



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.**

*(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)*

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on September 23, 2019 at 6:46 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 6:46 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.

Councilman Garner asked President Novak to recognize a long-time County Highway employee, Eugene Schurte, who passed away since the last Council meeting. He was also the Fair Board manager and donated a lot of service to the County. President Novak said he was very dedicated to the County and the community. He gave condolences to his family.

Councilman Mollenhauer also acknowledged the passing of Sheriff's department retiree Harry "Hap" Bazemore. President Novak gave condolences to his family.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AGENDA**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Garner. Mr. Garner asked that the agenda be amended under New Business #2 to include not only the City of La Porte but also the Town of Trail Creek. The motion was amended by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 26, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Novak asked the student in the audience to have his papers signed after the meeting.

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

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Councilman Yagelski acknowledged Darlene Hale and the entire IT Department and said she received a plaque of recognition from Senator Michael Bohacek for their handling of the cyber-attack. Ms. Hale read the content of the plaque to the audience and she was applauded.

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

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilman Garner had nothing at this time.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the Solid Waste District Joint Board meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> where several issues were discussed. Specifically, the compost facility was discussed and the hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. More details can be found on their website or Facebook. They are still anticipating an Open House, which has not yet been scheduled. He attended the Sheriff's Merit Board meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and although he was under the weather and couldn't attend the quarterly Employee Insurance Committee meeting, he able to learn about it from an email from GIS Insurance and Human Resource Director Barb Mossman. He said more will be learned at the Special Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Yagelski said the new cameras are in place at the Franklin Street Bridge which will enhance the video and increase safety. He also said the inspection went well and the cost is not anticipated to be as high projected.

Councilman Rosenbaum attended the Redevelopment meeting and the annual Public Defenders' meeting. Most importantly, the announcement by NIPRC that the three Counties involved in NIRPC are now recognized for Federal purposes as economic territory and can now receive Federal funding.

Councilman Santana said there was a workshop with EMS where avenues were explored regarding relocating the EMS base. He also attended the Drainage Board meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

President Novak had nothing to report at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consider Retroactive Approval of Council President's Authorization to Hire a Replacement Position for a Case Manager in Community Corrections, an Equipment Operator for the County Highway Department, and a Secretary for Adult Probation**

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

**2. Consider Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of La Porte and La Porte County, Indiana regarding Building Code Inspection**

Attorney Doug Biege said the County was asked for assistance with inspections at the La Porte Hospital because their inspectors are not all properly certified. Therefore, because the County inspectors are certified and the Planning Commission has latitude and room to assist the City, they will be helping at the cost of \$50.00 per inspection to cover expenses. It has been approved by the La Porte City Council, Mayor, and County Commissioners. It comes before the Council because if a fee is charged, it must be approved by the Council.

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

**Consider Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Town of Trail Creek and La Porte County, Indiana regarding Building Code Inspection**

Attorney Biege said the Town of Trail Creek reached out to the County asking for assistance in electrical inspections. He said he spoke to Annemarie Polan who said it wouldn't be a problem. However, Attorney Biege he added more than electric because if there are other requests in the future, they would already be included in the agreement. It would also be a \$50.00 inspection fee and said it is the entity that is being billed.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS**

La Porte County Sheriff

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**

**From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)**

**For Fuel** **\$60,000.00**

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman Rosenbaum commented that this would cover for the remainder of the year and Sheriff Boyd agreed. Motion carried 6-0.

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**

**From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)**

**For Replacement Vehicle (the difference between amount received from insurance and purchase price of new vehicle)** **ou\$3,700.00**

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0

**Requesting Permission to Spend**

**From K9 Donation Fund (4106)**

**Not to Exceed**

**For Kennel for Vehicle, Cooling System for Kennel and Door Activator**

**\$4,400.00**

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

Councilman Santana thanked Sheriff Boyd for the presentation and providing an explanatory packet.

**La Porte County Commissioners**

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**

**From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)**

**For Cameras for MC Courthouse**

**\$6,000.00**

President Novak said the requested amount is actually going to be reduced to not to exceed \$3,500.00. IT Director, Darlene Hale, explained this is to replace a camera that has been out since last year that covers the parking lot. An additional camera for the outside and two for the inside corridors are also included. A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) not to exceed \$3,500.00 was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**Requesting Permission to Spend**

**From General Fund (1000)**

**For EMS Base Hospital Payment for RQAW La Porte County EMS Relocation**

**\$36,137.11**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Councilman Yagelski said it is unsure if the County has this amount of money to spend out of this fund, so he would like to hold off on approval. Councilman Santana agreed and said this situation has not panned out as hoped. However, he said it is for work that has already been done and he is going to support it. He hopes in the future, more thought will be put into this type of situation prior to it getting to this point. Councilman Garner agreed with Councilman Santana. President Novak asked Auditor Winski if there are any other outstanding bills for RQAW, and she responded none of which she is aware. President Novak then said his personal feeling is he would like to hold off on this until the Commissioners can determine how this came in so drastically overpriced. He would also like them to negotiate a better deal with the Contractor. Councilman Santana asked if there would be a penalty if this bill wasn't paid on time, and Attorney Guy DiMartino responded that he doesn't know the terms of the contract, but it could be taken into collection, a collection action could be filed, or additional legal action could possibly be pursued. He said because there is a motion and a second, the request has to be voted for or against or an amended motion needs to be done. Councilman Yagelski he also agrees with Councilman Garner and Santana, but does not remember this item coming before the Council for approval so he does approve of this being supported after the fact. Motion approved 4-2, with Councilmen Novak and Yagelski voting Nay.

**La Porte County Coroner**

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation**

**From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)**

**For Autopsy Account (30033)**

**\$14,000.00**

**For Professional Services Account (30135)**  
**Total**

\$ 3,800.00  
**\$17,800.00**

A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman Santana said this is what is done with other departments; if they run out of money, they are asked to come before the Council to request an additional appropriation. Coroner Bob Cutler said with the budget increase, he hopes this won't happen against next year. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Yagelski, President Novak and Mr. Cutler briefly discussed the DARE program.

La Porte County EMS

**Requesting an Additional Appropriation  
From Riverboat (1191) or Win Tax (4220)  
For Computer and Printer Replacements**

**\$13,837.00**

EMS Administrator Andrew McGuire explained his department is on a rotation program that has been coordinated with IT Director Darlene Hale. Mr. McGuire said there are 4 printers and 4 Surface Pro computers from the ambulances to be replaced. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019.**

  
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Councilman Terry Garner

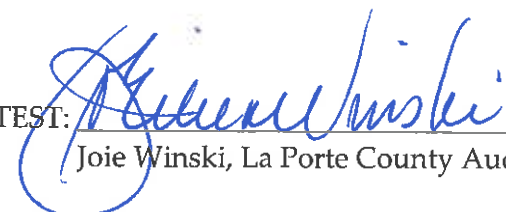
  
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Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

  
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Councilman Randy Novak

  
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Councilman Mike Rosenbaum

  
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Councilman Jeff Santana

  
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Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
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Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor