



*LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 25, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on November 25, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Colton Siler Davis and Kent Carpenter.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Joie Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Garner, Mollenhauer, Novak, Quinn, Rosenbaum, Santana, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2019 AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Quinn noted two corrections: on page 6 under La Porte County Coroner/Prosecutor and on page 7 under the La Porte County Sheriff, the approval motions were not noted. A motion to approve with those corrections was made by Councilman Quinn and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Sinclair

Ms. Sinclair said she previously sent an email as to why she is coming before the Council. She stated that the women attending with her and she are concerned about lack of transparency and issues they are having with the La Porte County Purdue Cooperative Extension. She explained that for over a year, her group has attempted to work with the Cooperative Extension and its appointed Committees regarding their unwillingness to abide by the tenets of the Indiana Open Door Law. They have pursued various remedies including letters, meetings and filed grievances. The 4-H Council was also approached who were reluctant

to intercede. A complaint was filed with the Indiana Public Access Counselor who gave the advisory opinion that Purdue is in violation of the Open Door Law. She added that the group went before the Commissioners to request their support in issuing a letter to Purdue Extension for their compliance of the law. However, as of November 2019, after a letter was sent by the Commissioners, they were still out of compliance. She said she has now retained counsel to file a lawsuit against Purdue Extension because they will not require their appointed Committees to follow the Open Door Law. She asked the County Council to send communication to Purdue Extension to urge compliance. She also asked that the Council table any contractual obligations of the County to Purdue Extension until a decision has been made by the Court regarding the Open Door Law compliance or until they voluntarily decide to comply.

Councilman Yagelski asked if this is with the Cooperative Extension only or if it includes Purdue University. Ms. Sinclair replied that the USDA has an agreement with the Purdue University as a land grant University and in their agreement, their sub-agency runs the 4-H program for the nation. They work in conjunction with the land grant universities and a part of that is the Purdue Cooperative Extension, which this county funds 95%. Ultimately, they are a decision-making government agency that needs to comply with the Open Door Law. She added she spoke with MaryJo Moncheski and Gail O'Connor at Purdue Extension. She also said she does not yet have a scheduled court date.

Councilman Yagelski said there is an obligation to fund the salaries of the Purdue Extension employees which would be difficult to table at this meeting. President Novak added that contracts with Purdue Extension are handled through the Commissioners and not the Council. He said that only salaries are being addressed at tonight's meeting. Ms. Sinclair asked that the raises for them be tabled until such time there is a court date or voluntary compliance. Attorney Guy Martino said the budget and contract have already been made and the case needs to play out in civil court.

A motion of support to send a letter was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Judge Thomas Alevizos

Judge Alevizos spoke about the Juvenile Services Center and said that when the law changed and they were no longer controlling the DCS money, they became the first local center that charges the State for the DCS use events. The rate next year will be \$581.67 per day; the utilization last year was approximately 1,800 days, so there is a considerable amount of money that comes back to the County. He is concerned that the Juvenile Services Center is an old building, so he is requesting that a reverting fund be considered in order to maintain the aging building. President Novak asked Auditor Winski to compile information on this for the next meeting and she agreed. She added that it may also be possible to use CCD money for this purpose. She also suggested that a prioritized list be created for repairs needing attention. Judge Alevizos feels that if a fund was already in place and problems occur, the money would be readily available for repairs/replacement.

Councilman Yagelski said that there is a group of people who maintain the buildings so if there are problems, they need to be contacted because they have money in their budget for these types of issues. Judge Alevizos said he has a good relationship with the current Maintenance Director so President Novak suggested working with him to address the issues at the Juvenile Services Center.

Judge Alevizos said there was a snag with the food costs due to the red tape with the Department of Education reimbursement. It can be addressed next year and will cooperate with the Council's direction. IT Director Darlene Hale said she supports Judge Alevizos. Her department has been to the Juvenile Services Center to assess network cables and found many are running under chair runners and have become shredded.

Steve Alt, Director E-911 Communications Center

Mr. Alt said that the State is requiring upgrades to the County's 911 system in 2020. He said they are in version 4 and should be in version 7. Upgrades were rejected before he became the Director of E-911 due to the 8-hour shutdown to complete the enhancements. However, Mr. Alt said he would work with Porter County to insure there is no risk to public safety when his office performs the required upgrade. He said the upgrade to version 7 has no cost, but there are additional higher versions that he will consider in the future and address them with the Council at a later date.

Tony Rodriguez, Director, Office of Economic Development

Mr. Rodriguez attended the Rural Broadband Conference in Washington and wanted to share information with the Council. He said there is an incredible amount of money being put into Agricultural Technology funding. The County's Rural Broadband Taskforce has had 8 meetings, completed a significant amount of surveying, mapping and documentation of the under-served areas but was unsuccessful in supporting two of the private sector suppliers. However, they are going to aggressively support them and reapply at the next opportunity. He said additional data is included in his handout. He added that a lot of work has gone into the County's website and is optimistic it will roll out before the end of 2019. One of the larger private carriers that has been deploying fiber optics has made a significant investment in supplying fiber to South Michigan City to Northern La Porte County. In early 2020, a community-based workshop will be held to continue to gather additional data.

Councilman Yagelski asked for the newest update on Intermodal. Mr. Rodriguez said there has been a tremendous amount of work at the Redevelopment Commission level. One tier is making Kingsbury Industrial Park accessible to fiber optic. He added two of the rails are the CN and the CSX, of which CSX has shown the speed at which they can make adjustments. He also said that he will be attending a 3-day Mid-American Rail Shippers' Association conference in Lombard, Illinois at the beginning of December, where he hopes to meet possible investors.

John Lake, La Porte County Prosecutor

Prosecutor Lake said his office's color copier has had maintenance issues and may need replacement. Therefore, he may be coming before the Council for permission to spend.

In addition, Prosecutor Lake explained that after purchasing \$30,000.00 software from DocuWare last summer, it was discovered that the IV-D documents were only backed up once in February and has since been backed up to the Cloud which is a violation of Federal Law. Therefore, he is seeking a solution and may request permission to spend Infraction Deferral money. IT Director Hale said she was not aware that IV-D documents could not be backed up to the Cloud. She said that if the Prosecutor's office purchased additional hard drives, the information could be backed up to the IT server with additional software. She added that, temporarily, the information could be backed up to the IT server until the problem can be solved.

Auditor Winski said these items could be put to a vote as "Not to Exceed," but it is unclear as to how much it would cost. A motion of permission to spend out of IV-D funds "Not to Exceed" \$50,000.00 was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

In reference to the copier, IT Director Hale stated that there is another color copier available if the Prosecutor's office copier goes down.

Darlene Hale, La Porte County IT Director

Ms. Hale said that 12 computers will have to be replaced at the Juvenile Services Center, so there will be a request forthcoming at the beginning of 2020. She said she would provide the Council with an updated list of computers in the County.

Ms. Hale said the email conversion is due to be completed in mid-December, approximately when the website update will be complete. The domain will be changed to @laporteco.in.gov and .org mail will be forwarded.

Larry Levendowski, La Porte County Building Maintenance Director

Mr. Levendowski gave an update on the EMS Base building. He said that after initially coming in over budget, it is now under budget, is moving forward quickly, and he's hoping to have a roof by Christmas.

He said that all buildings in the County were evaluated when he became Director and said there are a lot of issues at the Juvenile Center Services building. Some things have been addressed but there is much more to be done.

Bob Cutler, La Porte County Coroner

Mr. Cutler said he has a request on the agenda and introduced Lieutenant Tim Richardson from the La Porte County Drug Task Force to support his requisition. He explained that in 2018, Indiana passed a statute "dealing causing death," which allows law enforcement to hold accountable those people who deal drugs that kill people. These crimes are investigated as homicides, which require support from the Coroner's office. He referenced two recent cases and said autopsies must be performed to confirm cause of death.

President Novak asked if Mr. Cutler's request will hold him to the end of the year and he replied affirmatively. He said if it comes out of the General Fund, it will be put back if it's not needed.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Rosenbaum said the next Redevelopment Commission meeting is on December 11th at 4:00 p.m.

Councilman Quinn said he would speak during Council Comments.

Councilman Santana said EMS and the Surveyor are on tonight's agenda. Building Director Levendowski already spoke, and Councilman Santana announced that Bill Trowbridge has stepped down from Paladin. Therefore, the go-to person is now Kim Latchford as interim President.

Councilman Garner said Recorder Sosinski is on the agenda for office improvements, the Sheriff for food and garage equipment, and the Auditor for computer purchases. He said the Finance Committee and Fair Committee had meetings. The Committee for the Fairgrounds takeover signing of the lease will bring it back to the County and will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

Councilman Mollenhauer attended the Redevelopment Commission meeting on October 30th, the Commissioners' and Commissioners'/La Porte City Planning Development meetings on November 6th, the Sheriff's Merit Board meeting on November 14th, and the Memorial Service for Kent Carpenter on November 22nd. He thanked Darlene Hall for organizing the service and said Mr. Carpenter was a long-time employee and great guy. Lastly, he attended the Veteran's Ceremony at South Central School on November 8th, the 32nd Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at the La Porte Civic Auditorium on November 11th, and the Veteran's Day Community Dinner at the First Church of the Nazarene on November 16th.

Councilman Yagelski had nothing at this time.

President Novak attended the FMEC (Fairgrounds Management Corporation) meeting, the La Porte County Tourism Bureau Winter Glow event, and the Finance Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Approval of 4 Pretrial Service Officers for Criminal Rule 26 to be Hired and Trained Effective Immediately – Funding for these Positions to be Paid from Probation User Fees for the Remainder of 2019 and Funding for these Positions for 2020 to be Allocated at the January Reorganizational Meeting in the Amount of \$250,000.00

Judge Greta Friedman and Chief Probation Officer Steve Eyrick acknowledged the other Judges in the audience, and introduced and explained a video presentation on Criminal Rule 26.

After the presentation, Magistrate John Link approached the podium and stated that he will be responsible for the initial hearing court as of January 1st. He said if someone is arrested for a non-violent crime, the bond will be the same for each defendant. Currently, if the person is unable to afford the bond, he/she will be retained in jail. However, under Criminal Rule 26, there will be a risk-assessment tool provided to the Judge to give information on the offender. For example, an offender who can afford bond but has a long history of crime will have stronger supervision than a first-time offender who has no criminal history and needs to be released to get back to his/her job. Mr. Link said it has been his experience that those first-time offenders who have been unable to make bail and had to stay in jail for an extended period quickly lose their jobs, homes, and families. He also said that he has been questioned as to why all offenders need to be assessed. He then shared a story where an offender was able to pay bail and was released without an assessment, but it was later learned that he/she was a high-risk individual who committed a serious crime. He said Criminal Rule 26 is very important for the Justice System.

Councilman Quinn asked if Criminal Rule 26 will affect the offender who can afford his/her bond the same as it will the offender who cannot. Magistrate Link said all offenders will be assessed and per that assessment, there may be additional requirements beyond just paying the bond. It also affords the Judge the ability to adjust the bond for the higher-risk offender because of his/her criminal history. He also explained that in Judge Bergerson's court, he requests a bond investigation that takes approximately 2 weeks for the bond to be readdressed.

Councilman Rosenbaum asked why is it necessary to have 4 Pretrial Service Officers when Porter County has 2 plus 2 backups. Mr. Eyrick stated that Porter County actually has 2 full-time individuals who do the screenings in the jail, and 3 full-time Pretrial Service Officers doing the supervision of those who are released. Mr. Rosenbaum then asked for the likelihood of finding these four people in the next five weeks, especially because the majority of Indiana Counties are going to be trying to fill these positions. Mr. Eyrick said they are going to give it their best. In addition, some of the present staff have been trained.

Prosecutor Lake said this has never been done in La Porte County, so additional staff is needed. He stated that Criminal 26 is mandated due to Federal lawsuits. He then reiterated what had already been discussed. Councilman Rosenbaum asked Mr. Eyrick how many people are currently trained and he replied all 16 of his Probation Officers are IRAS trained and certified. He added that those officers are also supervising post-sentence convictions and various other areas.

Councilman Mollenhauer thanked Porter County for attending tonight's meeting, and the Task Force for their hard work. However, he feels that ½ million dollars is a lot of money and it bothers him. He believes a trial period is necessary before investing ½ million dollars.

Judge Thorne of Superior Court #3 stated that the Veteran's Treatment Court will be having a graduation on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in Superior Court #3, and all of the Council and public are invited.

Judge Thorne said Criminal Rule #26 will have a significant impact on his court because it deals with a lot of misdemeanors. He said he has been asked to read a statement from the Task Force that will provide a summation. He then read the statement.

Councilman Yagelski said when he was on the NICTD Board, there was a mandate from the Federal Government on Positive Train Control, which was an impossible mandate. He said it is disappointing that the government decides to mandate something without having the functions of finance to pursue the execution. He said he wants to make the process work well, and said there are still 3 extra hires in the Prosecutor's Office so he would like to see those people utilized for this type of thing. He said he doesn't see that the County can afford ½ million dollars right now, but would like to come up with a plan.

Councilman Quinn asked what the \$250,000.00 in #1 entails and Auditor Winski replied salaries and benefits for 4 employees to be allocated at the first of the year. He added that #1 and #2 under New Business go hand-in-hand, so he questioned if there has been any prioritization of the requested positions.

Judge Friedman said it was determined that those being hired would do the risk assessment and the current probation officers would do the supervision. Prosecutor Lake explained that there needs to be coverage from the Public Defender and his office at several different areas. He added that the Public Defender's office will have reimbursement in the amount of approximately \$100,000.00, which would cover the Prosecutor and the rest of the \$400,000.00 comes with pretrial services. He said his concern is the possibility of class action lawsuits against, the Sheriff's Office, the Judges, the Magistrates, the Clerk, and the Council because the Prosecutor's Office cannot be sued. It is going to be a challenge and process but it is something that must be addressed.

Councilman Quinn asked if the additional Deputy Prosecutor would have general duties or be specifically dedicated to the pretrial process. Prosecutor Lake replied that it would depend on the amount of money allocated for the position. For example, if the Council told him he could have \$20,000.00 to find someone, he said he would be able to work with the Council. However, the Public Defender's office may not be in

the same position. Councilman Mollenhauer asked if the \$20,000.00 amount would be for a year, and Prosecutor Lake replied the only way he could do that is if that money supplemented a staff member who is already working part time. He said he is willing to work with the Council.

Councilman Quinn asked Mr. Eyrick if the Pretrial Service Officers being requested would be solely dedicated to this process or would they have other responsibilities. Mr. Eyrick said they would be dedicated to the interviews, risk assessment, bond reports and supervision of those being released. He added they would not be doing probation or be certified Probation Officers.

Judge Alevizos said he was adamant that these employees not be Probation Officers because then the County would be responsible for their ever-increasing salaries. If they are hired for this specific job, the County would be in control of their salaries. President Novak asked if there was any benefit to address this under Community Corrections, as is done in Porter County, such as State reimbursements or grants. Judge Alevizos said the State Supreme Court and the Legislature have said they are going to put money into this process, but there is no direction at this time. Mr. Eyrick said they did apply for the 4 positions through the DOC 1006 money, but received none of that. He also applied for a JAG grant for these positions but will not have an answer until the end of the year.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Ron Heeg said in order to go from step 1 to step 5, we need to complete steps 2, 3, and 4. He said the bad thing is that La Porte County was not a pilot County, but the good news is they were able to learn from a pilot County and observe what they have already implemented.

A motion of \$100,000 for six months was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Auditor Winski confirmed this is for both and discussed where the money will come from and how/when it will be approved. She said it could be allocated at the first of the year from the General Fund (1000) or Riverboat (1191). Councilman Yagelski asked if it could be voted on at tonight's meeting and Auditor Winski replied it could be handled the same as EDC and then could be affirmed in January. She added that if it is voted on now, people can be hired and trained immediately.

Judge Alevizos said it would need to be more specific because the positions would have to be created in the salary order. He also said he has not been as involved in the process as he hoped but the Committee worked very hard and he feels that \$100,000.00 is not enough, even for six months. He said he understands the position of the Council, but believes that the minimum amount should be at least \$200,000.00. He also thinks it should be reevaluated in three vs. six months. Councilman Yagelski said this is still for two people for the Public Defender. Prosecutor Lake asked if he is being approved for anyone and Councilman Yagelski replied he already has three people. Auditor Winski explained there are still open positions of Prosecutor and Investigator in the General Fund. She added that the money would have to be allocated at the first meeting in January. Councilman Yagelski stated that as a Council member, he has until the 1st of January to add to their budget. For clarification, Auditor Winski confirmed that the amounts of \$80,000.00 and \$125,000.00 will be added to the budgets.

Councilman Rosenbaum said he finds this insufficient because there needs to be an additional Jailer to move people around and coordinate them. He agrees with two Pretrial Officers, but feels that it should be reevaluated in three months. He also said \$200,000.00 is not enough and should be at least \$300,000.00 for the year. In that way, two Pretrial Officers are covered and some of the needed people in #2 will also be covered. He recommends this adjustment and asked that the motion be reconsidered. Councilman Quinn agreed with Councilman Rosenbaum.

Councilman Yagelski said Jailers always work overtime so it is unclear if that position is truly needed. He amended his motion to approve \$250,000.00 for six months, of which \$80,000.00 will be put in the Public Defender's budget and \$170,000.00 in the Case Worker's budget. Councilman Mollenhauer seconded the amended motion.

Councilman Santana said the positions need to be specified if it is being put in the budget. He clarified that the three additional Public Defenders being requested in #2 will be reduced to 2 at a cost of \$80,000.00. In addition, there will be no additional Jailer or Deputy Prosecutor. He added he will support this from the General Fund and not Win Tax or Riverboat because it's an ongoing expense. Auditor Winski confirmed with Councilman Yagelski that there will be more than the \$125,000.00 and he said that he knows there will be extra funds there. President Novak said they could come back at any time to discuss this.

Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Quinn and Rosenbaum voting Nay.

Councilman Yagelski said there are funds available in User Probationary Fees to be used for the Pretrial Service Officer positions through the end of 2019. Therefore, a motion to use these funds for the remainder of 2019 was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0

2. Consider Approval of 3 Additional Public Defenders, 1 Additional Jailer and 1 Additional Deputy Prosecutor for Criminal Rule 26 Effective January 1, 2020 – Funding for These Positions to be Allocated at the Re-Organizational Meeting in the Amount of \$250,000.00

This item was previously considered with #1.

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

Drug Free Partnership President Joseph Bunch stated he is before the Council for approval of award recommendations for 2020. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Councilman Quinn said under a few of the items there is additional money left over and asked who receives that money. Mr. Bunch said the funds would be used for special projects within each field. He added the funds have to be allocated based on statute. One of the uses of prevention money is professional development to agencies in the community. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Consider Approval of Remaining 2019 EMS Budget to be Allocated to the Renovation Project of the Michigan City EMS Base

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Councilman Rosenbaum asked EMS Administrator Andrew McGuire for the amount of money that is available. Mr. McGuire replied it is approximately \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00. He added that the cost is approximately \$120,000.00. Mr. Levendowski agreed with that amount and said there are a lot of leaks in the building and a new roof is needed. Councilman Santana said it is hopeful the entire amount will be able to be covered without having to request additional funds from the Council. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Consider Commitment of Matching Funds for Bridge 97 on 50 East over Kankakee River and Union Mills Sidewalk Project (Funding to be Requested when Grant is Awarded) – Mitch Bishop

Councilman Garner said he thought this item was removed from the agenda, but Auditor Winski stated that she believes it was too late to remove because the agenda had already been advertised. A motion to

table was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

6. Consider Approval of Sheriff's IT Position and 911's IT Position to be Moved under the County IT Director

Councilman Yagelski said that when the County got hacked, there were recommendations that all departments should fall under one boss. He spoke with both 911 and the Sheriff and said no salaries will change, it is only that they will report to IT Director Darlene Hale. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. President Novak asked if Sheriff Boyd and Mr. Alt are in agreement and they replied yes. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Barb Mossman – Job Evaluations

Assessor	Data Analysis Supervisor – approved at previous meeting
Auditor	Clerk Position changed to include Tax Sale Clerk and Grant Administrator from COMOT IV to COMOT V for an increase of \$3,401.00
Auditor	Tax Deputy changed to include Office Supervisor from COMOT V to COMOT VI for an Increase of \$3,397.00
Health Dept.	Public Health Clerks from COMOT II to COMOT IV for an increase of \$1,701.00 each
Sup. Court #4	Bailiff was reevaluated but stayed at a COMOT V
Parks Dept.	Maintenance and Construction Supervisor was reevaluated and increased from an LTC III To an LTC IV for an increase of approximately \$2,000.00

Superior Court #4 Magistrate has a Bailiff (COMOT V) that has been doing the work of a Court Reporter (COMOT VI), so the Judge is asking for that person to be reclassified to a Court Reporter.

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

Ms. Mossman asked for consideration of the shift differential for the 2nd and 3rd shifts of the 24-hour Juvenile Services Center. Currently the Sheriff, the Jail division and 911 have the shift differential. The amount for 2020 is \$18,039.84, but there are no funds available in the Juvenile Services budget. She added that this did not go through the Job Evaluation Committee because there were no jobs to be evaluated. She said that a person working a 2nd or 3rd shift would receive a check for \$50.96 at the end of each month for the shift differential. Ms. Mossman said she reached out to Rob Neary at Community Corrections as to why shift differential is not offered there, and he responded that the positions are grant funded and the additional money is not available in the grant money. A motion to deny was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Quinn and Rosenbaum voting Nay.

President Novak asked that the Job Evaluation Committee look at this item and represent it upon its findings. Ms. Mossman agreed. She added that when a position is terminated through the County under the current language of the hiring freeze, that position does not have to come back for approval for hire. However, she will forward the information on these positions to the Council.

8. Permission to Hire Vacated Position for Surveyor's Office – Tony Hendricks

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Mr. Hendricks said this is for replacement of the Office Deputy. Councilman Garner asked if he has to come before the Council for approval of this position. Councilman Garner asked if that person would stay in the position if Mr. Hendricks was no longer the Surveyor. Mr. Hendricks responded it is an employee position and is not at the will of the Surveyor. He added that the position will go through Human Resources. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Consideration and Vote on 100 Account Requests for 2020 Budget:

A motion to remove In-House Printing from the table was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Yagelski said an evaluation was done and the cost of printing in 2019 was approximately \$12,000.00, which does not include copy paper. A motion to eliminate the In-House Printing and use an alternate printing service was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. The employee will be reassigned to the Maintenance Department, and the Commissioners will choose the printing service. Motion carried 7-0.

Purdue Extension (10235) - \$5,250.00 Extension Educators Contract 2.5 Increase

A motion to approve the same raise as the rest of the County was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0

IT (10130) - \$4,000.00 Part-Time Account

Darlene Hale said this would be an additional amount in the part-time account for Summer help and additional projects. Auditor Winski said there is currently \$10,617.00 left in the part-time account to cover Switchboard and the current IT part-time employee through 2019. She added that approximately \$2,400.00 is spent per month out of this account. A motion to approve the \$4,000.00 on the condition that it not be used for work on the website was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

- Plan Commission (10117) - \$34,061 – Secretary moved from Contractor Reg Fee Fund**
- (10119) - \$32,738 – Clerk moved from Contractor Reg Fee Fund**
- (10136) - \$18,300 – Board Members moved from Contractor Reg Fee Fund**
- (10130) - \$12,000 – Part-Time moved from Contractor Reg Fee Fund**

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Quinn. Councilman Rosenbaum asked how this happens and Councilman Garner said the account is deliberately run down so there is not enough in there. Motion carried 7-0

- Commissioners (11007) - \$400,000 – OASI moved from CAGIT**
- (11009) - \$80,000 – Medicare moved from CAGIT**
- (11017) - \$550,000 – Co Rev Retirement moved from CAGIT**
- (11019) - \$1,850,000 – Employees Group Health moved from CAGIT**
- (10154) - \$2,126.80 – Curators (Increase for Part-Time Employees)**

Auditor Winski said there is a correction for 10154 from \$2,126.80 to \$2,989.00. Keri Teller Jakubowski, Museum Director, said she was told by the Commissioners to speak to the Council about her part-time employees. Councilman Santana said she may have been misdirected but since she was at the meeting,

President Novak asked her for the amount she is asking. She replied she would like an increase of one employee from \$9.14 to \$10.00 and \$10.50 to \$11.50 for the other employee. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion to approve 11007, 11009, 11017, and 11019 was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Quinn. Motion carried 7-0.

In-House Printing – Tabled from Budget Hearings

This item was previously addressed.

Courts/Probation User Fees – Law Books

A motion to table until January was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion carried 7-0.

President Novak encouraged anyone who wants a job evaluation/reevaluation that has not been addressed at this meeting to contact Barb Mossman.

10. 2020 Salary Discussion and Vote

Councilman Santana said to give the employees a percentage raise at this time is prohibitive. However, to give back to the employees, his motion is to give a \$1,000.00 bonus to full-time employees to be paid in two increments in 2020; for permanent part-time employees, a \$500 bonus to be paid in two increments in 2020, for each in January and November. The motion was seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Councilman Rosenbaum said he feels to receive the bonus, the employee must have been employed as of 12/31/2019, and it should be stipulated that they would have to be employed a minimum of 3-6 months. He feels that this is for work that has already been done and President Novak said it is for not receiving a raise in 2020. There was a discussion regarding those employees hired in 2020 and if/how their bonuses would be prorated. The motion was amended to a \$1,000 bonus to full-time and \$500.00 to permanent part-time employees to be paid in January and November, with prorated bonuses to be determined for those employees hired during 2020. Motion carried 5-2, with Councilman Quinn and Rosenbaum voting Nay.

Denise Schroeder from Purdue Extension clarified that her five employees will be receiving \$5,000.00. Councilman Yagelski said each employee would receive \$1,000.00 but Ms. Schroeder said the \$5,000.00 will go to Contractual Services and not individual employees. Councilman Yagelski said that any additional salary increase would have to come from Purdue Extension.

Councilman Rosenbaum said he will put some specific jobs into the Personnel Committee so they go through the proper channels and process. Auditor Winski said she always understood that the Personnel Committee had to be advised at the time of Budget Hearings.

A motion to close the 2020 Budget meetings as of now was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Rosenbaum voting Nay.

OLD BUSINESS

Clerk's Perpetuation Fund - \$200,000.00 Appropriated for the Scanning of Court Documents at the October 28, 2019 Meeting – Kathy Chrobak

Ms. Chroback said she contacted the State Board of Accounts and asked if this could be done. She said she was told that the Council can appropriate it but only the Clerk can spend it. She said although Councilman Rosenbaum said her office has been neglectful in the scanning, scanning has actually been done and the office has been cleaned up. She explained if there is an old case prior to 2017, it is copied or scanned to Odyssey. Therefore, she feels to spend \$200,000.00 on scanning seems wasteful, when it can be scanned to Odyssey at no cost. Councilman Yagelski said what she is currently doing is commendable. However, there are five rooms of documents, so if there is a better program or way to do it, he asked her to share it with the Council. Ms. Chroback said they are scanning into the Court system, but Councilman Yagelski said there is much more scanning that needs to be done.

Councilman Santana went back to the previous minutes when this request was on the agenda and explained that the Council only approved that which the Clerk was requesting. President Novak added there were estimates given by Darlene Hale and the Council only acted upon the request. Ms. Chroback said she doesn't want to use the Bolt system, so Councilman Yagelski asked her to offer an alternative solution. President Novak asked her to come back with more information in January. Ms. Chroback said some of the cases in the file cabinets have been scanned but not yet shredded. Councilman Rosenbaum asked if the documents have to be backed up to microfiche, but Ms. Chroback said the State says the backup is Odyssey. Councilman Rosenbaum said it is not only La Porte but also Michigan City where construction could not begin until the documents have been managed. Ms. Chroback said the files that are stored behind the Courtrooms in Michigan City are ready for shredding. President Novak asked again for Ms. Chroback to come back in January with more information. Councilman Garner asked her to work with the Council or money won't be able to be spent on her department. President Novak asked Ms. Chroback what kind of help she needs to get all of the scanning done. She replied that the Council is only trying to take her space, so she was asked what the rooms with file cabinets would be used for by the Clerk's Office. She said a break room and storage for some documents. For the third time, President Novak asked Ms. Chroback to come back in January, and he said this item will be held over for that meeting.

President Novak said there needs to be a time management system implemented in the County, and that Mitch Bishop needs to be put in place to oversee the Building Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Public Hearing to Consider Approval of Disposition of Real Property (County Home and Adjacent Five Acres Excluding the County Barn)

Mike Schultz, La Porte County Assessor

Mr. Schultz said it is unique property and hopes that the Commissioners would find a realtor that would market this to be sold and not torn down. Attorney Guy DiMartino said this will be a Public Auction and will only go to a realtor if the minimum bid is not met.

Resolution No. 2019-11 – A Resolution Approving the Disposal of Real Property Pursuant to I.C. 36-1-1-11-3, et seq.

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

Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Councilman Rosenbaum asked for the minimum bid and Attorney DiMartino said the minimum bid of \$50,000.00 was set by the Commissioners in their resolution. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Rosenbaum voting Nay because he feels the \$50,000.00 minimum is too low.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

La Porte County Circuit Court

**Requesting Permission to Transfer
From Office Supply Account (20001)
To Office Furniture (41004)
For Purchase of Office Furniture for Court Administrator \$953.00**

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

La Porte County Assessor

**Requesting Permission to Transfer
From Group Health Insurance (11019)
To Professional Services (30135) \$24,600.00**

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

Assessor Mike Shultz requested permission to spend \$450.00 out of his Sales Disclosure Fund for a monitor for the conference room. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum.

Assessor Schultz added that he will be working with the Auditor next year to pay more out of the Reassessment Fund to offset some costs from his office that are currently coming out of the General Fund, such as Health Insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and other costs.

La Porte County MS4

**Requesting Permission to Transfer
From Education/Training (30027) and Professional Services (30135)
To Part-Time/Extra Hire (10130) \$2,574.12
From Office Supplies (20001) to Mileage (30018) \$ 300.00
Total \$2,874.12**

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

La Porte County Recorder

**Requesting Permission to Transfer
From Office Supplies (20001) to Equipment (41007) \$1,089.99
For Purchase of Room Air Purifier**

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

Requesting Permission to Spend From Recorder's Perpetuation Fund (1189) For the Purchase of Office Flooring	Not to Exceed \$21,708.86
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A motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

<u>La Porte County Engineer</u> Requesting Permission to Spend From MVH Restricted (1173) For Cougar Road Project	\$210,000.00
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A motion to table was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 7-0.

<u>La Porte County Prosecutor</u> Requesting Permission to Spend From IV-D Incentive Fund (8897) For the Replacement of Computers	\$27,968.59
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This item was previously addressed in the meeting.

<u>La Porte County Weights & Measures</u> Requesting an Additional Appropriation From Riverboat (1191) For Replacement Vehicle	Not to Exceed \$39,000.00
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A motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

<u>La Porte County Sheriff</u> Requesting an Additional Appropriation From Riverboat (1191) For Food For Garage Equipment Total	\$150,000.00 \$ 15,000.00 \$165,000.00
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A motion to approve \$150,000.00 out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion to approve \$15,000.00 out of Riverboat (1191) was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Mollenhauer asked about the privatization of the Jail food and Sheriff Boyd said the Commissioners recently signed the contract, so the transition is beginning now. Sheriff Boyd said it is a

three-year contract that will go through the end of his term. Councilman Mollenhauer asked if someone will be overseeing this and making sure it is saving money. Sheriff Boyd said he is confident it will and he has had positive reviews of the company, but will be sure they comply with their contract.

Councilman Yagelski asked about the Weights and Measures and Sheriff Boyd said it is going very well. Several commercial vehicles have been stopped and inspected, and some have been taken out of service for being overweight and/or over size limits.

La Porte County Community Corrections
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or General Fund (1000)
For Director's Salary Shortage for Training

\$1,348.00

A motion to approve out of the General Fund (1000) was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Yagelski said this is not going to be a policy that is going to be allowed to continue.

La Porte County Coroner
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or General Fund (1000)

For Autopsy Account

\$18,100.00

For Xray/Lab Account

\$ 3,700.00

For Toxicology Account

\$ 1,100.00

Total

\$22,900.00

A motion to approve out of General Fund (1000) was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion approved 7-0.

La Porte County 911
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From Riverboat (1191) or General Fund (1000)
For Utilities and Office Supply Accounts
For Remainder of the Year Expenses

\$3,000.00

A motion to approve out of General Fund (1000) was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Planner
Requesting an Additional Appropriation
From CEDIT (1112)
For Local Match on Marquette Greenway Trail

\$56,150.00

Mitch Bishop said this is an existing project in which the PD funds were already approved. This is the next step in which the 20% match is required. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Santana and seconded by Councilman Quinn. Motion carried 7-0.

La Porte County Auditor

**Requesting Permission to Spend
From Dual Homestead Fund (7110)
For Replacement Computers**

**Not to Exceed
\$20,000.00**

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

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Quinn said he would waive making his comments at this time and do so at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Santana. Motion carried 7-0.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 27th of January, 2020.


Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Sean Quinn



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 
Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor