



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 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 November 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 NOVEMBER 26, 2018 AGENDA

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Garner. President Novak stated that the Clerk's Office sent over a request for permission to hire, so he asked it be added to the Agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. President Novak said that on page 6 there was an error in the motion for EMS; it stated motion carried 6-1, when there were only 6 members in attendance. Therefore it should read 5-1. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Rosenbaum, 1515 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

Mr. Rosenbaum thanked Councilman Kirkham for his service to the Council. He said that it is difficult to comprehend how much time and effort it takes to be a member of the Council, so he recognized Councilman Kirkham for his devotion to his constituents, neighbors, and district. He also congratulated

Councilmen Garner, Novak and Yagelski for their success in remaining on the Council, and said he looks forward to being a member of the Council.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Lois Sosinski, La Porte County Recorder and Angie Rose, La Porte County Chief Deputy Recorder

Recorder Sosinski reported on progress in her office. She said that shortly after she came to the Recorder's Office, she realized it was necessary to create a training manual. Therefore, Chief Deputy Rose and the staff constructed a comprehensive manual, for which Recorder Sosinski expressed gratitude.

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

Mr. Eyrick reminded the Council and the audience that Drug Court graduation is next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Complex.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Garner expressed appreciation for the creation of the training manual in the Recorder's Office.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended a Redevelopment Commission meeting on October 31st.

Councilman Yagelski had nothing at this time.

Councilman Santana attended an EMA meeting on October 20th that was comprehensive and contained a great deal of information. In addition EMS and Building Maintenance are on the tonight's agenda.

Councilman Sullivan attended the October Planning Commission meeting.

Councilman Kirkham will be attending a NIRPC meeting on December 6th. He also apologized to Jane Bernard for not making too many of the Animal Shelter meetings.

President Novak attended the Redevelopment Commission, E911 Advisory Board, and Fair Not for Profit Board meetings in October.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Franklin Street Bridge Study - Lochner

Councilman Yagelski gave a brief presentation of the Franklin Street Bridge Study completed by Lochner. President Novak said the study would be gone into more depth at the beginning of 2019 and a workshop with Lochner will be scheduled. Councilman Yagelski said the study has been prepared for three years and could be used to obtain federal funds to pay for repairs to the bridge. Councilman Kirkham asked if there are any recommendations included in the study and Councilman Yagelski replied yes. He said there are recommendations, alternatives, and a vast amount of technical information in the study. Councilman Kirkham asked if the recent electrical issue was repaired, and Councilman Yagelski replied yes. He added that the bridge could be deconstructed and moved to another location to preserve its historical value.

2. Consider Approval of Council President's Authorization to Hire Replacement Positions for Purdue Extension Office and Assistant Maintenance Director

Auditor Winski asked that when there is a vote on the Assistant Maintenance Director, that there also needs to be a determination if it is retroactive. President Novak said that as long as was previously approved, it would be retroactive to when the person was hired and put into the position. Councilman Santana asked

for clarification, and President Novak said it would not be retroactive if the person was not in the position. He also said the Clerk's Office permission to hire will also be addressed. A motion to approve the three positions was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion approved 7-0.

3. Consider Approval of Drug Free Partnership Disbursements – Joseph Bunch

Mr. Bunch said he submitted an allocation of what his agencies have submitted to him in grants, so he is looking for approval. Councilman Yagelski asked if money will be donated, and Mr. Bunch replied that if there is still a need for funding that was not covered by the Health Foundation, he will pursue it. He added that the DARE program was retooled in 2008, so there is a lot of research behind the new healthy choice and decision making program. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilmen Kirkham and Mollenhauer. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Consider Approval of Threshold Amount on Expenditures to be Approved from the CCD Fund

Councilman Yagelski said he would like set a threshold amount due to the confusion that had previously occurred. Auditor Winski suggested \$100,000.00, but Councilman Yagelski countered with \$50,000.00. Therefore, a motion to approve a \$50,000.00 threshold was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion approved 7-0.

5. Consider Request to make Assistant IT Director unclassified/exempt and adjust salary to 85% of IT Director's Salary - \$4,976.00 Increase to 2019 Budget

Darlene Hale, IT Director, asked that the Council consider this for the 100 account discussion. She said Craig Lutz, Assistant IT Director, is on call 24/7 so she would like to see this increase. However, she also said Mr. Lutz understands he would no longer be eligible for longevity raises. Councilman Santana said that Chief Deputies receive 85% of the elected official in his/her department, but that Ms. Hale is not an elected official. Ms. Hale said Mr. Lutz doesn't get comp time or overtime like her other staff.

6. Barb Mossman – Job Evaluations

Ms. Mossman said the review of job evaluations include the current salary, the recommended classification salary, and the difference. She reviewed each position and explained the difference in each one. Councilman Yagelski asked if employees in other paralegal positions would now want an increase as in the paralegal position reviewed by Ms. Mossman. Ms. Mossman replied that she believes Judge Alevizos mentioned it to other courts and they would want to step up and do the same. Councilman Santana asked if the increases were determined by the Job Evaluation Committee and Ms. Mossman replied yes. She added that there is an Information Technology position being retitled to Network Administrator, but there is also a Network Administrator position in 911. However, that position is an exempt position with a salary determined by the Council. She does not know if the positions are identical in job responsibilities and duties. She added that the Matron's salary was not on the review of the 100 accounts. She also mentioned the Courthouse Security position was going to be increased, but President Novak said that it was previously approved.

7. Consideration and Vote on 100 Account Requests for 2019 Budget

Purdue Extension (10235) - \$5,103.38 – Extension Educators Contract 2.5% Increase

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Garner. Councilman Santana said he was not comfortable giving this increase without knowing what the La Porte County employees were going to receive. He said that if the motion fails, the Council could give the same amount as the other La Porte County employees. Councilman Garner said the 2.5% is the only amount being requested; the County has pensions and other factors to consider.

Denise Schroeder, Interim CED for La Porte County, said the 2.5% covers the local educators, but also specialist information and research-based programs, including non-traditional programs. There are 3 positions in the La Porte County office that are fully funded through the Federal Government. Councilman Yagelski said Purdue Extension negotiates its own contracts. Motion carried 4-3, with Councilmen Novak, Santana and Yagelski voting Nay.

IT (10130) - \$18,000.00 – Part-Time Account (Switchboard) & Craig

Councilman Yagelski said the \$18,000.00 is a switchover from Rich Gramarossa's contract and not an increase. A motion to approve \$18,000.00 was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

Recorder (10111 & 10112) - \$9,249.95 – Increase to Elected Official Salary (\$5,000.00) and 85% to Chief Deputy (\$4,249.95)

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski said the Council was asked not to approve the back and forth of these elected jobs, but they were all over the place and it has come back to haunt the Council. Councilman Garner said there were major problems in this office and held the salary lower for the reason that the elected official wouldn't comply with the Council. Councilman Mollenhauer said the Recorder is paying for an employee out of a particular fund and is doing a great job. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Yagelski voting Nay.

Sheriff (10126) - \$141,318.00 – 3 Additional Employees

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

EMS (10148 & 10149) - \$270,692.00 – 6 Additional Employees

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

Commissioners (10130) - \$275,748.00 – Increase in Deductions to Add 9 Additional Employees (EMS & Sheriff)

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

Commissioners (10130) - \$10,916.00 – Increase in Part-Time Account

Auditor Winski said this increase is for the part-time VSO officer. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Councilman Santana read a statement regarding the need for a VSO in Michigan City and his opposition to this increase. Councilman Yagelski said he wished the politics would have stayed out of this and the appointed VSO would make his way around the County to assist Veterans. Commissioner Kora said he would appreciate any ideas to improve the service to all Veterans. Councilman Garner asked if Michigan City is contributing but President Novak said no. It was also made clear that this increase accounts for two days per week for the part-time VSO. President Novak said he likes the idea of covering more of the County, as brought up by Councilman Santana. Commissioner Kora said his office is open to suggestions. Councilman Mollenhauer said he hopes a monthly report will continue to come from the Commissioners and Commissioner Kora said they would continue. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

Human Resources (10130) - \$2,500.00 – Part-Time Intern

Barb Mossman stated there were several projects her office wanted to work on, so she thought a college student could gain some experience through an internship. Councilman Mollenhauer asked if it is needed at this time. Ms. Mossman replied that she understands if it's not feasible at this time but would like to revisit in the future. Councilman Yagelski suggested that the internship could be unpaid and be available for the experience. A motion to deny this request was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Garner voting Nay.

Park Department (10130) - \$6,000.00 – Increase in Part-Time Account

Director Jeremy Sobecki said his department struggles every year to find and keep people to fill their maintenance positions. He said he is requesting the increase to raise the pay from \$9.00 in order to retain employees. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilmen Kirkham and Sullivan. Councilman Santana asked if Mr. Sobecki went to the Commissioners to give an employee a take-home vehicle and Mr. Sobecki replied yes. He explained that the employee had to drive daily back to Luhr Park to drop off the vehicle and he realized an hour of productivity was being lost per day. Councilman Santana said it is like giving that person a raise. Mr. Sobecki also said the part-time employees do not receive the raises given by the County. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

Weights & Measures (10130) - \$2,670.00 – Increase in Part-Time Account

Councilman Yagelski asked for the purpose of the raise and Auditor Winski replied it was due to an increase for a part-time employee from \$10.80 per hour to \$13.00 per hour, with the employee working 29 ½ hours per week. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

EMA (10130) - \$5,000.00 – Increase in Part-Time Account

Councilman Santana said this was previously requested and asked if it's in addition to the \$5,000.00 already approved. Councilman Yagelski said Mr. Butcher hired someone and ran out of money so an additional \$5,000.00 was approved at the last meeting. Chief Deputy Auditor Deckard stated that the \$5,000.00 was requested by Mr. Butcher to be added to the budget for 2019. A motion to deny was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

County Planner - \$10,000.00 – Increase to Salary

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham but there was no second, so the motion died. A motion to approve \$2,500.00 was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Garner. Councilman Santana said he would support a gradual increase but not a full increase all at one time. President Novak added that Mitch Bishop has been doing a fantastic job and is appreciated. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Kirkham and Yagelski voting Nay.

Consider Request to make Assistant IT Director Unclassified/Exempt and Adjust Salary to 85% of IT Director's Salary - \$4,976.00 Increase to 2019 Budget

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

Auditor Winski asked for a revote on the previously approved \$18,000.00 IT request to increase it to \$25,000.00. Darlene Hale said she requested \$25,000.00 to pay switchboard; she said she has \$7,000.00 for an IT part-time person, but that was included in the \$18,000.00 switchboard money. Auditor Winski said the 2018 budget was taken down \$15,179.00. Ms. Hale said the part-time amount of \$25,000.00 would cover two part-time people at a total of 40 hours per week. Auditor Winski confirmed that IT part-time amount

will come from Maintenance. A motion to rescind his previous motion was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. A motion to approve \$25,000.00 was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded Councilman Santana. Motion approved 7-0. A motion to deduct the \$25,000.00 from Maintenance part-time was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Mollenhauer voting Nay.

Job Evaluations

Clerk – Bookkeeper - \$3,350.00

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

Purdue Extension – Second Deputy/Secretary Agriculture and Natural Resources - \$3,350.00

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

Purdue Extension – Secretary/Administrative Assistant for 4H Youth Development - \$3,350.00

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

Circuit Court - Paralegal/Chief of Staff/Paralegal - \$2,609.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Councilman Yagelski expressed concern that only one office was being addressed and there are many paralegals working for the County. Motion carried 4-3, with Councilmen Garner, Santana and Yagelski voting Nay.

Health Department – Environmental Health Supervisor - \$8,778.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Santana commented that this was a significant increase and suggested a lesser one. Councilman Garner said guidelines direct the Job Evaluation Committee to a justifiable salary for each position. Motion carried 4-3, with Councilmen Kirkham, Santana and Yagelski voting Nay.

IT – Systems Technician/Network Administrator - \$4,546.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Garner voting Nay.

Jail – Matron – Increase to Sergeant

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

8. 2019 Salary Discussion and Vote

A motion to give the County employees a 1.5% increase for 2019 was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski stated he'd like to see the employee insurance contribution increase. He also said the Commissioners decided to add an additional holiday and that was not part of the agreement with the Commissioners. There are 15 holidays per year, whether or not it is an election year. President Novak clarified that if the insurance increase would have been passed on to the employees and they were given a 2% raise, it would be equivalent to the 1.5% increase. Motion carried 4-3, with Councilman Garner, Kirkham and Yagelski voting Nay.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

President Novak recognized the La Porte and South Central high students in the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Public Hearing on Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement for Northpoint Development, LLC

Mr. Matt Reardon expressed frustration over having to designate an Economic Revitalization Area to create a Tax Abatement area. One of his recommendations for next year is to create an ERA area for the entire County and then the process of obtaining tax abatements would be less arduous.

Hearing or seeing no public for comment, President Novak closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No 2018-10 Real Property Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement for Northpoint Development, LLC

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

Resolution No 2018-11 Personal Property Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement for Dollar General

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski. Mr. Reardon said Dollar General will be leasing 270,000 square feet, cold storage, in the Northpoint facility. Dollar General will also establish a regional distribution center and spend an additional \$8,000,000.00 in this facility. The recommendation is for a five-year tax abatement. Attorney Friedman said this is for the declaratory only and the confirmatory will be at the next meeting. Mr. Reardon said the warehouse is located at 6500 S 421. Motion carried 7-0.

Authorize Public Notice for Hearing on Confirmatory Resolution for Dollar General, Personal Property Tax Abatement at the January 28, 2019 County Council Meeting

A motion for the Auditor to read by title only was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0. Auditor Winski read by title only. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Coroner

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From 30032 Lab/X-ray

To 41004 Office Equipment

For Purchase of a Copy Machine

\$585.00

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

La Porte County EMA

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191)

For Fuel and Training

\$1,700.00

Councilman Yagelski asked if there is any more money in the EMA accounts and Auditor Winski replied no. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Kirkham voting Nay.

La Porte County Sheriff

**Requesting Permission to Hire Replacement
For Mechanic Position in County Garage**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Sheriff John Boyd stated the employee will be leaving in February. Therefore, he wants to get the process started so the new employee can start immediately after the previous employee leaves. Motion carried 7-0.

**Requesting Permission to Spend from Misdemeanant Fund (1175)
For Jail Computers**

\$22,883.04

Sheriff Boyd said this is to replace 24 computers that are approximately ten years old and are starting to fail. The computers operate all of the jail doors and retain reports. He said Darlene Hale was consulted and she stated this is a good price for the computers and the currently computers are woefully out of date. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Kirkham. Motion carried 7-0.

**Requesting Permission to Spend from Commissary Account
For Taser Replacements**

\$30,000.00

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

**Requesting Permission to Spend from K-9 Donation Account
For Miscellaneous K-9 Equipment**

**Not to Exceed
\$2,000.00**

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

**Requesting Permission to Transfer from 1000-10126-000-0105
To 1000-10140-000-0182 for Overtime for Courthouse Building Security**

\$20,000.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Mollenhauer suggested to Sheriff Boyd that current mechanics should be included on the interviews for the new mechanic.

Fairgrounds Management & Events Corporation

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191)
For Fairgrounds Sewer & Water Project**

\$125,000.00

Mr. Keith Swanson from the La Porte County Fairgrounds Management and Events distributed books to the Council. He went through the book and explained what money was spent for individual electrical

upgrades. Moving forward, buildings are being inspected and information is included in the book. He said there are four wells at the Fairgrounds, but the plan is to add city water. This will not include the campground and it will have its own separate well for now. Many quotes were received for this project, but there are challenges. The County Engineer said it would cost \$260,000.00, but Mr. Swanson worked with Bob Young from the Highway Department and Tony Hendricks from the Surveyor’s Office to reduce the price. Councilman Garner clarified that this is an additional \$125,000.00. Mr. Swanson said the price is lower because there will be construction during the winter; if it was done in the spring, the price would increase. Auditor Winski explained that the Council had previously approved \$250,000.00 and \$125,000.00 has already been given; this is the remainder for 2018. President Novak said that was incorrect and it was \$125,000.00 for 2018 and \$125,000.00 for 2019; this is an additional request \$125,000.00 for additional projects. Councilman Santana asked for what the money is earmarked. Mr. Swanson explained that there needs to be a three phase (electrical) at the Fairgrounds and power is being lost out at the shooting range where security is needed; the money needs to be spent on building and transformers. He explained how the three phase could be completed. Councilman Yagelski said the payback option was hitting heavy at the campground, so he asked what Mr. Swanson saw for the future. Mr. Swanson replied that approximately \$50,000.00 is received from the campground. He said the Fair Board wants to build new buildings, but the infrastructure needs to be addressed. There has also been an increase in Fair profits, which was approximately \$140,000.00. In 2020, the Fair will be 120 years old, so he wants these things to be completed before then. Attorney Friedman said the entire Council needs to be credited for establishing this Fairgrounds Management Corp. which was critical in helping to rescue the Fair and the Fairgrounds during its financial distress. Now there is transparency and the Council should be credited with the progress that’s been made. Councilman Garner asked if there is a separate account where the money is being held so it’s not misspent. Mr. Swanson replied yes and new memberships have been taken on, which include younger people. President Novak invited people to the Not for Profit Fair Board meetings because they are very spirited. Mr. Swanson said he appreciates everything the Council has done, and President Novak mirrored that sentiment back to Mr. Swanson. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kirkham and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Councilman Santana said he is all in on the improvements, but this Council cannot be an open checkbook for the Fair and he is not comfortable with this request. He hoped that a little could be done at a time and wondered if Mr. Swanson would come before the Council in the future for even more additional money. Mr. Swanson said he does not represent the Fair Board but La Porte County Fairgrounds Management and Events. Therefore, the issue is the people of La Porte County deserve better than what’s out there and safety is of primary concern. Councilman Santana said the Council is the fiscal body and asked how much more will be requested. Mr. Swanson said this should be all until big buildings will be constructed. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

La Porte County Commissioners
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191)
For County Liability Fund

\$550,000.00

Auditor Winski explained that the County is self-insured and cannot determine how much will be needed until the end of the year; this request comes before the Council every year. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County MS4
Requesting Permission to Transfer
From Educational Training (30027) and Professional Services (30135)

To Part-Time Account (10130) \$3,500.00

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

La Porte County Animal Shelter

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Donation Fund (4100-20200-000-0531)

To Part-Time Account (1000-10130-000-0156) \$16,500.00

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

La Porte County Highway

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Liability & Casualty Insurance (1176-31006-000-0204)

To Employer Deduction Accounts \$73,800.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Councilman Kirkham asked for clarification and Chief Deputy Auditor Deckard replied that when a raise is given, it has to come out of their budget so they must also cover deductions. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Paramedics Account (10148)

To Uniform Account (20015)

For Purchase of Jackets \$20,000.00

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

La Porte County Building Maintenance

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Water & Sewage (30060)

To Janitorial Supplies (20028) \$30,000.00

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

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Yagelski asked Commissioner Kora for the status of the County Home. Commissioner Kora replied that there is the County Home and 5.2 acres surrounding it on which there has been an appraisal. He said there has been an offer to buy the County Home with all the 100 acres, on which there has not been an appraisal. He said it his personal opinion to sell only the County Home with the 5.2 acres. He said he has asked Commissioner Mrozinski to get an appraisal on the County home that includes the 100 acres. President Novak stated the Fairgrounds and this property are on the same tax ID number. Therefore, the parcels need to be surveyed and a separate legal description needs to be created so it can be advertised

properly. Councilman Yagelski gave a motion of support to get an appraisal. Commissioner Kora asked for the pleasure of the Council whether they want to sell just the County Home with the 5.2 acres or with all of the farmland. Councilman Yagelski said a jail will never be built there so he restated his motion for support of the Commissioners which was seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman Santana said feet are being dragged, and this has been going on for months. He said he feels the Council's feelings have been clear. Commissioner Kora said the difference has been the 5.2 acres versus the 100 acres. There was a discussion of what was initially offered and what is being offered now. Councilman Mollenhauer disagreed with Councilman Yagelski's opinion of a jail being there and said the property value will only increase. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Garner voting Nay.

Councilman Santana said going through the 100 accounts made him sound like Councilman Kirkham. However, he appreciates Councilman Kirkham staying true to himself and voting with his heart and his conscience and he wished him the best. Councilman Kirkham said there was information in the Council's packets regarding the importance of the VSO nationwide and the success of the Veteran's Court. He also thanked the Council members and the taxpayers and hoped he made a difference. Councilman Sullivan wished everyone a happy holiday. Councilman Garner said he appreciates the allowance of the Fair Management Group to get established and develop the ground, but it's going to take this Council's and the Commissioners' support to benefit the County.

A motion to adjourn the budget hearings was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

President Novak thanked Councilman Kirkham for his years of service and wished him the best.

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

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28th of January 2019.



Councilman Terry Garner

Councilman Cary Kirkham

ABSENT

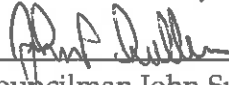
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak

ABSENT

Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:



Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor