



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL  
JULY 24, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.**

*(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)*

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on July 24, 2017 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 Jeff Santana called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Auditor Joie Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Councilmen, Garner, Kirkham, Mollenhauer, Novak, Santana, Sullivan, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY 24, 2017 AGENDA**

A motion was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan to approve. Motion carried 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 19, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A Motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham to approve. Motion carried 7-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Santana prefaced Public Comment by asking that either the first five people in line or five people chosen from the audience be the only ones to speak on the Paladin issue. He continued that the Council understands how important this is to the attendees, but would like to keep the comments to a reasonable limit.

Auditor Winski asked if the email she received should be read or at a later time and President Santana stated it would be read later.

President Santana reiterated his feeling expressed at last month's meeting that the public only need to state their name and County in which they live when speaking at the podium. Councilman Garner disagreed, saying a person should state his or her name and address to insure he or she is actually a resident of La Porte County. President Santana responded by saying that when a person states his or her address at the meeting, it informs others that he or she is not at home. Therefore, President Santana does not want anyone to encroach on another person's privacy. However, Councilman Garner replied that the public has been giving their names and addresses for the time he's served on the Council and feels it should continue. President Santana stated that it would be decided in a democratic manner, so a motion to approve giving the name and address was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion passed 6-1, with President Santana voting Nay.

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

Mr. Metheny commented on the Redevelopment Workshop and stated that in his experience as a trustee, TIF districts take money away from governmental agency budgets. He was also amazed at the amount of money that may or may not be generated. Lastly, he believes that there is too much taxpayer money going to attorney fees.

*Eric James, La Porte County*

Mr. James explained that he has been involved with Paladin for 10 years, where he finds safety, education, recreation, companionship, work, and daily life skills. He continued that updates desperately need to be made to Paladin, but he appreciates the math he has learned so he can shop and the paycheck he receives. He asked that people don't look see his disabilities but his capabilities.

*Trevor and Cody Johnson, 900 W 200 S, La Porte, IN 46350*

Mr. Johnson stated that his son, Cody, is well-known in the community and works at the grocery store and Paladin. He continued that Cody has gained so much from his involvement with Paladin, Parents and Friends and Michiana Resources, and wants to insure that these resources continue for Cody and others like him. He added that these children are part of our future, so services for them need to endure. He explained that Cody is his gift from God and hopes that the money for Paladin is approved.

*Daniel Harlow, 101 West Butterfly Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350*

Mr. Harlow said that he has been involved with Parents and Friends, now Paladin, for approximately 12 years. He explained his activities, which include Special Olympics, and then thanked the Council and wished them a good day.

*Renee McCrory, Michigan City, IN*

Ms. McCrory stated she uses the services of the Council on Aging and Paladin has increased her quality of life and the lives of other disabled people. She said Paladin provides disabled citizens with transportation to all of the places they may not otherwise be able to access. If this service was discontinued, it would have a severe impact this community.

*Brett DeMauro, 1083 E St Rd 2, Lot 529, La Porte, IN 43650*

Mr. DeMauro stated that he has been a regular employee with Parents and Friends, now Paladin, for approximately 2 years. He said that Paladin tries to give disabled individuals as much of a normal life as possible. He added that the gym where he coaches basketball for Special Olympics needs repairs and he often has to cancel practices in the winter. This is difficult on the players because it is so important to them. Paladin provides a significant amount of assistance to the community.

*Mike Bohacek, 220 Pokagon Trail, Michiana Shores, IN 46360*

Mr. Bohacek stated that he is not speaking as a senator, but as a father of a daughter with special needs. He explained that the over 10 years ago, the La Porte County Council decided to grant one-quarter of a million dollars to Barker Woods Enrichment Center, which allowed the facility to service special needs' children up to the age of 12. Barker Woods also became a Michigan City Schools' safe harbor site and provided summer enrichment programs. However, now many of those children who attended this program are coming out of high school looking for opportunities to work. A great deal of money, time and resources are spent both by the community and individuals to make sure our children are work-ready and have the best possible chance to succeed. When these individuals get out of school, the unemployment rate is over 80%. As a father, it is upsetting and sad to see that his daughter may not have the opportunity to be a part of the community. Counties spend a lot of money to provide infrastructure for new companies to come in and hire members of our community. In La Porte County, there is an opportunity for Paladin to do the same thing for the special needs community, who are highly underserved and unemployed. It is a severely unmet need, and being 1 county of 7 that does not fund is nothing of which to be proud. He asks that the Council make a strong and brave step, as was done by the Council and Commissioners 10 years ago, to move forward with the funding of this project.

*Sarah Cauffman, 701 Maple Ave, La Porte, IN 46350*

Ms. Cauffman said she has been with the Council on Aging for 14 years and it has provided her with the ability to be independent, but depends on the Council on Aging to help her get to her appointments. She asked for it to be kept going.

Hearing or seeing no additional Public Comment, President Santana closed Public Comment.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

*Andrew McGuire, EMS*

He said he is on the agenda for permission to hire for a collections clerk but the insurance clerk is moving to the Assessor's Office, so he is asking for permission to hire for both positions. He added it would be the same classification with no changes. A motion to approve hiring replacements for both positions was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. McGuire asked for permission to spend out of the donation account. However, Attorney Friedman stated that any requests for money must be put on the Agenda and asked that it put on next month's Agenda and heard at that time.

Councilman Kirkham stated that he visited the building at the Fairgrounds and said it is beautiful. Mr. McGuire added that its improvement is due to the assistance of employees and community volunteers.

*Ken Purze, Chairman, La Porte County Drainage Board*

Mr. Purze explained that due to a statutory requirement that there must be a 25% match to continue to receive state funding. This was discussed at the last two board meetings and it was decided to seek the funds as the board always has, which is from the Commissioners' budget. Therefore, as a courtesy to the Council, he wanted to make them aware that this request will be coming. The additional amount will be \$34,300.00, in addition to the \$11,350.00 that has already been spent. In addition, with the ability to receive funds, much work has been done.

Councilman Garner said that one of our County's biggest businesses is our farmers. Mr. Purze added that the drainage of the Kankakee River is critical for crop yield and drainage in the farm fields.

Councilman Kirkham asked Senator Bohacek what was the purpose of the increase. Senator Bohacek stated that after a lot of discussion, it was found that many drainage accounts are not funded. He added that the local property owners who live in the water shed do not participate in the cost sharing. In addition, the cost to just to plant corn in the County is approximately \$900,000,000.00, which is a lot of economic activity. Therefore, it is important to remember our largest industry in La Porte County is farming and the locals should share some of the cost. Other counties are also sharing in the cost of the maintenance of the Kankakee River Basin.

Mr. Purze said there is another fiscal matter from the drainage board. He explained that the drainage board shares a vehicle with the Surveyor and MS4, so an additional four-wheel drive vehicle is being researched. Councilman Yagelski stated that the Surveyor has two vehicles, and Mr. Purze replied that the Drainage Board only shares one vehicle with the Surveyor. Councilman Kirkham added that the Small Animal Shelter has a four-wheel drive vehicle that they are looking to replace, so he urged Mr. Purze to contact Jane Bernard. Councilman Yagelski stated that the shared car should never have been given to the Surveyor's Office. Mr. Purze said that the Drainage Board is a Commissioner's Board who works at the will of the Commissioners.

*Rich Mrozinski, President, La Porte County Commissioner*

Mr. Mrozinski said that he still feels that the vehicle fleet idea is one that should be explored. He also invited the Council members to come to his office to discuss Kingsbury Industrial Park because he working on it every day. He added that he has been to Michiana Resources and that it is in bad shape. He is inspired by the positive attitude of the employees and all that they have and continue to accomplish. He believes that funding Paladin is an investment in the future of these disabled citizens.

*Larry Butcher, Director, La Porte County Emergency Management*

Mr. Butcher discussed the emergency response program that will be shared with various other offices. It will provide the ability to give messages to the public. All individuals will be able to subscribe to it in order to get information about issues that occur in the County. Darlene Hale said it will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to implement the program. The Commissioners have signed the contract so the process can begin. It is being paid out of the phone budget but if additional funds are needed, the Council will be approached in the future. There will be a link on the main County website which can be accessed by residents who can subscribe to the notifications. Subscribers will be notified on landline and cellphones and also Facebook. In addition, if a child is lost, notifications can be sent to residents within a one-mile area. It will also be able to provide notification by residents to specific departments.

Councilman Novak complimented Ms. Hale and Mr. Butcher for finding the funds for this within the budget.

Mr. Butcher thanked Sheriff Boyd for assisting in mitigating a weather issue that occurred at the La Porte County Fair. He continued that he is a top grant recipient in District 1, and President Santana added that his grants are typically non-matching. He added that a law enforcement grant is coming as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like the focus to be body cameras, but will form a committee to make sure the product is chosen by the Sheriff or police to make sure it's best for the money spent. He is also working on a program called Save a Cop, which insures that each police officer who works alone will have a device which may save his or her life. He believes funding for this will be obtained by outside sources.

Mr. Butcher said he needed assistance for repairs in his office, which were paid for from District 1 hospital group. There is additional work for approximately \$16,000.00 which he believes he will be able

to cover through a grant or grants through the Health Department. He updated the Council on the 800 project, which will be tested on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. If all goes well, the project will move forward quickly. Director Dudek will make the decision of when the project will go live. He added there have been situations where there were structure fires when Red Cross should come and assist. Mr. Butcher said that he has obtained funding from United Way for when Red Cross is unavailable. EMA would respond and assist but be reimbursed by United Way.

Hearing or seeing no additional Department Heads, President Santana closed Department Head Reports.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Kirkham stated that the grant for the Park Department would not be decided until next week. He obtained a list of projects from NIRPC, but has nothing for the Animal Shelter or Coroner's office.

Councilman Sullivan said his liaisons have already been discussed.

Councilman Novak attended several Rail Committee Meetings. He met with the Prosecutor and the Blue Ribbon Committee at the Fairgrounds, which he found especially enlightening. He also spoke with Community Corrections regarding their request for a new vehicle, which is on the tonight's Agenda. He attended a session court with the CASA representative Karen Biernacki, who he will meet with later this week. He visited Paladin and spoke with Director Trowbridge. He attended many days at the fair and said the people and volunteers there did a wonderful job, given the situation that has been occurring there.

Councilman Garner stated he met with the Auditor to check on her health and discuss County business. He also discussed the solar issue with the Building Commissioner, spoke with the MS4 Coordinator, and attended the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Fair.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the Sanitary District Board Meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Yagelski said that St. Joseph County voted unanimously for the NICTD double-track project. Legislative issues will be the last hurdle. He discussed the Rolling Prairie contaminated site, which after its cleanup has resulted in positive results. He hopes that the water will soon be deemed clean. He explained the insurance with John Jones is approximately \$16,000.00, will offer training, and will provide \$1,000,000.00 of coverage.

President Santana stated that his liaisons, EMA, EMS and the Drainage Board have already been addressed this evening. He also spoke with Mr. Gramarossa who kept him apprised regarding the jail water heaters. The declaration will have to be reaffirmed tonight.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Bill Trowbridge, Paladin, Inc. (formerly Michiana Resources and Parents & Friends) – Annual Appropriation to Fund Developmental Disability Center**

Cody Johnson distributed literature to the Council. Mr. Trowbridge then asked those who are in attendance in support of Paladin to please stand or raise their hands. A request was made through Facebook for La Porte County citizens to sign a petition in support of Paladin. At this time, there are 534 petitions signed, which shows how much people endorse what Paladin is accomplishing and the money being requested. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Parents and Friends and Michiana Resources merged into Paladin.

Mr. Trowbridge detailed the services offered, people being served on a daily basis, and the amount of employees it takes to attend to each of them. He said their budget is over \$8,000,000.00 and provide over 900,000 of service each year. He added that Michiana Resources took on the Council on Aging when it was going to close its doors in 2014. He then explained the expenses for gas and vehicles that is a part of the Council on Aging. He said a strategic analysis was done and the number one necessity is for County funding. In addition, the facilities need substantial repairs. He added that there is a Direct Support Professional crisis. He discussed the need for services for abuse victims. The State of Indiana has recognized that it could not adequately provide assistance to the Mental Health and Developmentally Disabled community, so Indiana code 12-29-1 was established to designate the County to provide funding and support for these individuals. Tonight's request aligns with the statute and La Porte County is only 1 of 7 that doesn't fund these programs. Mr. Trowbridge also stated that other counties support their Councils on Aging; Jasper County gives \$110,000.00, Pulaski County gives \$60,000; Newton County \$180,000.00, and Porter County gives \$370,000.00. This is significant because Paladin runs the Council on Aging, the Transportation System, and Developmental Disability Center and is at a disadvantage because of the lack of funding. He said that in the handout that was given, there is information about what is offered from the other counties, which specifically explains an average of what is needed for this community in each county. He added that Paladin supports Swanson Center but said that Paladin has more employees who are underpaid and have no health benefits. He also discussed Paladin's transportation system and how it's lacking. In the last week, Mr. Trowbridge attended a trade association meeting and when he discussed this monetary request with other professionals, they asked how Paladin survives. Mr. Trowbridge said tonight's request is two-fold: first is to begin the process under 12-29-1 for a levy for a Developmental Disability Center in the County. Specifically the request is for \$300,000.00 in this year and after that, a minimum of ½ of what Swanson Center receives on an annual basis, or approximately \$130,000.00 per year. He would appreciate more from the Council but asks for this as a minimum. In addition, this request is explicitly permitted by statute and in line with other counties of similar size. Tonight's second request is for immediate funding for this year, which is \$200,000.00. This would go to repair of the facilities.

Councilman Novak reaffirmed what Mr. Trowbridge stated about the state of the facility and it needs to be improved.

Councilman Kirkham stated that the Council is required to give \$600,000.00 to the Swanson Center as mandated by the State. Mr. Trowbridge replied that there is also a statute for Developmental Disability organizations.

Councilman Yagelski suggested that the vote on the appropriation be taken at this time. President Santana asked for a motion so questions could be discussed. A motion to approve moving the appropriation, not to exceed \$200,000.00, be immediately addressed was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion passed 7-0. A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Novak to approve not to exceed \$200,000.00 to Paladin out of Riverboat.

President Santana said he was made aware regarding a 5% increase that related to this issue. Mr. Trowbridge explained that the Indiana legislature passed legislation to permit a 5% increase in certain waiver activities. He explained that 75% of that increase goes to Direct Support Professionals and the other 25% goes to overhead costs. However, it is not something that can be used in other issues within the organization.

Councilman Novak asked if a letter of support from the Council would be helpful. Mr. Trowbridge stated that any support in the Public Comment to DDRS would be contributive to Paladin.

President Santana said \$6.8 billion is scheduled to be distributed, and that Paladin would be in line for \$325,000.00 if Indiana state officials would push to the feds for this money to come back. Mr. Trowbridge said it is actually closer to \$150,000.00 because it does not address the group homes and only looks only at Direct Support Professionals. However, Paladin strongly supports of this legislation. He added that the amount paid to the Direct Support Professionals is approximately \$20,000.00 per year to attend to all of the needs of these disabled individuals. President Santana responded that if this money was provided to Paladin, 600 County employees may not be able to get raises because the funds would possibly go to the salary and wages of Paladin employees. Mr. Trowbridge said that his request is specifically for the facilities and many are in need of critical repairs. In future years there will also be significant needs. He added that if a loan needed to be taken would create a significant amount of debt if a new facility was obtained.

Councilman Garner said that he is in complete support of what Paladin has done for the community.

Councilman Yagleski said that he hopes that doctors and hospitals have stepped up and Mr. Trowbridge said that they are supported in the amount of approximately \$150,000.00. He added that there is also additional Medicaid and Title 3 funding. He continued that they approach everyone possible for assistance. Councilman Yagelski said it is difficult to live within the Council's budget. He stated that the long term future may be to include a referendum vote because what is being asked for is only a band aid.

Motion carried 6-1 with President Santana voting Nay. He said his is the opinion of baby steps with the expectations of getting some funds from the feds. He also thought the referendum was a great idea to allow the public give their input.

Councilmen Garner and Novak added that Mr. Trowbridge is doing a fantastic job and are appreciate of all that has been accomplished by Mr. Trowbridge and his staff.

Mr. Trowbridge said he appreciates the support and commended Paladin employees. He also said that an additional tax is burdensome but also necessary.

President Santana said Paladin is a great organization with a great staff, and it is rewarding to see what is done for this community. Mr. Trowbridge suggested that the Council appoint a liaison to Paladin and President Santana agreed.

Attorney Friedman stated that, before the Public Comment period ends on August 11<sup>th</sup>, a formal motion would need to be made in order to submit a letter of support of Paladin's waiver request.

A motion to direct legal counsel to submit a letter of support to the DDRS by August 11<sup>th</sup> was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Garner asked if the Council could help to create the levy for Paladin. Auditor Winski replied that it needs to addressed at budget time and would be in touch with Mr. Trowbridge.

**Presentation on Bridge 186 – RQAW and Jay Sullivan**

Kevin Jasinski RQAW Director of Transportation said he would be speaking on behalf of Jay Sullivan. He also introduced Randy Brooks, who is Director of the Bridge Department of RQAW. Mr. Jasinski said Bridge 186 presentation was given to the Commissioners on July 5<sup>th</sup> and was approved to present to the Council. Mr. Brooks explained that the repairs to the bridge are to replace the box beams, and add a new deck and guardrails. In 2008, there was a rehab done to replace the outside box beams which are now showing deterioration. In addition, the inside box beams are the original beams from 1974, which are also deteriorating and need repair. He detailed other issues that need to be addressed, said that American Structurepoint will be brought onto the team, and that RQAW has revised its fee.

Councilman Garner stated that this bridge was previously discussed, but there will now be federal funds to assist. Mr. Brooks said that federal money will be applied for as soon as it becomes available. President Santana asked for an approximately cost and Mr. Brooks replied \$1,600,000.00. With federal funds there will be an 80/20 split with the County paying the 20%.

Mr. Brooks said RQAW's proposal is to replace all of the box beams and depending on the type of beams used, there may be an additional cost. The bridge is not eligible for replacement federal funds, but is for rehabilitation federal funds. Mr. Brooks added that a proposal is currently being prepared.

Councilman Yagelski asked for an estimate of engineering and if it would be advertised locally, and Mr. Brooks replied \$160,000.00 and yes respectively.

#### **Appointment of Job Evaluation Committee (Ordinance 2017-5)**

President Santana stated he would like to give his appointments with the Council's blessing. He said that the Council can have two appointees and the Commissioners can have one. President Santana nominated Councilman Garner and IT Director Darlene Hale. Attorney Friedman said that the Council would now need to approve the nominations. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and seconded Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

Attorney Friedman stated that the President of the Commissioners needs to nominate a member, but Ms. Barb Mossman said that appointment was already made and President Mrozinski will continue as a member of the committee. Attorney Friedman said that Ms. Mossman would now appoint an Elected Official or Department Head, and Ms. Mossman would be the final appointee. Ms. Mossman then appointed E911 Director John Dudek. Attorney Friedman said the record now shows the full composition of the committee.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Annemarie Polan, Fees for Solar Panels (Tabled from the June 19, 2017 Meeting)**

Ms. Polan stated there will be no charge for non-electrical solar panels. A motion to take this item off the table was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 7-0. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

##### **Reaffirm Declaration of Emergency Replacement of Jail Water Heaters**



Mr. Gramarossa said the repair is going to come in well under \$40,000.00. Attorney Friedman said the Council first needs to reaffirm President Santana's declaration and second to approve the ordinance on two readings.

A motion to reaffirm the declaration was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham.

Councilman Yagelski asked about the policy of the organization of the warranties in the Building Maintenance office. Mr. Gramarossa replied that they are kept in specific warranty books. He then approached the Council with a document. He added that he contacted the company and the manufacturer and was told that the heater was approximately 36 days out of warranty. Councilman Novak asked if legal counsel should get involved, and Attorney Friedman stated that would fall under the legal counsel for the Commissioners and he could discuss it with him. A motion to have legal counsel pursue this issue was made by Councilman Novak.

Mr. Gramarossa said that the last time the boilers were replaced, the previous replacement was 7 years prior. He explained that maintenance needs to be done on boilers so they can be used longer. Councilman Yagelski stated there is no stated policy on maintaining vital paperwork in the County, so laws must be followed to enforce record keeping. Attorney Friedman stated that the Maintenance Department maintains the warranties in the office but Councilman Yagelski replied that it is a County-wide issue.

Councilman Garner asked if Darlene Hale had any input. She explained that the Commissioners' Office uses Laserfiche, which is a document management system. In this system, it is possible to search for a document by name or keyword. If all departments are required to give all warranties to the Commissioners' Office secretary, they could be entered into the Laserfiche system. Attorney Friedman added that Councilman Yagelski's suggestion about record maintenance is valid because policy varies by department. Councilman Novak said the originals could be kept, as well as keeping a digital copy. Ms. Hale said that would make for easy retrieval.

Mr. Gramarossa stated that when a warranty is called in, if the equipment wasn't properly maintained, the warranty may be denied. Councilman Yagelski said he did not completely agree, but to have legal counsel pursue it.

Mr. Gramarossa said that if this heater should fail, steps have been taken to insure that the jail will not be without hot water again. President Santana asked the length of the warranty on the new unit and if an extended warranty was offered. Mr. Gramarossa said no extension was offered but the warranty is for 7 years.

Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Sullivan had to leave the meeting early.

**Consider Ordinance Authorizing Emergency Appropriation for such Replacement & Authorize Expenditure Not to Exceed \$40,000.00  
Ordinance 2017-6E**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion to approve waving the rules and approving the ordinance on second reading was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion to approve on second reading was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Public Hearing on Confirmatory Resolutions for Tax Abatement on Kingsbury Elevator Project**

President Santana opened Public Comment. Mr. Metheny approached and said he is a fiscal person and would like to comment. He stated he has been against the 10-year abatements because it takes too long to get the money back into the fund. He said it would appreciate it a 5-year tax abatement would be considered.

Mr. Mrozinski approached and said the most important part of the KIP project is Kingsbury Elevator and this tax abatement is best for the County.

Hearing or seeing no additional Public Comment, President Santana closed Public Comment.

### **Resolution No. 2017-7 Confirming Resolution for Kingsbury Elevator, Inc. (Personal Property)**

### **Resolution No. 2017-7A Confirming Resolution for Kingsbury Elevator, Inc. (Real Property)**

A motion to read Resolutions 2017-7 and 2017-7A by title only was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 6-0.

Auditor Winski read Resolutions 2017-7 and 2017-7A by title only.

A motion to approve 2017-7 for second reading was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion to approve 2017-7A for second reading was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer.

Attorney Friedman said the declaratory was passed and this was for a first and final reading.

Motion carried 6-0.

### **Resolution No. 2017-7B Personal Property Declaratory Resolution Haynes International, Inc.**

Mary Jane Thomas stated that Haynes International is coming before the Council to request a tax abatement for personal property. She explained the facility is located in La Porte County on 39 North and they are currently expanding. The project investment in personal property is \$2,577,968.00 for various pieces of equipment; the number of employment opportunities proposed for this to be created is 52; the number of employment opportunities to be retained is 50; and the wage scale is significantly above the La Porte County average. The completion of this project is within the Economic Revitalization Area designation and in the expected time frame should it be granted.

Attorney Friedman explained that comment from the applicant and/or attorney in support of the declaratory resolution is desirable. Next month, the confirmatory resolution and public hearing would be done.

The attorney explained that the Haynes is a Kokomo, Indiana based company that produces high performance nickel-cobalt based alloys sold primarily in the aerospace, chemical processing, and industrial gas turbine industries. He detailed the history of this company in La Porte County and the improvements being made to the facility. He indicated that new facility in La Porte is being leased, but have invested \$1,500,000.00 worth of improvements in the building and are paying the real estate taxes. The benefit to La Porte County is employment with total wages of approximately \$2,500,000.00. He explained the payroll taxes on the additional employees, real estate taxes, and personal property taxes will be beneficial to the County.

Councilman Yagelski asked where the coils are being made and a representative from Haynes International replied Kokomo, Indiana. He also described the products and services provided by the company.

Councilman Kirkham asked why the facility is located near the highway. The representative replied it was because the property was available. Councilman Kirkham then asked if Haynes can use the rail in the area but the representative replied no.

President Santana asked when the 52 employees will be in place and the representative said by the end of this calendar year.

A motion to approve declaratory resolution 2017-7B was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Yagelski.

Auditor Winski read Resolution 2017-7B by title only.

Motion carried 6-0.

**Authorize Public Notice for Hearing on Confirmatory Resolution for Haynes International, Inc., Personal Property Tax Abatement at the August 28, 2017, County Council Meeting**

A motion to approve authorization was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 6-0.

**Ordinance No. 2017-0 Record Outstanding Encumbrances from 2016 to 2017 (Second Reading)**

Auditor Winski read Ordinance No. 2017-0 by title only.

A motion to approve by title only was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 6-0.

**APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS**

**La Porte County Community Corrections**

**Requesting Permission to Spend**

**From the Community Corrections CTP Grant Fund**

**To Purchase Vehicle for Field Officer**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-0.

**Paladin, Inc.**

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**

**From RIVERBOAT (1191), WIN TAX (4220) OR CAGIT (1110)**

**For Developmental Disability Center for 2017**

**Not to Exceed**

**\$200,000.00**

This appropriation was previously approved in the meeting out of RIVERBOAT (1191) with a vote of 6-1, with President Santana voting Nay.

**La Porte County Auditor**

**Requesting Permission to Hire**

**For COMOT IV**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-0.

**La Porte County Treasurer**

**Requesting Permission to Hire**

**For COMOT III**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Novak asked if there was additional information regarding a Treasurer's office employee's compensation time. Ms. Mossman stated that she had spoken with President Santana and that an employee's compensation time is time earned and, by law, must be paid. Attorney Friedman said that the Council directed HR to send something to Department Heads to reinforce the County Policy on compensation time.

A motion to have all employees acknowledge, except for exempt employees, County policy in writing was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Ms. Mossman said that all employees do sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the County Employee Handbook. Attorney Friedman said it is at the discretion of the Council to request employees to sign a specific document regarding compensation time. It would be a conveyance by the Council of the significance of this policy.

Motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Mollenhauer voting Nay.

A motion to approve final payment for balance of compensation time for the Treasurer's Office employee was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Yagelski voting Nay.

**La Porte County Building Maintenance**

**Requesting Permission to Hire**

**To Replace Secretary/Office Manager – COMOT V**

**Requesting Permission to Hire for LTC II**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Gramarossa acknowledged the retirement of Kent Carpenter who has served the County for 28 years. His last day will be July 31<sup>st</sup> and he will be dearly missed.

**La Porte County EMS**  
**Requesting Permission to Hire**  
**For Replacement of Collections Clerk**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-0.

**La Porte County Highway**  
**Requesting Permission to Hire**  
**For Mechanic Position**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-0.

**La Porte County Highway**  
**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**  
**From RIVERBOAT (1191) OR WIN TAX (4220)**

**\$9,051.00**

President Santana said that Councilman Yagelski previously discussed this appropriation regarding the river clean up. A phone conference was held with Weaver Consulting and IDEM. This appropriation is for the continuing contract with Weaver Consulting. A motion to approve out of RIVERBOAT (1191) was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 6-0.

It was requested by the Commissioners to research an issue at Franklin Street. The conduit through which the conduit travels is crushed. There is concern that if the bridge breaks again, there are no replacements. Three-inch conduits can be run until the bridge is eventually replaced. The conduit would cost over \$75,000.00. In addition, the wiring after the conduit is replace will also be expensive and will be put out to bid. This will be have to be done before the ground freezes and would take several months for completion. Councilman Yagelski said this has been going on for some time.

**La Porte County IT Department**  
**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**  
**From RIVERBOAT (1191) OR WIN TAX (4220)**  
**For La Porte County – Cyber Liability Coverage**

**\$15,591.00**

Darlene Hale said for this year the cost would be approximately \$12,900.00 but renew yearly for \$15,591.00. Councilman Yagelski explained that this insurance is a rider for the policy and it was not bid out immediately in order to get coverage as soon as possible.

A motion to approve \$12,900.00 out of RIVERBOAT (1191) was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Planner

Requesting an Additional Appropriation  
From RIVERBOAT (1191) OR WIN TAX (4220)  
For Grant Money Match

Lincoln Trail-Land Acquisition	\$18,420.00
Bridge #18-875 West Land Acquisition and Construction Funding	\$8,000.00
Second Phase of Bridge #18-875 West Land Acquisition and Construction Funding	\$30,000.00

Mitch Bishop explained the grant matches for Lincoln Trail and Bridge #18-875 West. The \$18,420.00 is the 20% local match amount. He stated that if this is not approved, federal funds would have to be repaid.

A motion to approve out of RIVERBOAT (1191) was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 6-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

A motion to approve a record retention policy to go in front of the Commissioners was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Novak. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Kirkham said the Ski show was fantastic and was well attended. He added it was free and great family entertainment.

Councilman Novak said the next Problem Solving Court is on August 1<sup>st</sup> in the complex at 5:00 p.m.

Auditor Winski announced that Budget Hearings will be on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and she will be sending out the schedule by the end of the week. She added the binders will also be prepared.

President Santana said that Paladin will be holding a talent show on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with a cost of \$10; people under 16 are free. It will be held at the Lakeview Christian Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

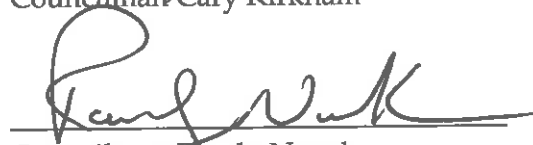
A motion was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Kirkham to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28th Day of August, 2017.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Terry Garner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Cary Kirkham

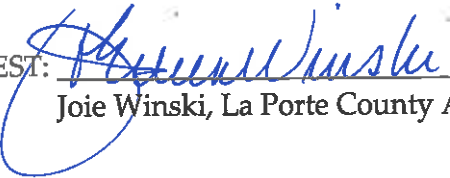
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Randy Novak

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Jeff Santana

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman John Sullivan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Mark Zagelski

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor