



*LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
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LaPorte, IN 46350-3490*

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on September 24, 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 SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Bob Cutler, La Porte County Coroner

Mr. Cutler explained that a mutual aid partnership has been formed with Kosciusko and St. Joseph Counties to share supplies, manpower and ideas, especially St. Joseph County who has more supplies and manpower than La Porte County. In addition, the partnership was the brainchild of the Coroner in St. Joseph County. Secondly, there is a free Narcan training on September 25th at noon and 1:00 p.m. at the Frontline Foundation at 714 Lincolnway. Participants will be given a free nasal Narcan. There will also be

a luncheon with the training starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. Ann Klute from the La Porte County Health Department will be presenting.

Councilman Kirkham asked whether there has been any progress on the shared laboratory with other counties. Mr. Cutler said it is not a feasible option because of the competition between labs and that each Coroner wants the lab in his or her county. Due to the competition, lab costs have actually decreased and Mr. Cutler anticipates that he will be able to work within his budget going forward.

Lois Sosinski, La Porte County Recorder

Recorder Sosinski stated that she attended the AIC Conference where she participated in several breakout sessions. She explained she needs 40 credit hours of education within 3 years, which she is confident she will exceed. She added that she met with the State Board of Accounts who informed her that it will be necessary to upload reconciliations and bank statements monthly. She has also been contemplating accepting credit cards in the Recorder's Office. She has been researching this idea and will have a more comprehensive plan by the beginning of next year. She has also found a company that would charge a flat \$1.00 fee versus a percentage of the transaction cost. There would be no charge to the County or the Perpetuation Fund. Councilman Yagelski asked if this addition would have to go before the Commissioners. Recorder Sosinski said she was unsure and why she wants to do further research. Councilman Yagelski thought the acceptance of credit cards throughout the County was already in place. Councilman Santana asked if the credit card machine would insure that the funds are available so money would not have to be pursued by her office. Again, Recorder Sosinski said she was unsure but is why she needs to complete additional research. Auditor Winski suggested that she speak to Mike Ordziejewski who handles a lot of that software for the County. She added that the Commissioners would have to sign the contract.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Kirkham attended a Transportation Research Oversight Committee meeting on September 18th, which is part of NIRPC. He said that Mitch Bishop will expand on what was discussed when he comes before the Council later in the meeting. He also attended a Government Affairs breakfast which was attended by Senator Bohacek. He said taxation on VRBOs and online purchases was being considered. In addition, La Porte Hospital now has a clinic at La Porte High School.

Councilman Sullivan said the La Porte County Tax Sale will be held online this year from October 18th to October 22nd. Information can be found on the SRI website and as of today, there are 1,292 parcels listed. However, that number will decrease as taxpayers still have the opportunity to pay their taxes and become current. Registered bidders who are residents of La Porte County must be current on their taxes and can register up to 48 hours prior to the sale. Property owners who are scheduled to be on the tax sale have until October 16th at 4:00 p.m. to pay their delinquent taxes and be removed from the sale. He also gave a reminder that the fall installment of property taxes is due on November 13, 2018.

Councilman Santana attended the September 11th Drainage Board meeting. He said this board is essential to a successful, working county. He acknowledged Tony Hendricks, Christine Keil, Mike Ordziejewski, and Michael Polan who have all demonstrated dedication. Their mission is to determine an assessment of the DW Place Drain, which dates back to 1919. EMS is on the agenda this evening, and Paladin has an Open House on October 6th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the previous Barker Woods location. Any and all are welcome to attend. He also gave a shout out to Bob Young who steps up when needed.

Councilman Garner said the Recorder is on tonight's agenda and he also spoke with the Auditor regarding raises.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the County Employee Health Insurance meeting on September 5th. He said that at the next GIS meeting on the 26th, he will pass on the information regarding the billing. Lastly, he acknowledged the passing of Mr. Ralph Howes, who was a long time Merit Commission member.

Councilman Yagelski had nothing at this time.

President Novak attended budget meetings with the Auditor, and also the most recent Regional Sewer Board meeting. The Redevelopment Commission is working hand-in-hand with them on a project. Several of his liaisons are included in tonight's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration to Include Language in the Annual Salary Ordinance to Determine Part Time Salary for Paramedics, EMTs, and E-911

Barb Mossman, Human Resource Director, stated that the State Board of Accounts discovered that there is no language in the EMS part time salary ordinance on how part time salaries are determined. There is language found that dates back to 2007, which Ms. Mossman is asking to be added. She explained the breakdown of the pay per the Council's request. The hourly rate for a Paramedic is \$23.46, for an EMT is \$18.51 and 911 is \$18.01. President Novak said this is just establishing the current salary. A motion to approve the inclusion of language in the annual salary ordinance to determine part time salary for paramedics, EMTs, and E-911 was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Consider Approval of Council President's Authorization to Hire Replacement Positions for Museum Curator – Board of Commissioners/Historical Society Museum and Executive Director for Community Corrections

A motion to approve the Council President's Authorization to Hire Replacement Position for Museum Curator – Board of Commissioners/Historical Society Museum was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion to approve the Council President's Authorization to Hire an Executive Director for Community Corrections was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion to remove the previous meeting's Library Board motion from the table was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0. A motion to table was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Kirkham and Santana voting Nay.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2018-9 Real Property Declaratory Resolution for Northpoint Development, LLC

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilmen Santana and Kirkham. Motion carried 7-0.

Auditor Winski read by title only.

Mr. Matt Reardon from La Porte County Economic Development introduced staff members from North Point Development. He explained how his office became acquainted with North Point and that they want to create jobs and obtain a property tax abatement. Brent Miles from North Point Development detailed his company and explained how he came to La Porte County and what he hopes to accomplish. He also discussed his team and their backgrounds, and other companies with which North Point is affiliated.

Councilman Garner asked what is projected to be put into the building. Mr. Miles said it is being bought without a tenant, but companies are being pursued. However, he said it is most likely to be a grocery-related tenant because of the refrigeration system that already exists within the building. He added that there is rail service, and does not expect there to be a rail related use.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Councilman Santana said he appreciates the 5 year abatement and said President Novak and he previously worked at the facility. He said \$24,550,000.00 is being invested and the building has been vacant long enough. President Novak said he spent three years of his life there as a child and does not enjoy seeing the building currently vacant. He said he appreciates North Point and welcomed them to Westville. Motion carried 7-0.

Authorize Public Notice for Hearing on Confirmatory Resolution for Northpoint Development, LLC, Real Property Tax Abatement at the October 29, 2018 County Council Meeting

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

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Human Resources

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Drug Testing

\$2,800.00

A motion to approve out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Auditor Winski asked that Ordinances and Resolution be revisited due to an item being inadvertently excluded from the agenda. President Novak asked that this appropriation be completed. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Computer Replacement Rotation

\$10,170.00

President Novak said that instead of EMS coming for new computers all at one time, they are requesting computer replacement rotation. Mr. Andrew McGuire, La Porte County EMS Director, echoed his

sentiment and said this was started approximately three to four years ago. He added that he has spoken to Darlene Hale and she said to replace instead of repair. A motion to approve out of Win Tax was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

Requesting Permission to Spend
From EMS Donation Fund (4103)
For the Purchase of Additional Ambulance **\$196,110.00**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0. Mr. McGuire thanked the donor for her generosity and willingness to make such an impact on La Porte County. President Novak asked that Mr. McGuire pass on thanks from the Council and him, as a taxpayer, to the donor. Councilman Kirkham asked if any grants have been obtained to outfit the ambulance. Mr. McGuire said the donor is assisting and he is also researching grants for this purpose. Councilman Santana asked if the Council could thank her in some way, but Mr. McGuire said she is insistent on staying anonymous. He did say he discussed some type of acknowledgement to her and she said she would consider it at a later date.

La Porte County Planner
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)
For Match Money for Change Orders on Lincoln Trail Grant **\$2,906.00**
For Hanna/Rolling Sidewalks Grant **\$2,393.80**
TOTAL **\$4,489.80**

Mr. Mitch Bishop said these are two separate projects for which the Federal Government, NIRPC, and INDOT have contributed 80% of \$22,449.00. Therefore, the local portion is \$4,489.80. He also explained the reasons for the change orders. A motion to approve the match money for the change order on Lincoln Trail grant out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

A motion to approve the match money for the change order for the Hanna/Rolling Sidewalk grant out of Win Tax (4220) was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County Problem Solving Court
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220) **Not to Exceed**
For Intensive Care Manager **\$35,000.00**

Judge Greta Friedman explained that Judge Alevizos was unable to attend so she was speaking on behalf of both of them. She said this is a match grant that ends this month. She believes it will be significantly less than \$35,000.00. She added that a \$10,500.00 grant was received within the last two weeks and she will be looking at the Healthcare Foundation to continue the employment of this person. Councilman Yagelski said the Problem Solving Court has been very successful and made a motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) which was seconded by Councilmen Santana and Garner until it can be reimbursed out of one of the Prosecutor's funds. Councilman Yagelski asked about the amounts in the two Prosecutor funds. Auditor Winski said fund 2500 has \$261,618.54, and 2501 has \$90,071.74. President Novak clarified that the motion

is being done this way so the money can be immediately available instead of waiting for it to be advertised out of one of the Prosecutor's funds. He also said there are no additional maintenance grants for this employee. Judge Friedman said it is likely that several smaller grants will be put together for this employee to continue. Councilman Santana said the Prosecutor can't be forced to use the money in his funds, which means a wage will be paid out of Riverboat or Win Tax and he is not comfortable with that. President Novak said he feels it is for a one-time use. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Kirkham and Santana voting Nay.

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Probation User Fees (2102)

To La Porte County Problem Solving Court

For Operating Expenses

\$10,000.00

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

Judge Friedman explained that the \$10,500.00 grant was specifically for drug testing of synthetic opiates and synthetic marijuana. Councilman Yagelski thanked her for obtaining that grant.

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Probation User Fees (2102)

For Computer Equipment, Software, and Chairs for La Porte Circuit Court

\$4,509.65

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

La Porte County Recorder

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Recorder's Perpetuation (1189-20001-000-0324) Office Supplies

To (1189-41004-000-0324) Office Equipment/Furniture

For the Purchase of Storage cabinets and Filing Cabinets

\$1,687.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Recorder Sosinski said it is in her 2018 office supply budget, but is just transferring it out due to a broken item. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County 911

Requesting Permission to Spend

From State 911 Fund (1222)

For Server Upgrade

\$147,070.11

Mr. John Dudek said the server needs to be upgraded/refreshed and the money is in his surcharge account. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Commissioners/Maintenance

Requesting Permission to Spend

From CCD (1138)	
For Paving of the Juvenile Center Parking Lot	\$ 97,000.00
And the Replacement of the Staefa System in the County Complex	<u>\$170,290.00</u>
TOTAL	\$267,290.00

Auditor Winski said the actual amount for the paving is \$97,500.00. President Novak stated that there was previously a motion in favor of this, but it hadn't yet been funded. Councilman Yagelski said he understood the paving would also include the parking lot behind the Hiler building. Auditor Winski said it first had to be advertised separately. She added that the paving for both parking lots was budgeted, but it was brought before the Council as a courtesy. A motion to approve the paving of both parking lots (\$97,500.00 for the Juvenile Center parking lot and \$67,000.00 for the Hiler building parking lot) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 7-0.

President Novak explained that the Staefa system is not only for the jail but the entire County complex. A motion to approve the replacement of the Staefa system in the jail was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilman Yagelski stated that this was not part of the contract that was previously approved by the Council and asked how it was missed. Chief Deputy Heeg explained earlier in the summer a thunderstorm caused a power outage which ultimately fried the system for the County complex. Councilman Yagelski asked why there was no protector for after the system was modernized by Ameresco. Auditor Winski said it was installed in 2003 and not part of the Ameresco project. Councilman Yagelski disagreed and said he attended the meetings and this was supposed to be covered. Auditor Winski said this was not touched by Ameresco. Councilman Kirkham said there are instances where this can happen due to a delay in the system. He said these type of occurrences cannot always be anticipated. Councilman Garner added he was in the Courthouse when the power surge occurred and saw a lot of scrambling. President Novak asked if this is being completed in-house, but Chief Deputy Heeg said those questions would have to be answered by Mr. Gramarossa. Auditor Winski said she believes the project is being completed in house by Doug Newland. Councilman Yagelski asked if there is anything being done to address this type of issue in the future. Councilman Santana suggested tabling this item and waiting until Mr. Gramarossa can attend to answer questions. Auditor Winski said this has to be done immediately. President Novak said since it happened this summer, he didn't understand the urgency. Auditor Winski explained that it was asked for in August, but could not be addressed until September. President Novak said he feels there are too many unanswered questions and he would prefer to delay until someone could supply more information.

A motion to table was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Garner and Kirkham voting Nay.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Kirkham said that if anyone happens to watch Chicago Fire, his wife and he were extras on the program.

Councilman Santana acknowledged Mike Kobus, who passed away on Saturday. He said he attended many County meetings and was well-versed on a lot of topics. He was a good citizen who cared about this County.

Councilman Yagelski said he is very disappointed that the La Porte County Library decided not to listen to the County Council. He also asked if the County Home can be put to rest. He said it has already been

60 days, and another winter is going to be detrimental to the building. President Novak asked that Attorney Friedman set up a meeting with the Commissioners.

President Novak echoed the sentiments of Councilman Yagelski regarding the Library Board.

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

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 29th of October, 2018.

ABSENT
Councilman Terry Garner

Cary Kirkham
Councilman Cary Kirkham

Mike Mollenhauer
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

Randy Novak
Councilman Randy Novak

Jeff Santana
Councilman Jeff Santana

John Sullivan
Councilman John Sullivan

Mark Yagelski
Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: Joie Winski
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor