



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 22, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on April 22, 2019 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, Mollenhauer, Novak, Rosenbaum, Santana, Sullivan, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 22, 2019 AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve with the following amendment was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Santana: On page 5 under the appropriation for the Commissioners, change from "improve safety" to "improve electricity." Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Kristine Harlow, Director, Adult Protective Services

Ms. Harlow requested permission to hire a part-time person at \$17.00 per hour, with funds coming from the State. 3 other investigators and Ms. Harlow handle La Porte, Porter, Starke, Pulaski, Jasper and Newton counties. Therefore, she wants to hire a Case Monitor, which the State requires to have a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or related field. President Novak asked what would happen if the money from the State ceased, and Ms. Harlow replied that although the office has not lost State money since the 1980's, the person

would no longer have a job. She added that this is a part-time position of approximately 16 hours per week, commencing on September 1, 2019.

Auditor Winski explained that for this to occur, the Salary Ordinance would have to be amended because it currently caps the part-time salary at \$13.00 per hour. Councilman Yagelski asked if there are other employees making more than that amount, and Auditor Winski replied yes, but those positions are reflected in the Salary Ordinance. A motion of support was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilmen Mollenhauer and Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0. President Novak added that the formal approval would come at the next Council meeting.

JoEileen Winski, La Porte County Auditor

Auditor Winski stated that a Field Officer from Community Corrections resigned, so Director Rob Neary is respectfully requesting permission to hire a replacement. A motion to combine this request with the New Business request #1 to hire a clerical replacement for the La Porte County Health Department was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 7-0.

Chief Deputy Kristie Deckard distributed information to the Council from Bob Young of the Highway Department. Mr. Young put together a paper about IDEM and emission controls for diesel vehicles and engines. Councilman Yagelski explained that this is in reference to future vehicles and/or engines to be purchased. President Novak added the grant would be a 25%/75% split, with the County responsible for the 75%. He also clarified that this is only informational and no motion is needed at this time.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmen Rosenbaum and Sullivan had nothing to report.

Councilman Santana said EMA and EMS are on the agenda; he also attended a Drainage Board meeting on April 9th and said the Surveyor was grateful for the annual approval of the transfer of funds for purchase of equipment, supplies and service contracts.

Councilman Garner spoke with the Recorder who will coming before the Council in the next few months. He also met with Commissioner Sheila Brillson and President Novak regarding Fair Board Committee management issues.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the Solid Waste District Board meeting on April 10th. He said they are ahead of schedule on the construction of their new building.

Councilmen Yagelski and Novak had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Council President's Authorization to Hire a Replacement Clerical Position for the La Porte County Health Department

This items was previously approved.

2. Consider Approval of Additional Appropriation from Major Bridge Fund (1171) in the Amount of \$1,367,038.00 for Emergency Repairs to Franklin Street Bridge

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Councilman Rosenbaum explained this was for work previously done in order to open the bridge in a timely manner at the most reasonable cost as possible. President Novak thanked Marquis Electric and all of the contractors. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Consider Commissioners' Recommendation for a Revised Reconstruction/Remodeling Plan for Michigan City Courthouse/Consider Authorizing Bond Financing Plan for Reconstruction/Remodeling – StructurePoint/Tonn & Blank/Baker Tilly

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

OLD BUSINESS

Consider La Porte County Plan Commissions' Request for an Additional Appropriation for 2 Replacement Vehicles in the Amount of \$80,000.00 from Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220) (Request Tabled from April 8, 2019 Meeting)

A motion to take off the table was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Annemarie Polan of the Plan Commission said that Janet Cole did extensive research and found the lowest price which will be held for 30 days from last week. The price is \$49,450.00 for two trucks, each being \$24,725.00. Councilman Rosenbaum asked if the State bid had been investigated and Ms. Polan replied yes, but the dealerships through its program do not accept trade-ins. President Novak stated that the Sheriff and Police departments often trade in cars. He added that EMA Director Larry Butcher found a price of \$24,000.00 for a four-door, four-wheel drive Dodge truck without any trade-in. Ms. Cole said the wait on the vehicle will be 8 to 10 weeks and one of the current trucks is barely getting by now. However, President Novak stated that if a vehicle could be found for \$24,000.00, plus \$5,000.00 for the trade-in vehicle, the price would become \$19,000.00 and he thought that was worth pursuing. Ms. Cole replied that at least the \$49,500 was less than the Not to Exceed \$80,000.00 originally requested. Councilman Santana reiterated President Novak's viewpoint. Ms. Polan retorted that she did what was asked by the Council, and that Ms. Cole contacted several different dealers. Councilman Garner said it sounds as if they only received prices from those who responded to their requests. President Novak said it wouldn't be prudent to buy vehicles for \$5,000.00 more than they could be found elsewhere. Councilman Garner added that he does not understand that if calls were made and no responses received, how then would Ms. Polan and Ms. Cole be able to bring those prices to the Council. Ms. Cole confirmed that she contacted several different dealers of different brands. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Councilman Rosenbaum explained that one of the trade-in vehicles is 2008 and the other 2010. Therefore, the trade-in values are different, so he wants to insure that the amount for the motion will be enough for the purchase of the vehicles. Therefore, the motion was amended to *Not to Exceed* \$54,000.00 out of Riverboat (1191). Motion carried 4-3, with Councilmen Garner, Novak, and Santana voting Nay.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-4 Ratifying Cash Farm Lease Agreement between La Porte County and John W Glasgow

A motion to approve Resolution 2019-4 as read was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman. Rosenbaum explained that this lease agreement has already been signed with the agreement that there would be no increases for cost of living; it is a flat fee for a term of three years. Councilman Garner said it is a good price. Councilman Yagelski said this was addressed because money spent has to go through the Council and not the Commissioners. President Novak said the money is going into a Non-Profit that oversees the Fairgrounds to help defer management costs. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Public Defender

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191), Win Tax (4220) or General (1000)

For 2 Additional Public Defenders

\$85,000.00

It was explained this is an annualized number and if it is approved, it would be \$57,000.00 starting May 1, 2019. He said both positions are reimbursable, so the net cost to the County would be \$28,500.00 for this year, and it will be requested that the positions be put into the budget for next year. A motion to approve out of General (1000) was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting Permission to Spend

From EMS Donation Fund (4103)

For EMS Week Activities

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

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

La Porte Superior Court #3

Requesting Permission to Transfer

From Infraction Deferral Fund (2501)

To Reimburse the General Fund for Salaries Expended

In 2019 before the February 2, 2019 Dissolving of the ICAC Unit

\$19,720.08

Councilman Garner asked if there were any guidelines to moving the money out the Deferral fund. Auditor Winski replied that there is enough money in the fund but if there wasn't, guidelines would apply. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County EMA

Requesting Permission to Transfer/Purchase

From 1000-20030-000-0153 to 1000-41001-000-0153

For Purchase of Desktop Computer

\$1,558.01

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

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Emergency Reserve Fund (1186)
For School Radio
(Tabled from April 8, 2019 Meeting to Re-Advertise
From Emergency Reserve Fund)**

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


COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Yagelski wished everyone a Happy Dyngus Day.

Councilman Rosenbaum said a meeting was held a week ago Friday with INDOT and some people regarding the intersection at 30 and 39. A J-turn is being proposed and the public is not for it. Therefore, there is going to be a meeting held at South Central High School on April 29th at 6:30 p.m. for the public to comment on the issue.

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

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



Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer




Councilman Randy Novak



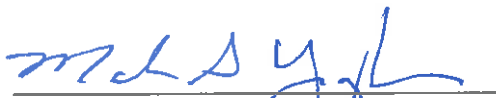
Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor