

## **MINUTES**

### **REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**January 3, 2022 at 6PM**

The meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on January 3, 2022 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 County Auditor, Tim Stabosz.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Deputy Auditor, Vaughn Galloway.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Five Council members were physically present for the meeting (President Novak, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum) and two Council member were present electronically via Zoom (Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Garner).

#### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

##### **1. President**

- a. Nomination of Mr. Novak by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- b. Motion to approve the nomination by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- c. All members voted in favor.
- d. Auditor Stabosz relinquished the chair to newly elected President Novak.

##### **2. Vice President**

- a. Nomination of Mr. Rosenbaum by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- b. Motion to approve the nomination by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- c. 6 members voted in favor (Mr. Novak, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Garner, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski and Mrs. Gramarossa) and 1 member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Mollenhauer).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Appointment of Legal Council**

- a. Motion to reappoint Guy DiMartino made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

- b. All members voted in favor.
- 2. Planning for 2022 (approval of Regular Meeting Dates)**
  - a. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
  - b. All members voted in favor.
- 3. County Council Appointment of Citizen Board Members**
  - a. Board of Trustees of Wanatah Public Library
    - i. Nomination of Noelle Sojka-Howell by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
    - ii. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
    - iii. All members voted in favor.
  - b. Board of Trustees of Westville Public Library
    - i. Motion to approve incumbent member Stephanie Fenters by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
    - ii. All members voted in favor.
  - c. Alcohol Beverage Commission
    - i. Nomination of Clifford Wozniak by Mr. Yagelski and second by Mr. Mollenhauer.
    - ii. Nomination of incumbent member Ron Schafer by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Garner.
    - iii. Motion to close the nominations by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
    - iv. All members voted in favor.
    - v. 4 members voted in favor of Ron Schafer (Mr. Cunningham, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Garner) and 3 members voted in favor of Clifford Wozniak (Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mollenhauer and Mr. Novak).
  - d. Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals
    - i. Appointments of incumbents Jamal Agemy and Bob Bailey.
    - ii. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
    - iii. All members voted in favor.
  - e. Regional Sewer and Water District
    - i. Appointment of incumbent member Mark Danielson.
    - ii. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mollenhauer.
    - iii. All members voted in favor.
- 4. County Council Appointment of its members to Boards and Commissions**
  - a. Animal Control Advisory Commission
    - i. Nomination of Randy Novak by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
    - ii. All members voted in favor.
  - b. Fair Management and Events Corporation
    - i. Motion to retain Randy Novak and Michael Rosenbaum made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
    - ii. All members voted in favor.
  - c. Plan Commission
    - i. Motion to nominate Earl Cunningham made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
    - ii. All members voted in favor.
  - d. Redevelopment Commission
    - i. Motion to nominate Randy Novak, Michael Rosenbaum and Connie Gramarossa made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Rosenbaum.

- ii. All members voted in favor.
- 5. Mileage rate for 2022: IRS, as of Dec 20, 2021, announced that the rate will go up to 58.4 cents per mile. State of Indiana, as of Dec 22, 2021, remains at 56 cents per mile.
  - a. Motion for LaPorte County to set La Porte County rate at the State rate of 56 cents per mile made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Garner.
  - b. All members voted in favor.
- 6. Discussion on Liaison Assignments for 2022

Mr. Cunningham said he would like these to be discussed at the regular council meetings, due to 2 members not being present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **Jeff Santana, Michigan City:**

Mr. Santana stated he didn't see many people at the meeting, along with very few on Zoom. He also noted that he was disappointed in the participation of the individuals of La Porte County. He said they need to get excited about the election and see what they are in for in the next year. He also said to the council that he appreciates them for sitting in the position.

### **COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Mr. Cunningham commented that the council would be unanimous in praying for Mr. Santana's recovery. He also said he would like to rebut slightly that history is being made; Mr. Garner served as President of the county council when there were only 2 Republicans on the council and he didn't believe the county was any worse for the wear. He continued to say that this was only a reorganizational meeting and people would spend more time driving than what the meeting would last. He said he wanted to share an interesting quote...the definition of Christmas is when kids ask Santa for things and the adults pay for them. The definition of deficit spending is when the adults ask the government for things and the kids end up paying for it...we all should keep that in mind.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Examined & Approved by The La Porte County Council this 24th day of January 2022.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



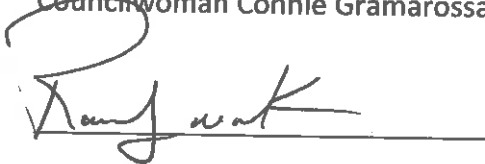
Councilman Terry Garner



Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa



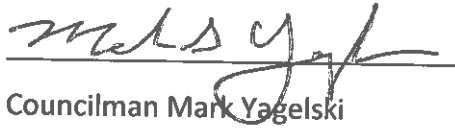
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Timothy Stabosz, Auditor