

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

October 25, 2021 at 6:00PM

The meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on October 25th, 2021 at 6:00pm (central time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex located at 809 State Street, La Porte, Indiana, 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by the Council President, Randy Novak.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Novak.

ROLL CALL

Six Council Members were physically present for the meeting (President Novak, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum) and one Council Member was present electronically via Zoom (Mr. Yagelski).

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021 AGENDA

Mr. Rosenbaum requested to add an addition to New Business as item no. 9, noting specifically his intention to speak about Michigan Township Assessor Scott Bell and his Level 3 bonuses for 2019 and 2020. Mrs. Gramarossa also requested to add item no. 10 under New Business, and asked for a motion of support to hire an attorney for Auditor Tim Stabosz in the Commissioner mandamus action against him, noting that no dollar amount was designated at this time for the item. Additionally, Mrs. Gramarossa asked to amend one previous item under Old Business, explaining Voter Registration's need to replace a failed scanner and to revise the advertised \$259 funds to not-to-exceed \$1,300. Finally, Mr. Mollenhauer noted that he wished to pull Human Resource's Part-Time Employee request off the table, as the position had been filled by Barbara Mossman.

- i. Motion to accept the agenda as amended made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 23, 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

- i. Motion to approve the August 23, 2021 minutes made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion to approve the September 27, 2021 minutes made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- iv. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

La Porte County Sheriff's Department, Andy Hynek:

In regard to the recent pay workshop, Mr. Hynek noted his frustration that the offered 3% pay increase was derived from an entry-level pay scale, not from the 22-year salary which Mr. Hynek and other senior staff are receiving. He also noted frustrations that increases in costs for benefits negated the proposed 3% raise in pay. He described how neighboring agencies received upwards of \$5,000 in ARP funds as bonus pay as a show of thanks for working through the recent pandemic. Mr. Hynek urged the Council to take action and noted that word of mouth from County employees to potential hires was the best form of employee retention, and that offering these raises would help increase the County's reputation and improve staff retention.

President of the Fraternal Policeman's Lodge of Michigan City, Douglas Samuelson

Mr. Samuelson supplemented Mr. Hynek's statements, adding that 3% pay increases do not even cover the increased cost of living, and noted shortfalls in previous years' pay raises which he opined set the County back even further with pay. He expressed his understanding about funding not being available for larger increases, however questioned if funds leftover from the previous year's budget were available, distinctly noting that he had not seen anything regarding said budget. He agreed with Captain Hynek once more that pandemic bonuses should be offered sooner rather than later. Mr. Samuelson recommended setting sheriff department staff to annual contracts, which would offer them a voice with salary negotiations with the County.

Michigan Township Trustee, Laverne Childs (via Zoom)

Mrs. Childs arrived electronically via Zoom to dispel negative rumors that the Michigan Township Trustees were not involved in the Rental Assistance Program. She confirmed that, from July 30th and following, she and her team had become involved with the Rental Assistance Program and will be available to assist as best they can going forward.

La Porte County EMS Captain, Jeff Koon

Mr. Koon backed Mr. Hynek's previous statements about the proposed 3% pay raises, and how the offered amount would not be adequate. Although he praised the Council for trying to find a solution, he explained that the risks of working directly with the public in an emergency setting were not conducive to the offered pay raise. Mr. Koon added that while many departments were able to limit the number of hours spent physically in-office by their staff to prevent the spread of Covid, many departments (including EMS) did not have this luxury and risked a higher likelihood of contracting Covid as a result. He continued that because of working in these hazards, one team member tragically lost a family member to Covid after bringing the virus home from work. He pressed the Council to also work on

acquiring better benefits for County staff, whether it be better insurance, vacation time, longevity, or sick pay to ensure that skilled staff could be retained for years to come.

Center Township Trustee, Lisa Pierzakowski

Mrs. Pierzakowski offered the Council paperwork describing the current spending by the Center Township Trustee for the Rental Assistance Program. She requested an additional \$25,000 from the previously appropriated funds for the project, as the current funding was running low.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.

Mrs. Gramarossa noted that a particular amount of funding had been given to the Michigan Township Trustee and asked if said funding was taken out of the originally drawn \$25,000 or the secondary \$25,000 draw. President Novak clarified that funding for the Michigan Township Trustee's Rental Assistance Program came from the initial \$100,000 appropriation, not from the draws, and added that \$10,000 of funding had been offered to Michigan Township. Mrs. Gramarossa confirmed with Lisa that this new draw would bring the total funds taken from the original appropriations up to \$50,000, which Lisa confirmed was true, and that \$10,000 was in fact given to Michigan Township. As such, \$40,000 remained from the original \$100,000 appropriations. Mr. Rosenbaum noted frustration that another township had become involved with managing the project when it was initially agreed that Center Township, through Mrs. Pierzakowski, would be the sole coordinator for the Rental Assistance Program. President Novak clarified that the funds given to Michigan Township were given on the ground that they abide by the County's established guidelines for the program, and that Mrs. Pierzakowski does not exclusively need to be directing them, since they were offered the smaller amount of funding at \$10,000 as a start. Mr. Rosenbaum inquired as to why a Michigan Township Trustee was not present before the Council, which President Novak confirmed that a representative was present electronically via Zoom. Mrs. Pierzakowski confirmed with Mrs. Gramarossa that she handled the Rental Assistance Program in all 21 townships, with the exception of Michigan Township.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN FLOOR CLOSED.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

La Porte County Facilities, Larry Levendowski

Mr. Levendowski opened with informing the Council that the north elevator in the Jail was not up to code with homeland security's recent code updates. He explained that the upgrades to get it up to code would cost roughly \$50,000 (not to exceed) with about \$9,000 left in the project's previous workings that could be reapplied to the new updates. President Novak confirmed that the Initial cost of the elevator was taken from the Emergency Reserve fund, and asked if the additional \$50,000 could be taken from the Emergency Reserve fund once more if a motion of support were to pass.

- i. Motion of support made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa and Mr. Garner.

Mr. Yagelski inquired how the County's contractor for elevators, Otis, could have incurred this cost to the County. Mr. Levendowski explained that Otis did not cause any damage to the elevators, and simply that code standards had been changed nationally and the County was now required to adapt to the new national regulations designated by homeland security. Mrs. Gramarossa asked if the costs were going to exceed the project's original budget of \$195,000, which Mr. Levendowski and President Novak confirmed that the requested \$50,000 was not necessarily for work directly on the elevator itself, but the various hardware and electrical updates that would bring it up to the new code requirements. Mrs. Gramarossa asked how long it would take to get the project underway, which Mr. Levendowski confirmed that the project would begin promptly after approval to ensure the elevator's operation as soon as possible; however, he could not promise what pace Otis would make the updates.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Levendowski followed up with the Council on the Jail's rooftop HVAC project from the previous month, and informed them that additional damage had been discovered in the unit which would require additional repairs. Specifically, he described, after the motor of the HVAC unit burnt out, so did the pre-existing freon and oil that was used to maintain the unit. He continued that even though he was actively looking into pricing options to make the additional repairs, he wanted to get the project moving due to the imperative nature of the project. He explained that the freon required for the unit estimated at roughly \$2,000 for a single jug, and the County would require upwards of 7 jugs to fill the unit in question. Mr. Levendowski requested a motion of support for \$30,000 (not to exceed), and he would hopefully be able to find cheaper alternatives to offer to the Council at the next month's meeting.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Garner.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Parks Department Superintendent, Jeremy Sobecki

Mr. Sobecki took a moment to inform the Council on the application of the \$70,000 allocation given to the Parks Department to make repairs at Bluhm County Park. He informed the Council that the parking lot was finished and looked great, and funds from the Parks Department's Non-Reverting Fund had been utilized to extend the lot another 10 feet, with paving leading to a nearby shelter. Recent rains, however, postponed painting parking lines. He gave thanks to the Highway Department for digging out the soil for the new playground area and helping repurpose the excavated soil. While the initial playground installation was delayed, new estimates forecasted that the installation would be completed by mid-November, with a grand opening to be held in spring. Bathroom repairs were ongoing and would move forward as soon as the inclement weather halted, with concrete for the floor and wall-building to be complete in the hopefully near future.

Director of Human Resources, Barb Mossman

Mrs. Mossman wanted to inform the room about open enrollment for staff health insurance on November 15th, which would take place for that week only. She continued that Apticare coordinators would be hosting meetings the upcoming Thursday and Friday at 11:30am & 4:00pm respectively. Additionally, she asked for clarification on a motion made by Mr. Mollenhauer earlier in the year

regarding approval of funding for a part-time employee for HR, which Mrs. Mossman followed that she was able to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant.

EMA Supervisor, Barb Huston

Mrs. Huston offered the Council photographs of sirens and siren poles currently being repaired by EMA. She explained that complaints had come in about the siren at Jackson St. & Plum St. in Michigan City which required new batteries and a circuit board after being struck by lightning, with the cost for the new circuit board being \$1,800. The second pole at 700 E and 350 S, which had also been struck by lightning, additionally required a new circuit board and batteries. She informed the Council that repairs for both sirens were to go on the Council's insurance. Mrs. Huston continued that once the repairs were made, surrounding residents would be informed about the repairs, and the subsequent, extended testing of the new that sirens would be done, to ensure that no undue panic would happen. Mrs. Huston added that the Springfield Township siren had been having issues due to a rotted pulley on the pole, and that the pole itself would need to be entirely replaced. Additionally, the Whirlpool siren was also in major disrepair and in need of a new pole and a major work-up due to being infested with a mouse nest. She emphasized that many more sirens and siren poles across the county needed additional work, many needing new batteries, of which each pole would require four batteries each. A study had been conducted to find which siren poles needed to be replaced, noting that the 600 E & 150 N (Wills Township), 100 W & 250 S (Scipio Township), and 1000 N (Galena Township) all needed replacement poles. For cost, Mrs. Huston had no estimates to offer at this time; however, she was asking for a motion of support in the interim to get the project moving. Mr. Yagelski inquired if Mrs. Huston was able to secure any grants for the project, to which Mrs. Huston noted that one particular grant from the Department of Agriculture might become available to the county in 2022.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Garner.

President Novak urged Mrs. Huston to research more modern technology for the poles as to ensure that they would have a long lifespan once they were established. Mrs. Gramarossa asked Mrs. Huston if a current maintenance schedule was in place for the sirens and their poles, which Mrs. Huston confirmed that there was not at this time, as the previous technician in charge of the maintenance had not been employed by the County for some time, explaining the uptick in the damages she was reporting. Mrs. Gramarossa pressed Mrs. Huston to work closely with Larry Butcher, once he returned from leave, to coordinate a definitive maintenance schedule to ensure that the poles did not fall into disrepair.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member Gramarossa: Mrs. Gramarossa confirmed that the workings of the Drainage Board and the Regional Sewer Board were in good order and continued that the La Porte North South Corridor was in phase 1 of funding and would be able to go through with environmental approval once the funding stage passes. She also met with Voter Registration, as well as the Pioneer Cemetery Board, who had been considering changing their title to Pioneer Cemeteries to reflect the vast number of cemeteries with which they worked; however it was discovered that the name could not be changed due to State

mandate. Finally, Mrs. Gramarossa reported that Paladin was looking into building a brand new facility and would likely be reaching out to the Council for ARP funding to fulfill the project.

Council Member Mollenhauer:

Mr. Mollenhauer reported that he had attended the La Porte County Redevelopment Commission meeting and met with Barb Huston regarding EMA goings-on in the absence of Larry Butcher. He also met with General Insurance Services representatives for a tour of the Northshore La Porte Clinic, and convened with Barb Mossman regarding budgeting for a part-time Human Resources associate.

Council Member Garner:

Mr. Garner noted his correspondence with Rick Brown from MS4 and Rick's close workings with the Parks Department, and asked President Novak to inform the room on any updates from the Purdue Extension's recent events.

Council Member Rosenbaum:

Mr. Rosenbaum explained that much of his liaison correspondence had been about pay raises, and that he had attended an RDC meeting and would be attending another the upcoming Wednesday.

Council Member Cunningham:

Mr. Cunningham spoke that he had little to report outside of the daily operations with his liaisons. He also attended the largest homing pigeon race in the United States, located in Wanatah, with President Novak.

Council Member Yagelski:

Mr. Yagelski provided an update on the Highway Department's order for trucks, noting that they were ordered this year, but will be delivered next year.

President Novak:

President Novak attended the Veterans' Court Graduation, and took a moment to fill the Council in on the Purdue Extension's events. He explained that while Purdue was working on making major changes to their staffing, they did not wish to disclose at this time what actions were being done, however affirmed that operations were being fulfilled to assuage the Council's requests and concerns. President Novak also attended the homing pigeon race with Mr. Cunningham, and took a moment to note that the recently advertised 3% pay raise offer was to be considered a baseline raise consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE

Auditor Tim Stabosz reported that any correspondence that came to the council was already listed under the New Business and Old Business categories.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 2021-10B: An Ordinance of the La Porte County Council Authorizing the Issuance of Economic Development Local Income Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds for the Purpose of Currently Refunding the Outstanding Obligation Related to the 2015 Master Equipment Lease Agreement and Addressing Other Matters Connected Therewith.

Andy Mouser, of Baker Tilly, and Randy Rompola, of Barnes and Thornburg, attended electronically via Zoom to follow up and advise the Council on the previously established bond agreement to cut down on costs from the County's HVAC equipment lease. Mr. Mouser urged the Council to push the ordinance through this evening, as to allow the County to go to the bond market either before year's end or in early 2022, thus allowing the County to maximize savings on the lease agreement. Auditor Tim Stabosz backed Mr. Mouser's advice, noting that it would allow for more flexibility as well.

- i. Motion to suspend the rules and have a first and second reading made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion to approve the first reading by title only made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
 - a. Mr. Stabosz read aloud the ordinance by title only.
- iv. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- v. All members voted in favor.
- vi. Motion to approve the second reading made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- vii. All members voted in favor.
- viii. Motion to adopt made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ix. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider approval of Council President's authorization to hire replacement positions for:**
 - a. **La Porte County Emergency Management Agency Office – COMOT V Executive Assistant; Homeland Security position**
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
 - b. **La Porte County Clerk, Circuit Court – Deputy Clerk**
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
 - c. **La Porte County Health Department – 2 Public Health Clerk positions**
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

2. **Honorable Judge Greta Friedman, Superior Court 4 – Requesting a motion of support of \$36,165 in supplementing Healthcare Foundation Grant for the Intensive Case Manager position for 2022**
 - i. Motion to support made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

3. **Barb Huston, Director E911 – Requesting a motion of support for additional appropriation to replenish the EMA Executive Assistant position payroll. After paying for 60 sick days, 20 vacation days and 42.5 hours of compensation time, has depleted the position's pay. Requesting \$9,291.35 expended to be replaced.**
 - i. Motion to support made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

4. **La Porte County EMS – Requesting a motion of support to enact “tag along” clause with-in open ambulance contract**
 - i. Motion to support one “tag along” ambulance made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
 - iii. Motion to support purchase of a second ambulance if the Commission considers the request an emergency made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
 - iv. All members voted in favor.

5. **La Porte County Planner – Commitment Letters for Group 3: INDOT 80% Funding for FY 2027 Construction**
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

6. **Hanna Township petition for their 2022 budget to be approved**
 - i. Motion to adopt made by Garner and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

7. **Human Resources – Permission to pay 2022 Health Insurance Premiums**

Mrs. Mossman and General Insurance representative Craig Menne (who was available electronically via Zoom) approached the Council to inform them about a rise in employee insurance premiums for the 2022 plan year, noting specifically that a 4.5% increase would be applied to all premiums. Mr. Rosenbaum inquired as to why an employee might incur additional charges at a hospital under conditions which their insurance should cover them. Mrs. Mossman and Mr. Menne explained that even though a hospital might be in an employee's insurance network, a particular physician performing a procedure might not be, which could incur additional out-of-network charges. Mrs. Gramarossa noted that when insurance premiums went up the previous year, the Council had offered County employees a \$500 stipend to offset the rise in premiums. Mr. Rosenbaum added that in 2019 employees paid 13.5% of their premiums, and the County had increased this to 15% the following year, hence another reason why the \$500 stipend was offered in addition to a difficult financial year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mrs. Gramarossa added that, since the stipend had been offered in the previous year to supplement the rise in premium rates, a lack of a stipend in the upcoming year would result in employees incurring not only the 4.5% increase in premiums, but the 2021's increase as well. Mrs. Mossman mentioned that a 3% increase in premiums occurred in 2021, which Mrs.

Gramarossa countered that this would create an overall 7.5% increase in insurance premiums which employees would need to pay. President Novak noted that offsetting the 85%/15% coverage in favor of employees could be utilized to make up for the premium increases, and alternately ARP funds could be utilized to offset this as well. Mr. Stabosz added that offsetting the 85%/15% coverage and constantly shifting reimbursement might not be the greatest long-term solution, and also noted that it would cause difficulties with bookkeeping in the Auditor's office. President Novak asked Mrs. Mossman to determine the overall increase in the premiums from 2019 through 2020 and to extend the information to County employees.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. 5 members voted in favor (President Novak, Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Mollenhauer) and 2 members voted not-in-favor (Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Yagelski).

8. Appointment to the La Porte County Park Board

President Novak informed the room that two particular candidates, Clara Clark and Mike King, had expressed interest in filling the empty park board seat. Mr. Cunningham recommended filling the seat with Mike King to ensure a balance of genders on the board.

- i. Motion to approve the nomination of Mike King to fill the empty seat made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

9. Michigan Township Assessor Level 3

Mr. Rosenbaum explained that Michigan Township Assessor Scott Bell had lost his Level 3 certification in 2019 for noncompliance with State regulation; however, Mr. Bell reacquired his certification for 2021 and as such can continue performing his duties as the Assessor. However, Mr. Rosenbaum noted, a monetary bonus to a Level 3 staff member was issued in 2019 and 2020 under Mr. Bell's unlicensed working which Mr. Rosenbaum urged the Auditor and Payroll to look into, as the bonus funds may need to be returned to the County.

- i. Motion to have the Auditor and Payroll investigate the stipend and make an arrangement with Mr. Bell to pay it back for 2019, 2020, and any affected part of 2021 made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Garner.
 - a. Mr. Rosenbaum added that Mr. Bell missed \$3,436,000 worth of assessments which County taxpayers had to make up for.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

10. Support an Attorney for the Auditor In Reference to The Commissioners' Mandamus Action

- i. Motion of support made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. 6 members voted in favor (President Novak, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Cunningham) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Mollenhauer).

OLD BUSINESS

Solid Waste District budget adoption

- i. Motion to adopt the budget as presented made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Garner.
- ii. Auditor Tim Stabosz read aloud the budget by its title.

- iii. All members voted in favor.

Pay for Human Resources Part-Time Employee

- i. Motion to take the part-time employee for Human Resources off of the table made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. 6 members voted in favor (President Novak, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Yagelski) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham).
 - a. Mr. Cunningham informed the Council that he had voted not-in-favor because he was unsure if funds had been allocated for the part-time employee or not. Mrs. Gramarossa inquired with Mr. Stabosz if a \$20,000 line could be opened up for the pay of Mrs. Mossman’s new employee. After some discussion, it was decided to provide Ms. Mossman with the necessary pro-rated amount, on part time monies, to get her through the rest of the year.
- iii. Mr. Mollenhauer and Mrs. Gramarossa withdrew their motions.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting permission to spend from Adult User Fees 2102.41007.000.0334 for:

Computer, monitor, and related software for La Porte Superior Court No. 3.	\$1728
Zebra desktop thermal printer	\$754

- i. Motion to approve both items as submitted made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Voter Registration

Requesting permission to transfer \$259 from Office Supplies (20001) to a 400 account for:

Mini refrigerator	\$259
-------------------	-------

President Novak explained that there were no 400 accounts to transfer to, and a motion of support would be what was needed to approve the spending of the funds.

- i. Motion of support made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Treasurer

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) for:

Computers, software, and money counting machines	\$60,000
--	----------

- i. Motion to approve the funding out of 8950 if granted and 8951 if otherwise not granted made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting Additional Appropriations from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

Merit Pension \$697,816.50

- i. Motion to approve the funding out of General (1000) made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Garner.
 - a. Auditor Tim Stabosz and Mr. Yagelski both recommended taking the funds out of Riverboat, with Mr. Yagelski also suggesting using Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8951) funding as an option.
- ii. Mr. Cunningham withdrew his original motion and instead motioned to approve the funding out of Riverboat (1191), seconded by Mr. Garner.
- iii. All members voted in favor.

Garage tool stipend for Emergency Vehicle Technicians \$600

- i. Motion to support funding out of General (1000) made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. Six members voted in favor (President Novak, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Rosenbaum) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski).

La Porte County Economic Development

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

OCRA Broad Band Technical Support and Challenge Resolutions \$18,000

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950) made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Clerk

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

17 Desks for Michigan City Clerk's Office \$12,138

- i. Motion to approve out of General (1000) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Request to spend from Clerk's Perpetuation fund for:

10 new scanners and a microfilm reader \$20,000

- i. Motion to approve not-to-exceed made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County EMA

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

7 battery boxes for sirens and 1 transformer \$8,297.19

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950) if applicable or ARP (8951) if not applicable made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
 - a. Mr. Yagelski recommended that Mitch Bishop investigate whether the project could receive grant funding, to which President Novak and Barb Huston concurred.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County E911

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

Motorola Invoice \$89,962

Mrs. Huston approached the Council to inform them that resulting invoice was a result of the bill not being paid for three years, due to various issues including verifying the legitimacy of the invoice. President Novak added that Motorola's outsourcing to Poland added to the confusion. Mr. Yagelski inquired as to why the funding wouldn't be taken out of E911's User Fees account, which is what had been done in the past. Mrs. Huston explained that the User Fees account was also used to pay employee salaries, and she was unsure of how much funding was available for use. President Novak recommended looking into the User Fees account and paying the invoice with those funds if they were available, and to otherwise table the request until the following month if the funds were not available in the User Fees Account.

- i. Motion to approve out of E911 User Fees (1222) if applicable, and otherwise to table the request until the following month if they are not available by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or Riverboat (1191) for:

Matching Grant (50/50) with Healthcare Foundation of La Porte for a new UTV and trailer \$15,000

Mr. Garner urged EMS Administrator Andrew McGuire to reach out to the La Porte County Tourism Bureau for assistance with funding, given that the vehicle requested in question was to be used at events that would be considered tourist events, including the La Porte County Fair.

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8951) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Mollenhauer expressed pride in all of the Council members representing for the Pay Raise Workshop, while Mr. Rosenbaum urged that assistance from the Commission and additional allocatable ARP funds could potentially help with employee retention.

ADJOURNMENT

- i. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Examined & Approved by The La Porte County Council this 22nd day of November 2021.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



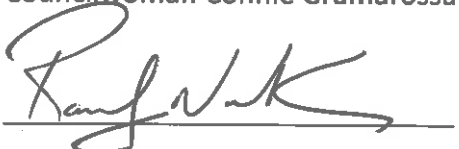
Councilman Terry Garner



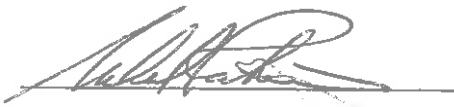
Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST 

Timothy Stabosz, Auditor