



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 22, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on January 22, 2018 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 Randy Novak called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Novak asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. President Novak 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, Kirkham, Mollenhauer, Novak, Sullivan, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

President Novak acknowledged the students in attendance from South Central High School. He informed them that their documents would be signed at the conclusion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 22, 2018 AGENDA

Councilman Yagelski asked that the EMA use of car issue be revisited under Old Business. He also stated that Judge Alevizos asked that the La Porte Circuit Court request on page 3 be postponed until the next meeting. Lastly, he asked that the Recorder's request on page 3 be addressed under New Business.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 27, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2, 2018 REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Metheny explained that he does not agree with the Judges creating a drug testing policy for their employees that is separate from that of the County employees. In addition, he feels that separate policy should not be paid for by the County but instead by the Court generated funds. President Novak said that the Commissioners establish policy and the Council funds the policies once created.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Larry Butcher, Director and Jeff Wiatrowski, Executive Assistant, La Porte County EMA

Mr. Wiatrowski encouraged the public to sign up for the Rave alert system. At this time, approximately 1,400 have signed up and additional County employees also need to subscribe. Mr. Butcher explained that additional departments will use the system, but only after proper protocol has been put into place.

Councilman Yagelski said people may not have signed up because they don't see the value, but this system is valuable. He also suggested that people may not completely understand the subscription process. Mr. Butcher replied that any email will work but to call the department for assistance. President Novak said a media push would be beneficial and Mr. Butcher said flyers are made and postage paid for, but wants to ensure there is a clear direction from the Commissioners. Councilman Kirkham asked for instruction on signing up for the system. Mr. Wiatrowski said to go to the La Porte County website and click on the word "here" below the large red announcement about sign up. He added that it is important to go back in and edit to provide as much information as possible so EMA can efficiently assist the citizens in the County. He said that County employees should sign up on both the link that was sent out today and the one on the La Porte County website.

Councilman Yagelski said the 3 radio stations have offered to give time to promote this system. Mr. Butcher said he has been on 2 of them and did newspaper advertising.

Mike Seitz, Office of Economic Development

Mr. Seitz spoke about a project on Severs Road that was discussed at the end of last year. It included the creation of a training fund and the request for an additional appropriation of \$175,000.00. However, a training grant is being worked on and Mr. Seitz explained the details of the grant. The agreement will be forwarded to the Attorney and the company, and if both parties concur it will then be given to the Council, giving enough time for it to be addressed at the February Council meeting.

Mary Jane Thomas discussed the 2017 Tax Abatements. There are 8 active tax abatements, two of which are new – Haynes International and Kingsbury Elevator. Of the remaining 6, there have been over 200 jobs created. In addition, 2 are still working and 4 have exceeded their job creation goals. The same applies for their capital investments. She asked that the Council adopt it and allow the Auditor to sign the compliance forms for the applicants.

A motion to approve the 2017 Tax Abatement Compliance Report as stated was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilmen Sullivan and Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

Andrew McGuire, Administrator and Eric Fenstermaker, Assistant Administrator, La Porte County EMS

Mr. McGuire expressed his growing concern regarding call volume of EMS. In 2015, call volume increased by 541, in 2016 by 1,427, and in 2017 by 561; over the past three years there has been an increase of approximately 2,500 calls. The last ambulance was added to the County in 1996; at that time calls were 11,285 and in 2017 calls were 15,647. This issue has been previously discussed, but the addition of a 7th ambulance needs to be added to the County. Councilman Sullivan agreed and said coverage problems have occurred. He added that it may be time to add a 3rd rig to the La Porte base units. Mr. McGuire said several issues occur, including coverage and response times. He also said he has a financial breakdown in his proposal. President Novak said a meeting should be scheduled with the Finance Committee to see if it would be feasible. He asked that the information be forwarded to the Council so it can be reviewed.

Mr. McGuire and Mr. Fenstermaker then discussed a motion of support for the AFG Grant that has been previously applied for but not received. Mr. Fenstermaker explained the grant is for \$203,000.00 to be paid by the federal government, with the County portion being approximately \$20,000.00. It is for 20 automatic chest compression devices, which breaks down to \$16,600.00 each. Nationwide about 22% of cardiac arrest victims survive and the devices increase it by 9%. Councilman Mollenhauer further explained the grant and felt it should be given full support.

A motion of support was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 5-0.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Mollenhauer attended a Solid Waste District meeting on January 10th and said they are doing very well.

Councilman Yagelski said confirmation of the money for the NICTD double-track should be determined by February. He also had a chance to go to a Metra board meeting in Chicago, where improved passage to Millennium Park was discussed. A joint workshop was also considered.

Councilman Kirkham attended a NIRPC meeting on January 18th where election of officers took place. There was also a presentation on Volkswagen, who has set up a \$14,000,000.00 fund for problems with their diesel engines. On the same day, he also attended a Gas Line Safety program at Blue Chip. It explained what to look for and how to respond. Lastly, on January 19th, he attended a Government Affairs breakfast, and later a presentation by Secretary Milo on workforce and training for the State of Indiana.

Councilman Sullivan had nothing to report.

President Novak said the Martin Luther King event at PNW was well attended and provided great honor to Martin Luther King.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Appointment of Mark Yagelski to the NICTD Board

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 4-0, with Councilman Yagelski abstaining.

Approval of 2018 Council Liaison List

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

President Novak asked for approval for the appointments of President Novak, Councilman Mollenhauer and Councilman Garner to the Redevelopment Commission. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilmen Yagelski and Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of Council President’s Authorization to Hire Replacement Positions for the Prosecutor’s Office for a Victim Advocate and Juvenile Services Center for a Shift Supervisor

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of Reimbursement of Transcripts Paid from the Supplemental Public Defender Fund in the amount of \$219,806.05

Chief Deputy Kristie Deckard stated that transcripts starting being paid for out of the Supplement Public Defender Fund in 2014 but should have been paid out of the Public Defender’s Budget. Therefore, reimbursement from the general fund is being requested.

A motion to approve \$219,806.05 out of the general fund to replace the Supplemental Public Defender Fund was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham.

Councilman Kirkham asked what can be paid out of the Supplemental Public Defenders Fund. Chief Deputy Deckard said she believed some transcripts can be paid, but not all. Councilman Kirkham said he was on the Public Defender board and transcripts and interpreters could be paid out of that fund. President Novak said the items taken out of that fund were appropriate, it just got run down too far. Councilman Yagelski stated explained there is not a good answer to the question, but there was nothing wrong but all transcripts were included instead of specific ones. Auditor Winski clarified that it should come out of Riverboat, not the general fund. Councilman Yagelski adjusted his motion. Councilman Kirkham amended it to Win Tax. Motion carried 5-0.

Human Resources – Barb Mossman

Repurposing of JSC Employees

Ms. Mossman came before the Council for consideration of repurposing some Juvenile Services Center staff. She explained that the center currently has the reception center that handles all of the intakes of the juveniles. Right now there is one case worker and two unit leaders who work Monday through Friday for 24 hours. The two unit workers have been doing the duties of case worker and have the required education background for the position. Therefore, she is requesting that those individuals be moved to the case worker status and adjust their salary bases. Ms. Mossman stated that the unit leader positions will now be eliminated. She also asked that the positions be retroactive to January 1st when the employees started those duties.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorder's Office – Job Evaluation Consideration, Salary Consideration for Recorder and Chief Deputy

Ms. Mossman said the second matter has to do with the Recorder's Office. In 2014, a job evaluation was done for 3 positions, but none were brought forward for an increase. The current Recorder would like to have the Archive Specialist position be increased from a COMOT III to a COMOT IV. This adjustment would come out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund, and Ms. Mossman asked that this position be retroactive to January 1st.

Recorder Sosinski stated that she analyzed the positions in her office, and determined that two positions in her office are identical but one is a COMOT III and one is a COMOT IV. She then found paperwork that evaluated the position from a COMOT III to a COMOT IV. Therefore, she wants to pay the difference out of the Perpetuation Fund because its title is Archivist.

Auditor Winski stated that a motion in support would have to be approved tonight and in February, vote on permission to spend from the Perpetuation Fund and make it retroactive.

A motion of support to adjust from COMOT III to COMOT IV for the Archivist position was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council addressed the additional appropriation out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund (1189) for an office desk for \$1,102.65 and Fujitsu desktop scanner for \$6,130.00. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorder Sosinski stated that in 2017, the Recorder's Office deposited \$220,711.00 into the General Fund, \$12,102.00 into the ID Fund, \$52,240.00 into the Surveyor's Fund, and \$12,102.00 into the Training Fund. 182,100 documents were processed in 2017. The staff is also cleaning up some inaccurate information for 18,010 subdivisions that has previously been entered. Laredo can also be accessed on mobile devices and has provided ease of access to the Surveyor's Office.

Hiring Freeze – Clarification of Exempt Departments

Ms. Mossman stated that the hiring freeze will remain in effect for 2018. The Council has given prior approval to Department Heads for emergency matters. She stated that she wanted to clarify that the Emergency Service Departments are exempt from the resolution and detailed them. She added that Community Corrections, specifically the Residential Officers that deal with the oversight of the individuals, should be added to this list.

Councilman Yagelski stated he felt it was necessary to remove the appointments of the Commissioners from this list. President Novak asked that it be reviewed and addressed against at next month's meeting. Attorney Friedman said he believes Ms. Mossman is trying to take the previous resolutions and harmonize the information into one. President Novak said it would be cleaned up for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

EMA – Use of Car

A motion to approve giving full use of the vehicle to Mr. Butcher without having to pay taxes as of January 1st was made by Councilman Yagelski. He asked Auditor Winski what form needs to be completed and she replied that rules from IRS publication 15B needs to be followed. Attorney Friedman said Mr. Butcher has provided the necessary documentation that it is an emergency vehicle and he has the required certification. Councilman Yagelski added that a decal must be applied to the vehicle.

President Novak added that if there are additional vehicles that are used in this capacity, the same requirements apply. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Auditor Winski said the effective date would be when the decal is applied.

Mr. Butcher approached and said he does not want to be out of compliance. President Novak said this should be run by the Commissioners for approval. Councilman Yagelski asked if there is only one vehicle, but Mr. Butcher said another vehicle was assigned to him as an emergency vehicle by the Commissioners, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, it is not a take-home car. Mr. Butcher said he needs clarification about the sticker and Councilman Yagelski directed him to confer with Commissioner Mrozinski. Mr. Butcher asked if he would get his taxes back and Councilman Yagelski replied that as of now, the retroactive date would be January 1st. Motion carried 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Surveyor

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Surveyor Corner Perpetuation Fund (1202)

For Equipment	\$10,000.00
For Supplies	\$ 6,000.00
For Service Contracts	<u>\$71,000.00</u>
Total:	\$87,000.00

A motion to approve all items out of the Surveyor Perpetuation Fund (1202) for \$87,000.00 was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Fairgrounds Blue Ribbon Committee

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Electric and Infrastructure Improvements at the Fairgrounds	\$250,000.00
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A motion to approve \$125,000.00 out of 4067 Fairground, with the other \$125,000.00 coming next year, with any bills submitted and approved by the Commissioners was made by Councilman Yagelski. Auditor Winski asked if it should be taken out of Riverboat and put into 4067. Councilman Yagelski responded yes. Attorney Friedman stated that the recommendation is that there be an allocation when it's appropriated to the new fairgrounds management corporation, which is a new non-profit of the Blue Ribbon Committee. Councilman Yagelski replied that it would have to wait for next month. He continued that until that happens, it would have to go through the Commissioners if a bill comes in, and if the committee is funded and it is all legal, it will be changed. Councilman Yagelski said his motion stands. He restated that his motion is \$125,000.00 out of Riverboat (1191), to be transferred to 4067, with the understanding that application for the same amount can be made next year. Any costs for electric or infrastructure will go before the Commissioners until the committee has been authorized. Attorney Friedman clarified that once the new non-profit is formed, it can apply. Councilman Yagelski confirmed

if it is electric or infrastructure. Motion seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 4-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County Commissioners

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Economic Development

\$190,875.00

For Part-Time VA Services Officer

\$ 11,000.00

Total:

\$201,875.00

Mr. Mike Seitz passed out information to the Council to support the request. Councilman Yagelski made a motion to reduce the amount to \$75,000.00 out of Win Tax (4220) with the understanding that the Commissioners will come back for projects and planning. He added it is the same appropriation as last year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Attorney Friedman stated that there was a unanimous recommendation of the Redevelopment Commission to fully fund for the year, but the Council has the discretion to decide on the amount. The hope was that the Office of Economic Development has proven itself and the Council would at least consider a full-year budget appropriation.

Commissioner Mrozinski said presentations come up unexpectedly and there is no money to pay for these expenses. Councilman Yagelski replied that there is money appropriated for travel and Auditor Winski is willing to act upon emergencies. President Novak added that none of the Councilmembers have a problem funding it for the year, but prefer to do it in increments instead of one lump sum. Commissioner Mrozinski responded that is why the list of projects was provided to the Council. Many of these projects have code names to assure confidentiality.

Joe Coar, President of La Porte County Redevelopment Commission, said Auditor Winski assisted with projects in the TIF area but he is looking for assistance in areas outside of TIF. He said he is heartsick because he sees the value of the work that Mary Jane Thomas and Mike Seitz have done. He added that it hurts to have the budget cut in half, but is glad to receive something. He understands that the RDC can come back to the Council, but stated that this doesn't happen in Michigan City or La Porte City. He said he is honored to work with Ms. Thomas and Mr. Seitz.

Motion carried 4-0, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

President Novak clarified that the decision of the Council is not a reflection on the people of the Redevelopment Commission; the Council just feels more comfortable providing funding in small increments.

Mr. Mrozinski said he misspoke in his email from the end of the year. He reminded the Council that putting a Veteran Services Officer in Michigan City was an experiment. In addition, it was determined that there are actually more Veterans in Michigan City than in La Porte so it is necessary to have a VSO there 2 days per week. Therefore, Joe Golec will be the VSO in La Porte and George Watkins has agreed to be the part time VSO in Michigan City. He added that \$11,000.00 is not a lot of money when the Veterans are receiving such comprehensive assistance. Councilman Yagelski said phone calls are going to occur no matter what, but it would be the personal interviews and office visits. Mr. Mrozinski said one of the reports he distributed is for Michigan City calls and the other is for La Porte. Councilman Mollenhauer said the numbers showed a significant increase in January and Mr. Mrozinski said the word of an office in Michigan City is being spread amongst Veterans. Having an office in Michigan City is a

big deal to the Veterans and he foresees that it may eventually need to be increased to 3 days a week in Michigan City. He said these men are doing a great job assisting Veterans in such a large county and they are always busy. Mr. Mrozinski explained that after Mr. Golec was trained in 2017, an office was opened in the Michigan City courthouse one day a week. Within two weeks, it was clear that an additional day per week would be necessary. For the remainder of 2017, there was full time in La Porte and part time in Michigan City. Councilman Mollenhauer asked if the full time person could sacrifice a day to go to Michigan City. Mr. Mrozinski replied that Veterans often walk in without an appointment and it would be disappointing to have the Veteran come to La Porte and there be no one in the office.

President Novak asked how long Mr. Watkins will be working and Mrozinski replied hopefully through the end of the year. President Novak asked if there are any part time funds in the Commissioners budget, but Mr. Mrozinski said only \$500.00. Councilman Kirkham said he believes the Veteran Services Officers are necessary but he does not want to spend all of the Riverboat money. President Novak responded that there's nothing much better than spending the money on a Veteran and others agreed.

A motion to approve \$11,000.00 out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 3-2, with Councilmen Yagelski and Mollenhauer voting Nay.

La Porte County Sheriff's Department
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Sheriff's Pension	\$1,199,199.00
Computers/Docking Stations for Patrol Cars	\$ 36,653.70
Total:	\$1,235,852.70

Sheriff Boyd stated that the amount for the pension was the recommended contribution for 2018 by the Actuary. He said that last year, the contribution was \$1,187,533.00, with the Council contributing \$947,890.00 and the Sheriff's Department contributing \$239,643.00 through the Service and Process Fees which represented approximately 20% of the required contribution. He is requesting this appropriation at the beginning of the year so more money can be made in investments and thereby reducing following years' contributions. The Service and Process Fees would then be sent to the Auditor's Office on a quarterly basis. He then explained data on who is receiving the pensions. Historically, annual contributions averaged about \$1.1 million with \$1.3 in distributions; in the past 4 years, the plan has paid out \$1 million more than the contributions that were taken out. Fortunately, over the last four years, \$7 million dollars was made through the investments and increased the plan balance from \$25 million to \$31 million.

Sheriff Boyd stated that Christopher Dilts from Dilts & Associates Inc. has some information to share with the Council and answer any questions. Mr. Dilts said that the reports contain the information that was summarized by Sheriff Boyd. He explained that his company spends time tracking the amount that the County contributes and what increase it sees. In that four-year period, it only increased \$135,000.00 and another \$11,000.00 this year. He said it is the company's priority to keep the cost down and that the plan is making as much money as possible. The plan made as much money in the past year as it did in the previous 3 years. Councilman Yagelski asked how the Sheriff's pension program differs from how the County can invest their money. Mr. Dilts said the County can only invest in fixed income instruments, but the Sheriff's Department has a trust and their money can be invested in anything. He added that part of its design is that there is not a lot of risk. The Sheriff's department has invested 60% fixed and 40% equity, but this past year it was 55%/45% and it worked out very nicely. Councilman Yagelski then asked

how the market correction would affect this and Mr. Dilts replied it would be slightly in the negative. He said that in the correction of 2008, the plan lost 18% but made 18% in 2009 so it was a wash. He said because the severity of the current correction is unclear, a loss prediction is difficult but could be in the double digits. Councilman Mollenhauer said Mr. Dilts has done a great job for the money in La Porte and other counties. He added that the money that was contributed by the Council last year and it is clear the gains it made. He totally recommends it be approved. Attorney Friedman said Councilman Mollenhauer would have to abstain from the vote.

Mr. Dilts said that instead of waiting for the Service and Process Fees to be deposited at the end of the year, which usually takes well into the following year, pay the whole bill upfront and return those fees to the County. These fees were also increased by State statute to \$28.00. President Novak said with frontloading this, there is an entire year of interest, but asked when the County's contribution would be reduced. Mr. Dilts explained the process and said based on the actuarial numbers, it is necessary to stay at 6.75% for the amount to stay the same. President Novak asked Auditor Winski about what happens with the Service and Process fees. Auditor Winski replied that if the requested money is contributed upfront, the Council would decide whether the fees would be returned to Riverboat or Win Tax. She added that at the beginning of last year, \$750,000.00 was contributed and at the end of the year, another \$190,000.00 was contributed. Councilman Yagelski clarified that it was approximately \$950,000.00 plus the amount taken in by the fees.

A motion to approve \$1,199,199.00 out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 4-1, with Councilman Mollenhauer abstaining.

Sheriff Boyd said due to confidentiality issues, these mobile data terminals are necessary. They have been upgraded in stages and this is the last group to be addressed. The request includes both the rugged laptops and computer stands. Darlene Hale approves the computers and said they are a very good price.

A motion to approve \$36,653.70 out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski asked for the age of the computers being removed from the vehicles. Sheriff Boyd said they are 5-7 years old and are standard grade and not made for emergency services. Councilman Yagelski asked if they could go to Darlene and Sheriff Boyd said absolutely, as long as they are not included in a trade. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Sheriff's Department

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Sheriff's Commissary Fund

For Storage and Evidence Preservation for Body Cameras

\$17,362.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. President Novak commented that EMA Director Butcher received a \$78,000.00 grant for the cameras. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Sheriff's Department

Requesting Permission to Hire

For Replacement of Front Desk Receptionist

Sheriff Boyd said this is an important position and they want to start advertising for this right away. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Mollenhauer congratulated Janice Grinston on her retirement. Sheriff Boyd said she did a wonderful job and she will be difficult to replace.

La Porte County Drug Court

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Community Correction Invoices for Scram and Drug Testing **\$21,437.50**

Steve Eyrick said invoices included are for Scram devices, GPS devices and drug testing. He added that a new drug panel to identify more drugs became available in December. A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Health Department

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Reimbursement of Permitting Software **\$13,000.00**

Auditor Winski said that this is for reimbursement of a grant that was not able to be used for the permitting software; the grant states the data must be utilized and the data can't be utilized coming off of the Beacon system, it can only inform them a permit is needed.

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Prosecuting Attorney

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Infraction Deferral Fund 2501-20200-000-0343

For the Shortage in Salary of the 2 State Supplemented Felony Deputies **\$4,282.00**

Councilman Yagelski said that the Prosecuting Attorney did not put in for state reimbursement for the raises. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Recorder

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Recorder's Perpetuation Fund (1189)

For Office Desk **\$1,102.65**

For Fujitsu Desktop Scanner **\$6,130.00**

Total: **\$7,232.65**

This was addressed earlier in the meeting.

La Porte Circuit Court

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From 1000-30074-000-0148 (Care of Inmates Account)

To Compensate Mr. Chip Cotman for His Services as Facilitator

For the La Porte Circuit Court for 2018

\$5,000.00

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

La Porte County Clerk

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Payment of Sick Days

\$4,500.00

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 4-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County Clerk

Requesting Permission to Hire

For Replacement of La Porte Superior 4 Clerk's Office Position

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 5-0.

La Porte County Clerk

Requesting Permission to Send

From Clerk's Perpetuation Fund (1119)

**For Preservation of Court Documents, Scanning, Copying,
Document Storage, shredding and Document Books**

\$30,000.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Auditor Winski commented that the amount of interest the Council sees from its investments is 1.85%, and \$845,000.00 was made. She added that the County is on track to hit \$1 million this year. Treasurer Spevak stated we have 500 vacant lots that we are not collecting taxes on, and there are about 150 properties with homes that are still delinquent.

Councilman Yagelski said the additional Veteran Service Officer was a part time position. It was then increased to full time. Mr. Watkins was going to retire and then worked through the end of the year and now is working 2 days per week. Councilman Yagelski said the office has to be consistent in what they do and said part of the job is to visit the VFWs and American Legions, and it should be managed properly.

Councilman Kirkham said he attended a South County meeting in Wanatah on the 15th. They want to become a legal entity so they can apply for grants. However, they are concerned about House Bill 1005, which is about combining small townships.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 26th of February, 2018.



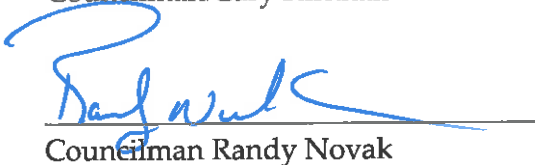
Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Cary Kirkham



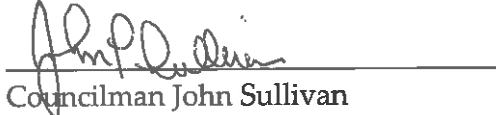
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



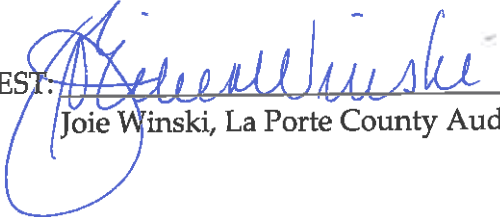
Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor