

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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 26, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on March 26, 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 Garner, Kirkham, Mollenhauer, Novak, Santana, Sullivan, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 26, 2018 AGENDA

President Novak asked that a third item be added to New Business – IT Presentation. A motion to approve as amended was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Metheny expressed concern over the amount of money County Attorneys Biege and Friedman will make in regard to the building in Michigan City. He feels County money should be spent correctly. In reference to the Regional Sewer District, Mr. Metheny expressed disappointment. He said Mr. Ken Jones stated he works for the County and the Toll Road, which Mr. Metheny feels is a conflict of interest. He continued that the Council should not accept that, and the ethics of the situation should be evaluated. He stated that the Director of the board should have given the presentation instead of Attorney McDonald; when the lawyer knows more than the board, he finds it distressing. Originally, the borrowed money

was supposed to be paid back and now more is being requested. If money is given from the state, he wants the public to remember it is still taxpayer money.

Steven Holifield, 6782 E 100 S, Mill Creek, IN 46365

Mr. Holifield questioned the amount being requested for a new ambulance by EMS. He had noted that at a previous meeting, the amount was between \$173,000.00 and \$176,000.00 but \$225,000.00 is being requested. President Novak stated that the \$225,000.00 is the advertised amount and that the actual cost may be less.

In reference to the replacement of the pay loaders by the County Highway, Mr. Holifield had many questions. President Novak replied that a full presentation will be made.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Bob Young, Superintendent, La Porte County Highway

Mr. Young gave an update on the flood issues in the southern part of the County. He said several hundred acres of farmland were flooded and most flooded roads have reopened. A road that goes into a bridge in Fish Lake which leads into St. Joseph County has extensive damage; an initial estimate is \$200,000.00 but the underside of the bridge has not been evaluated. Mr. Young had a meeting with FEMA and feels confident that the County will be able to make a claim.

Councilman Garner asked about State Road 39 in La Crosse. Mr. Young said the water has receded but because it sat on the road for over two weeks, the road is closed until possible damage is assessed. All affected roads were discussed with FEMA, who took all estimates to their superiors.

Steve Eyrick, Chief Probation Office, La Porte County Adult Probation

Mr. Eyrick gave an update on the basement project. He stated that the Commissioners approved the issuance of an RFP at their last meeting; copies of the plans were given to the Council. Mr. Eyrick hopes to get bids back in the next week and hopes to approach the Council at the next meeting to request funding.

Councilman Yagelski asked Mr. Eyrick why he is concerned that money from his fund will diminish to nothing. Mr. Eyrick explained that two employees are being paid out of the Administrative fund and it decreases yearly, so it will be empty in approximately 8 years. Councilman Yagelski asked for clarification that the Operating fund is solid and just the Administrative fund is the one decreasing. Mr. Eyrick said various factors may affect it, so Councilman Yagelski asked him to give a detailed analysis at the next meeting.

Andrew McGuire, Administrator, La Porte County EMS

Mr. McGuire approached the Council to give a financial update. In 2015, Medicaid Reimbursement was \$94,702.00 and in 2016, it was \$41,719.00 for a total of \$136,422.00. He thanked the billing department, especially Karen Parkerson and Paula Purkal, for all of their hard work. In addition, he highlighted some things from the 2017 year-end report. Calls for service in 2017 were 15,647, which is up 561 calls from 2016. In the last three years, calls have increased 2,500 calls cumulatively. Collections are slightly down but EMS continues to cover all of their operating expenses, and \$183,226.00 was put into the General

fund. Lastly, through a lot of hard work, meetings, marketing and PR, transfers increased over 50% since the start of 2018. It's a huge step in the right direction, although there is a lot of work to still be done.

Mr. Doug Biege, Attorney for La Porte County Commissioners

As discussed in the Workshop, the next phase of the Michigan City project is to contract a design team. Part of that process is to make a decision whether or not a Construction Manager will be hired. Therefore, Attorney Biege needs an affirmative decision to move forward. No money will be spent at this time. A motion for a favorable recommendation by the Council was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilman Yagelski understands the purpose, but unforeseen costs come about and it adds up. He said he appreciates the presentation. Councilman Garner agreed with Councilman Yagelski and said it won't be able to stay within the budget. President Novak said overages are difficult to control and costs may have to be cut. He also supports the hiring of a Construction Manager, but feels it should not be a County employee who already has a full time job and should not be in charge of a multi-million dollar project.

Motion carried 6-2, with Councilmen Garner and Yagelski voting Nay.

Councilman Garner said he is grateful that there is a recording of what was discussed in regard to this project, so there will be no confusion as the project moves forward.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Kirkham attended the South County Community Coalition in Union Mills on March 19th. The next meeting is at the Westville Police station in April. He also attended a Government Affairs breakfast on March 9th.

Councilmen Sullivan and Santana had nothing to report.

Councilman Garner attended a Finance Committee meeting; he dropped by Purdue Extension office, and touched base with the Recorder and the Sheriff.

Councilman Mollenhauer said Mr. Clay Turner from the Solid Waste District will be speaking about the additional appropriation this evening. He also shared that Eleanor Nickell, who worked as a Matron for the La Porte County jail for 8 years, passed away on March 3rd. He said she will be missed and prayers go out to the family.

Councilman Yagelski discussed the case loaders that will be addressed at tonight's meeting. He said one of the current case loaders was purchased used, so they are old and can no longer go on the road. However, they will be used in the yard. He also attended a NICTD meeting on March 23rd. He stated that transportation money was approved, and actually doubled, by the U.S Congress and the President, so the double-track project will be able to move forward.

President Novak said that Councilmen Santana and Mollenhauer and he met with Veteran Service Officer Joe Golec. Mr. Golec will be providing reports on a regular basis. He also stated that the dishwasher being requested by the Juvenile Services Center was an emergency replacement.

Councilman Kirkham asked Councilman Yagelski to provide ridership information for the South Shore. Councilman Yagelski said he would do so at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Approval of Additional Appropriation from the La Porte County Solid Waste District Fund to a Capital Projects Fund in the Amount of \$500,000.00

Clay Turner, Executive Director, La Porte County Solid Waste District

Mr. Turner said advertisement was done in a timely fashion. He explained that the lease at Westville Correctional will expire in June 2018 and will not be renewed, so the composting site will have to be moved. Dollars are already being expended at the Ziegler Road site, so it makes sense to move it there. Mr. Turner said he was told in November 2017 that the lease would not be renewed, but that was after the budget was set so he has no capital dollars set aside for this project. The \$500,000.00 is for startup and incidental costs, but right now only \$153,000.00 is committed for engineering and the site plan. Anything that can be paid upfront will reduce costs. When the building gets built, Mr. Turner said he will have to go out and get financing but having to get as little financing as possible would be best for the Solid Waste District. The current dollars that he's taking are his surplus and he will no longer have the cushion. Also, user fees will not be increased for 2018 and he hopes for 2019.

Councilman Yagelski asked if the same type of facility will be maintained at Ziegler Road. He also asked if the colorization will continue. Mr. Turner said the colorization will not continue due to the high cost and use of too much of the product. Therefore, only natural colored product will be available. Councilman Yagelski then asked how it had previously been done and Mr. Turner explained that the equipment and product was provided by the Solid Waste District but the expertise was contracted out. Unfortunately, 1,500 yards had to be guaranteed, which is all that they had been producing. Mr. Turner added that he does not want to be competition to landscaping companies, but does want to provide a good service to the La Porte County residents.

Councilman Kirkham asked from where the majority of his customers come to dump and Mr. Turner replied it mostly residents from La Porte County. He does get customers from areas such as Crown Point and Chicago to buy mulch, but not many local commercial customers. President Novak asked if the Ziegler Road site would then be better maintained, and Mr. Turner replied yes and that it will be manned 5 ½ days per week.

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

2. House Bill 1263 Update

Attorney Shaw Friedman explained that Councilman Yagelski asked him to research this bill to determine if it could offer relief for counties looking to help finance addiction treatment and services. The bill does not do that, but does provide that a County Council may adopt an ordinance to impose a tax rate for correctional and rehabilitation facilities up to .2%. Legislative Services estimates in the County's case, it would yield approximately \$5,000,000.00 per year. The problem is that the way it was worded, the money must be maintained in a separate dedicated County fund and used by the County only to be used for correctional and rehabilitative facilities. It gives no definition as to what is considered a rehabilitation facility or that is could be used for treatment or services. Therefore, this particular statute doesn't provide the opportunity for which the County was looking.

Councilman Yagelski said he spoke to Representative Scott Pelath. Mr. Pelath said they may try to provide better definitions and there may be a legislative update. The possibility of the opioid treatment center may be coming in the future and the bill is promising.

Attorney Friedman said there are special sessions and technical corrections' days when the language in the bill could be addressed. Councilman Yagelski thanked Attorney Friedman and Auditor Winski.

3. La Porte County IT – Website Redesign

Darlene Hale, Director, La Porte County IT

Ms. Hale stated that this is a request for website redesign not to exceed \$74,000.00 that was going to be addressed later in the meeting. She explained that the last time the website was updated was 2003-2004 and it didn't have capability for mobile devices or consider ADA compliance. William from Civic Plus gave a presentation and explained areas of improvement including Project & Strategic goals, which included ADA compliance. The first goal is to provide a place to request services; the second goal would be to have the community voice help bring ideas to the community; the third goal would be to raise efficiencies and reduce costs; the fourth and fifth goals would be to modernize the County's online presence; the sixth and seventh goals would be to attract new residents/businesses and development; the eighth goal would be ADA/accessibility compliance; and the ninth goal is Civic Plus's investment in the County. He said it could be expanded into other areas and wants to help La Porte County reach its goals. He added that Civics Plus is honored to make the presentation and is ready to move forward when the County is ready.

Councilman Yagelski said it is a lot of information to consider and asked what other Counties William would like the Council to examine. William said he had some in the book and others he could email to the Council. He added that Michigan City's site is very beautiful. Councilman Yagelski asked if any counties only get the website design and then maintain it themselves. William replied no, and there is that possibility but it would require the County to have more resources on their end. By using Civic Plus, there is a security team will have full control to keep anyone from hacking the County's system.

Councilman Garner asked if there would be a dedicated person and how often the site is examined. William replied there would be multiple permission-based people within each department providing content management. Ms. Hale said she foresees that the Department Heads could designate who he/she wants to update the information on the website. In addition, various events could be posted on a community calendar and governmental meetings could be posted on a different calendar. People would also be able to get the information of which they are interested sent directly to their smart phones or email. Emergency alerts can also be sent to social media sites.

Councilman Santana asked if the capabilities to do the same updates are available on the current website but just haven't been done. Ms. Hale responded that any updates are program updates that are done by the IT staff and the individual departments do not have the capability to make specific updates. Currently, items are given to IT by the departments who then make the changes/updates. She added that the Sheriff was going to request a new web server but Ms. Hale asked him to hold off because his office would be included in this update.

Councilman Kirkham expressed concern that money is being spent to update the Courthouse which may eventually become obsolete because the activities that are currently done at the Courthouse will now be

able to be done online. Ms. Hale said an upcharge will be paid and then a \$2,500 maintenance cost will be needed, which she doesn't have in her budget at this time.

A motion to table the item until next month was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Courthouse – Space Plan Renovations

President Novak said he asked for this to be put on the Agenda so the La Porte project could be discussed. Attorney Friedman said it could also be deferred to a later time. President Novak asked that there just be a discussion. Councilman Garner said that if the Probation project was completed, the La Porte project would not be as expensive. On the other hand, the La Porte project includes the Probation area. That was not considered when it was discussed last month. The proposed amount for the La Porte project is \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00 but that does not include the egress which may raise that amount up to \$1,000,000.00. Therefore, the basement project could be delayed but sometimes security in the Courthouse is of utmost importance. Councilman Kirkham asked if the Probation renovation is completed, what would happen to the La Porte project. Councilman Santana added that Michigan City will move forward but there is uncertainty on the La Porte project. He continued that the egress is not necessary and asked from where the information on that came. President Novak asked for a determination of the favor of the Council on the La Porte project.

A motion to hold off on the project was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Councilman Yagelski said he understands Councilman Garner's concern but wants to know if it reflects on the downstairs building. President Novak asked if this has been sent down to Indianapolis for approval, but the County Engineer replied no. Therefore, the dollar amount is unknown. By taking a vote to delay the project tonight, it could still be brought up at a later date. Attorney Friedman clarified that the motion is to delay the overall Courthouse project and not the Probation project. President Novak said there have to be answers before the Council moves forward. Councilman Santana asked Mr. Jay Sullivan, the County Engineer, to address the Council. Mr. Sullivan said it is not necessary for anything to be sent to the state because no structural modifications are being done so a state permit isn't needed. The State and La Porte County Fire Marshalls said the concrete walk should be replaced with steps, a doorway should be added to the tunnel, and another doorway should be replaced and moved. Mr. Rich Gramarossa verified that he spoke to the La Porte County Fire Marshall who said a permit was not necessary. Councilman Yagelski said he's not comfortable with much of this because it's a lot of duplication and wonders if so many offices are necessary. He feels these are questions that should be answered and some of this will be tied to Michigan City.

Attorney Friedman interjected that it is premature to discuss the plans since the Commissioners have not yet received bids on the project. Then, the Commissioners can present cost and scope for the Council to consider. Councilman Yagelski said he does not agree with the project. Attorney Friedman said there was a Workshop approximately 18 months ago when the Judges came before

the Council and the Commissioners and requested Probation relocation due to the space issue. That's why the Commissioners decided to get bids and complete a study so the Council could give their input. Councilman Garner said the other part was why the study was completed on the walkway and Probation at the same time to see if there was justification for execution of the plans.

Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Garner and Kirkham voting Nay.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Consider Resolution of Support for Redevelopment Commission (RDC) Intent to Issue TIF Revenue Bonds for Water/Sewer Extension to Provide Economic Development Activity in I-94/421 Corridor

A motion for support was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilman Yagelski said he can support the sanitation part but not the water part. President Novak clarified that it is the water running under I-94. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Assessor

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Sales Disclosure Fund (1131)

For the Purchase of a Computer and Scanner

Not to Exceed
\$2,000.00

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

La Porte County Juvenile Services Center

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From 1000-30012-000-0176 to 1000-41007-000-0176

For Replacement of Dishwasher

\$3,238.49

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0. Auditor Winski said the amount was updated from \$3,407.00 to \$3238.49 due to a discount.

La Porte County Highway

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For 2 New Case Loaders

\$350,000.00

Mr. Bob Young said that Councilman Yagelski hit it right on the head. One of the loaders is 25 years old and the other is an Army surplus. They served their purpose and they won't be taken out of service but instead be used in the yard. The \$350,000.00 request is for two higher-end mid-size loaders. A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County Engineer
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Major Bridge Fund (1171)
For Franklin Street Bridge Electrical Upgrades

\$183,060.00

President Novak said this was for the emergency change order on the Franklin Street Bridge when they were doing the work. Mr. Jay Sullivan said he disseminated a lot of information to the Council via email. A representative from Marquiss Electric said his firm was hired by the County to replace the underground conduits and wiring. He explained the challenges that were encountered during the process of boring, determining responsibility, and other challenges faced while moving through the operation. He illustrated other obstacles including soil contamination and trenching along the concrete wall. He added that the conduits had to be encased in concrete due to state requirements. The Michigan City Sanitation Department assisted with paperwork and making reports to IDEM. After additional explanation, it was determined that there is enough conduit to maintain the bridge. The bridge is operational, the underground portion is completely replaced, and the IT cabling is new. There is also separate piping if needed in the future. Mr. Sullivan added that the INDOT Inspector will be there for the next two days to inspect the electrical equipment put into the bridge.

President Novak asked if the \$183,060.00 is the County's portion. The representative explained that Michigan City had their funds allocated for the additional depth of the boring and it wasn't included in the County portion.

The representative from Marquiss Electric said that there are five pipes; one is for the City, four are for the County, two of which are occupied for the bridge, one for IT, and one available for the County if necessary.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Councilman Garner asked for the total of the project. Auditor Winski replied it is \$529,060.00. She also said she gave the Council the total of available funds for the bridge.

Motion carried 4-3, with Councilmen Garner, Kirkham, and Yagelski voting Nay.

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

\$66,766.00

Sheriff John Boyd said \$47,106.00 is for the deputy's salary and benefits would be approximately \$19,660.00. He added that the demands on the Sheriff's office are drawing them thin. Calls for service last year were up 17%, and the office is having a difficult time watching the County roads and policing in general because they are short staffed. He said he would like to put someone in a truck enforcement position who is experienced, has the technical know-how, and is dedicated solely to doing that. In addition, he would like to backfill the truck enforcement position, with someone who is experienced and well-trained, but who would also take additional training with the Indiana State Police. Councilman Garner asked if the additional deputy is for the truck enforcement position. Sheriff Boyd replied

affirmatively but that the deputy would also have other responsibilities even though his primary obligation would be truck enforcement. He added that the office would have to go through the hiring process, but the eligibility list has been exhausted. The application period has opened and the testing will be in mid-May. However, when the background research and other evaluations are completed, it is likely that a deputy wouldn't be hired until July or August.

Councilman Mollenhauer asked if the State Police training would be free and Sheriff Boyd replied that it was offered to them. He also said the training would not be long, most likely several weeks to be held in Lowell. Councilman Mollenhauer asked about the cost of scales and equipment, and Sheriff Boyd said he is researching costs but plans to pay for most or all of it out of the Sheriff's discretionary and/or commissary accounts. He said he does not have any idea of these costs.

Councilman Yagelski asked for clarification on whether the State Police presence in La Porte County is low or proportionately low in the County. Sheriff Boyd said the County is not being punished by the State Police, but Councilman Yagelski wanted to make sure there was no misunderstanding.

President Novak asked Auditor Winski if this could be put in the general fund with the Process Service fees that are being captured by the Sheriff's Department instead of taking it out of Riverboat. Auditor Winski said those fees go into the unappropriated general fund which cannot be put into the budgeted general fund without an additional appropriation. In addition, unappropriated funds cannot be appropriated. However, when it's taken out of the Riverboat fund, it can be appropriated into the budgeted general fund. She added that she assumes there will be weight fines and, therefore, a fund can be established for these fines. Then, next year, the deputy may be able to be paid out of this new fund so it doesn't affect the general fund. Councilman Novak asked if at this time, the money would be taken out of the general fund but Auditor Winski said the Sheriff does not have enough money budgeted. She said Win Tax or Riverboat money can be put into the general fund and then into the Sheriff's budget. Councilman Yagelski said he knows for a fact that the last officer hired for the school system, approximately three to four years ago, was hired mid-year and paid out of the general fund. Auditor Winski said it had to be appropriated out of something and put into the general fund, unless there was an overage in the Sheriff's budget and it was transferred out of one of his funds. She added there can always be transfers from a 300 to a 100 account as long as it is approved by the Council. Councilman Novak asked if the Sheriff's department is at full staff. Sheriff Boyd said they are where they should be and have one in the academy. Councilman Sullivan asked if a can of worms will be opened if the deputy is paid out of Riverboat. Auditor Winski replied no because that is normally how it is done. Councilman Santana asked when was the last time someone was hired and paid out of Riverboat or Win Tax. Auditor Winski replied she was unsure and could update the Council later.

Councilman Santana told the Sheriff he is in complete support of his request, but not out of these funds. He said that is not the use for which these funds were meant. He said he would vote affirmatively if another fund could be used. Councilman Yagelski asked Sheriff Boyd if there is another one of his funds that could be used. Sheriff Boyd said it is impossible to predict what the department will need, especially since it is so early in the year. Councilman Mollenhauer asked about the Cop's grant, but Sheriff Boyd said for the last few years, his office has been denied including the current year. However, his office will not stop pursuing the grant in the future. Councilman Mollenhauer said he is also in support of this deputy, but he's also looking at a school resource officer in La Crosse. Sheriff Boyd said La Crosse has an education grant, and there are four deputies working overtime who are being paid for by Tri-Township schools. Therefore, there is a presence there. Sheriff Boyd said he doesn't know when the grant expires,

but has never heard of a grant being denied for a school resource officer, especially given what's been going on in the country.

President Novak asked that if the Council does a motion of support, could the funding be delayed until next month so funding sources can be researched. Auditor Winski replied yes. A motion of support was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Councilman Mollenhauer confirmed with Attorney Friedman that he was eligible to vote. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Coroner

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
For Replacement Vehicle**

**Not to Exceed
\$35,000.00**

Coroner Cutler said the vehicle is a Suburban that is 11 years old and has 187,000 miles on it. He said it is at the garage all the time. He is asking for a used vehicle with low miles and the lights can be pulled out of the old car and put into the replacement.

A motion to approve out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Councilman Mollenhauer asked if the old vehicle will be traded in and Coroner Cutler said yes. Councilman Sullivan added that the lights and radio could be taken from that vehicle and put into the new one. He said he also has two local dealers looking at used vehicles with under 35,000 miles for under \$35,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Planner

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Emergency Reserve Fund (1186) (LOIT Additional Funds)
For Local Match on Lofgren Road/150N/250E Intersection Improvement Grant**

\$100,000.00

Auditor Winski clarified that emergency reserve funds are not being used but are actually additional LOIT funds that were put into the emergency reserve fund. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Major Bridge Fund (1171)
For Local Match on Bridge #186 over Kankakee River Rehab Project Grant**

\$400,000.00

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

La Porte County EMS

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
For Purchase of Replacement Ambulance
For Loose Equipment for Ambulance
For Replacement of ALS Support Vehicle
For Loose Equipment for Support Vehicle
Total**

**\$225,000.00
\$ 13,800.00
\$ 44,000.00
\$ 11,500.00
\$294,300.00**

Mr. Andrew McGuire said he advertised for \$225,000.00 because he didn't have bids at the time. He said three bids were received for a 2018 Type 3 E Series ambulance. The lowest bid, which was accepted, was from North Central Ambulance for \$176,110.00, which includes a trade in. Also, loose equipment is necessary. President Novak said the first two items and second two items will be addressed separately.

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman Santana asked Auditor Winski if this could come out of CCD. She replied it could but it wasn't advertised that way. She added she also wasn't sure how much Sheriff vehicles were going to cost this year. President Novak asked for the balance in the CCD fund. Auditor Winski replied the balance right now is \$837,452.95. She said the cost of the Sheriff's cars would have to be determined first, which usually cost between \$300,000.00 and \$350,000.00. She also said that the request would have to be re-advertised if the Council wants to use the CCD fund. Councilman Santana questioned whether the amount could be taken out of Riverboat or Win Tax now and then later transfer the funds from CCD. Auditor Winski said a motion of support out of CCD could be approved tonight, it could be re-advertised, and then approved at the following meeting.

Councilman Sullivan amended his motion to support out of CCD for \$176,100.00 for the vehicle and \$13,800 of loose equipment. Councilman Yagelski asked Mr. McGuire what is wrong with the current vehicle. He replied it is due to wear and tear and the trade-in value being given is \$20,000.00. Councilman Yagelski said there is a used car in Hanna that could have been included in the trade-in. He asked that this be considered in the future.

Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Garner voting Nay.

Mr. McGuire said the ALS vehicle is a 2006 GMC Yukon with 104,000 miles on it. It is in fair condition but has been deemed in need of replacement as an emergency vehicle. However, it could be used as a training vehicle and the Dodge Caravan currently being used can be utilized somewhere else in the County. Mr. McGuire said that local bids were solicited but only one was received which was incomplete. A bid was received from Kelly Chevrolet in Fort Wayne for a 2018 Chevy Tahoe at a cost of \$36,790.00 for a special services vehicle. The trade-in value for the 2006 Dodge Caravan is \$500, but Mr. McGuire feels it would be better used in the County.

Auditor Winski said this could be handled the same as the previous request and the Council could approve a motion of support. A motion of support for \$47,000.00 was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 4-2, with Councilmen Garner and Yagelski voting Nay, and Councilman Kirkham stepped away for a moment.

La Porte County II

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
For Website Redesign**

\$73,980.00

This item was tabled earlier in the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Mollenhauer took the opportunity to tell those who participated in rallies/protests against assault weapons that they are doing a great job. Something needs to be done and laws need to be changed. He said the students did a terrific job by participating.

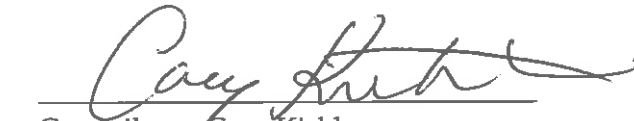
Councilman Santana said he was approached by a citizen and apologized for the Council talking over each other at times. He said it can be difficult to realize someone else is speaking. He suggested the Council adopt a similar system as Michigan City where a light will illuminate when a Council member wants to speak. The Council President could then acknowledge each person one at a time. He doesn't believe it would be a large expense. He feels it would make the meetings more citizen friendly. He said he will take it upon himself to check with IT.

A motion to adjourn was made by President Novak.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 23rd of April, 2018.



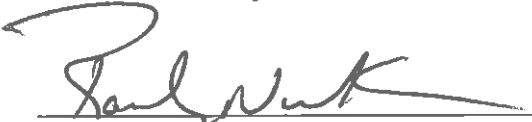
Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Cary Kirkham



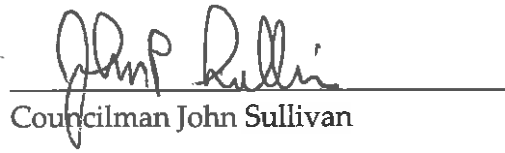
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:



Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor