



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 22, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on July 22, 2019 at 5:00 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 5:00 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, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 22, 2019 AGENDA

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Rosenbaum said he would speak during Council Comments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Councilman Santana said EMA and EMS are on tonight's agenda. He spoke with Tony Hendricks regarding drainage and saw Larry Levendowski from Building Maintenance. He added that President Novak and he will be meeting with Director Bill Trowbridge from Paladin next week.

Councilman Garner attended a Personnel Committee meeting to reclassify two people. He met with Recorder Sosinski to discuss computers she will be looking to purchase out of the Recorder's perpetuation fund. He met with Mike Quinn, Inspector of Weights and Measures who is always running short on money, but asked the Council to be courteous during Budget Hearings. Councilman Garner felt the Council obliged Mr. Quinn. He spoke with Sheriff Boyd about new vehicles and the proposed budget. He added that the MS4 Director said he's been busy due to the wet season, but otherwise things are going well.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the La Porte County Redevelopment Commission meeting on June 26th, and on June 28th and 29th Councilman Rosenbaum and he attended the Indiana City and County Association Training Conference in Shelbyville, Indiana. He was especially interested in the Criminal Rule 26 session which was very well attended and provided good information. On July 10th, he attended the Soil and Water District Annual Legislative breakfast with Scott Pelath who was speaker and the current director of the Kankakee and Yellow River basin. He said it was very interesting and educational. On July 16th, other Council members and he attended the ribbon cutting of the Midwest Trade Center at US 6 and US 421. Also on July 16th, he attended the La Porte County Board of Health meeting and reported that there will be an Open House sometime in September to see the new lab. On July 17th, he attended the Solid Waste District Board meeting and shared that the new facility on Ziegler Road is complete except for some landscaping. There will also be an Open House there, but no date is set. Also on July 17th, he attended a County Employee Health Insurance Committee meeting and said the projection of expenses for the remainder of the year is looking positive.

Councilman Yagelski had nothing at this time.

President Novak also attended the Redevelopment Commission Meeting on June 26th. He also said other Councilman, Commissioners, and he attended the ribbon cutting for the Midwest Trade Center, or what he prefers to call the Old Eagle Warehouse. He said a fantastic job was done and Dollar General is hiring 80 employees with benefits. He also gave a shout out to Recorder Sosinski who has been under the weather.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Retroactive Approval of Commission & Council Presidents' Declaration of Emergency Repairs Authorization of \$50,000.00 in Emergency Funding for Repairs/Restoration of County's Computer System

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Reconsider approval of Commissioners' Request of \$800,000.00 into the County's Liability Fund from the General Fund (1000) instead of Previous Meetings' Approval out of the Riverboat Fund (1191) (Re-advertised on July 12, 2019)

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski asked for the purpose of the reconsideration. Auditor Winski replied that the Riverboat fund is lower than realized, so it was preferred to take it from the General fund where there is a little extra.

Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Planner

Requesting Permission to Spend

From MVH Restricted Fund (1173)

For John Emery Road Realignment and Safety Project

\$50,000.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Councilman Santana commented that Mitch Bishop included an explanation in the Council's packets.

Motion carried 6-0.

Requesting Permission to Spend

From MVH Restricted Fund (1173)

For Match on Community Crossing Grant

\$1,000,000.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0

La Porte County EMA

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Replacement Vehicle

**Not to Exceed
\$30,000.00**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski stated that there had been previous discussions about not trading in the vehicle. However, he said there is now a better vehicle coming from the Sheriff's office. Councilman Santana said that now there can be two vehicles. He continued that he watched the Commissioner's meeting on Wednesday where EMA was directed to not trade in the vehicle. Councilman Yagelski said he understood, but wanted to address the issue. President Novak added that this appropriation came up last month but had to be re-advertised. Councilman Santana noted that the vehicle was initially going to be a 2019 vehicle, but is now a fully-equipped 2020 model at a price which is \$107.00 less than the 2019 model.

Motion failed 3-3, with Councilmen Garner, Rosenbaum, and Yagelski voting Nay.

Councilman Santana asked if this item could be brought back next month. Attorney DiMartino replied he believed it could be within a year, but would have to verify that. President Novak explained that the car originally advertised was no longer available, so Mr. Butcher had to go back to the dealership and received a new bid for the 2020 model at \$107,000 less. Councilman Novak added the motion failed unless a Council Member who voted Nay would like to reconsider his vote. Councilman Rosenbaum said that he wanted the car to be traded in, but the Commissioners said no, so he voted against the appropriation.

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From CCD (1138)

For 15 Vehicles and Equipment

**Not to Exceed
\$561,700.00**

Sheriff Boyd said the Council was given a packet, which consists of 12 vehicles for patrol which are 2020 Ford Explorer police pursuit vehicles, one Dodge Charger, and two Dodge Ram 1500 special service trucks. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Councilman Rosenbaum said the packet listed reasons for turning in vehicles, including the maintenance records. He said he appreciated that additional information. Councilman Santana asked if keeping pool vehicles is under the authority of the Council or Commissioners. Auditor Winski replied that the Commissioners own all of the vehicles. Councilman Yagelski added that the Commissioners do not have the authority to trade in vehicles that are pool cars. Councilman Santana explained the vehicle that has been driven by Chief Deputy Heeg is being given to Commissioner Mattias. The one trade-in vehicle valued at \$10,000.00 could be held back and that amount added to the appropriation. Sheriff Boyd stated it would serve well as a general purpose vehicle, but not an emergency vehicle. He added that there should be no issue with removing it as a trade-in as long as the \$10,000.00 was made up in another way. Councilman Rosenbaum asked if that adjustment could be made since the amount has already been advertised. Councilman Yagelski explained said it can be done, but the \$10,000.00 reimbursement would have to be approved at the next meeting. Sheriff Boyd said he got better prices since the amount was advertised of approximately \$33,000.00 less. Therefore, no additional appropriation would be needed. President Novak clarified that the motion is for fifteen vehicles, holding back a 2009 Chevy Tahoe and a 2012 Chevy Tahoe.

Motion carried 6-0.

Requesting Permission to Spend

From Misdemeanant Fund (1175)

For Replacement Truck for Jail Community Work Program

**Not to Exceed
\$36,002.00**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Superior Court #3

Requesting an Additional Appropriation

From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)

For Contract with Thompson-Reuters – Law Books

\$2,000.00

President Novak said he spoke with Judge Thorne and that \$2,000.00 was cut from his budget last year. However, he has to pay for this yearly contract, so he is short the \$2,000.00. President Novak added that at last year's budget hearings, Judge Thorne was unaware of this expense. Councilman Santana was told

by Chief Probation Officer Steve Eyrick that he has funds available to pay for this item. Auditor Winski said it would have to be re-advertised. Attorney DiMartino stated that the request could be tabled and re-advertised, or a motion to spend could be made. A motion to spend from the Adult Probation fund in the amount of \$2,000.00 was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County EMS

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

For Two Maintenance Contracts – Physio Control	\$21,797.00
Image Trend	\$10,575.00
Total	\$32,372.00

EMS Administrator, Andrew McGuire, stated that both of these contracts are outside of the annual budget. Physio Control is for cardiac monitors and Image Trend is the report-writing software. A motion to approve out of Win Tax was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Yagelski asked if there is any reimbursement for the maintenance on the monitors, but Mr. McGuire replied no. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Circuit Court

**Requesting Permission to Spend
From Probation User Fees (2102)**

For Conference Technologies in the Circuit Court Room	\$27,510.55
--	--------------------

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Commissioners

**Requesting Permission to Spend
From General Fund (1000) EMS Base Hospital Payment
For RQAW La Porte County EMS Relocation**

\$7,240.00

President Novak explained this is engineering for relocating the new EMS base to the new hospital. It would come out of the payment from La Porte Hospital. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-0.

La Porte County Prosecutor

**Requesting Permission to Spend
From Prosecutor Pretrial Div & Deferral Fund (2501)
For 2019 Expenses**

\$38,888.50

Prosecutor John Lake explained that ½ of the salary of the Victim Advocate at Dunebrook is paid by the Prosecutor’s office. In addition, he said this was money from last year that was unappropriated which was put into the appropriated fund, so it now has to go back to pay for these expenses. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 6-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Rosenbaum said he toured the County Fairgrounds, the JDC, the County Garage, and the County Home. He also visited the departments of Building Maintenance, Planning, Health, Voter Registration, and Judge Alevizos and several members of the Juvenile Court system. In addition, he visited Adult Probation and IT, and attended the Redevelopment Commission and the AIC Conference. He added that the State will be giving the County \$60,000.00 per year for two years as reimbursement for the cost of Criminal Rule 26. He also went to the County Fair on several different days and said it was a great event.

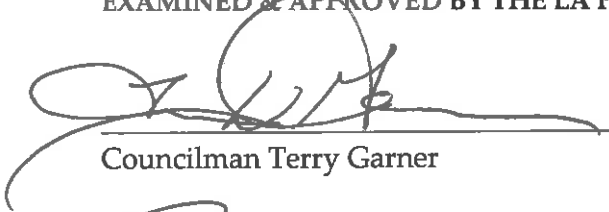
Councilman Yagelski said he took a tour of the County Home and said it is deteriorating. It is his hope to try to force the issue with the Commissioners to get something done about it. He also questioned why the Council has not received the appraisals of the County Home that they asked for six months ago. Councilman Santana asked Auditor Winski to try to get that information from Attorney Shaw Friedman.

President Novak expressed confusion as to how the EMA vehicle was approved at a previous meeting at a certain amount of money and then denied it at tonight's meeting when it came in at an even lower price. He added that he agreed with Councilman Rosenbaum about the County Fair.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 6-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 26th of August 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