discussion took place on handling the additional business and Andrew McGuire said he would come back to the Council if need be to address this.

President Santana asked Auditor Winski to read the Ordinance on First Reading by title only and asked for the ordinance number.

Auditor Winski read Ordinance 2017-4 "*An Ordinance establishing the La Porte Co. EMS Public Outreach and Community Education Fee Creating a Non-Reverting Fund*".

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Highway Department

Requesting Permission to Hire

for Two Equipment Operators (one temporary and one permanent)

A Motion was made by Councilman Garner to approve and supported by Councilman Sullivan. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County Juvenile Services Center

Requesting Permission to Hire

for Unit Leader (midnight shift)

A Motion was made by Randy Novak and supported by John Sullivan. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte 9-1-1- Communication Center

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From 1000-30007-000-0177 to 1222-20001-000-0734

For Reimbursement Expense

\$1,099.70

A Motion was made by Randy Novak and Terry Garner supported. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County Highway Engineer

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Cumulative Bridge (1135)

for Repairs to 13 Bridges

\$278,300.00

County Engineer Jerry Sullivan explained to the Council that these are needed repairs to several bridges as recommended in a study done by USI. There are no critical bridges in the county that need to be addressed immediately. These are just maintenance items.

A Motion was made by Randy Novak and supported by Mark Yagelski. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County Highway Engineer

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Major Bridge (1171)
for Repair to Bridge No. 186

\$1,868,750.00

This bridge is on CR 650 W just over the Starke County River.

A discussion took place on this bridge and the historical “Otis Bridge”. None of these bridges are on privately owned property. Mark Yagelski asked that Mr. Sullivan talk with the engineers of the reconstruction team from the 2009 bridge repair and get some answers on why this bridge (Bridge 186) needs repairs again.

Back on Otis Road Bridge: The repairs on that bridge at that time cost \$908,000 (in 2009). The only work done on private property will be a clean- up around the bridge.

A Motion was made by John Sullivan and supported by Randy Novak to approve. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting Permission to Spend
From Donation Account (4103)
for EMS Week Activities and Food

Not to Exceed
\$1,000.00

A Motion was made by and supported by Randy Novak and supported by Cary Kirkham. The Motion passed 7–0.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
for Medicaid Managed Care Reimbursement Program

Not to Exceed
\$50,000.00

A discussion took place. This is a program similar to the program they’re already involved in. It requires \$28,000 share from the county. Mark Yagelski asked that Mr. McGuire take it from his budget (transfer) and if his budget runs short before the end of the year he can come back to the Council. Mr. Yagelski suggested taking it from the EMS fuel fund. Mr. McGuire will work with Auditor Winski on the transfer.

A Motion to create a line item for this transfer was made by Randy Novak and supported by John Sullivan. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From CCD (1138)
for 10 Police Vehicles
for Equipment for Vehicles

\$275,645.00
\$50,000.00

A Motion was made to appropriate \$275,645.00 from the CCD fund for 10 police vehicles by Mark Yagelski and supported by Randy Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0.

A Motion was then made by Randy Novak and supported by John Sullivan for equipment for the new vehicles for \$50,000.00. Motion passed 7 – 0.

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Firearms (1156)

for Security Surveillance System Replacement and Recorder for Firearms Range and Bldg.

Not to Exceed

\$10,000.00

A Motion was made by Mark Yagelski and supported by Randy Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Cary Kirkham – a lot of misinformation is out there about the double tracking. The Council supports it but the information needs to go out to the public to clarify what it’s really about. Mark Yagelski stated that public meetings will be held in the near future.

Randy Novak stated that when you apply for license plates online, people need to specify whether they live in the City of Michigan City, City of La Porte or the County of La Porte. Only the ‘City’ people are charged for the Wheel Tax.

President Santana commented that the June meeting will be held on June 19th not June 26th. The May meeting will be held on May 30th, a Tuesday.

Mark Yagelski asked that we schedule the Budget Hearings on August 6th, 7th & if needed 8th.

Randy Novak said that everyone should check their tax bills for typos and call the Auditor with questions.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion made by Randy Novak and supported by Mark Yagelski, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 24th day of April, 2017.



Councilman President Jeff Santana



Councilman Cary Kirkham




Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Terry Garner



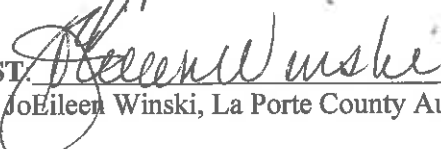
Councilwoman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Eileen Winski, La Porte County Auditor