

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
November 22, 2021 at 6:00PM

The meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on November 22nd, 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

All seven Council Members were physically present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 22, 2021 AGENDA

Mr. Rosenbaum requested to add an additional item under new business: Consider Approval of Council President's authorization to hire a replacement Deputy Clerk for the La Porte County Clerk's Office to fill a vacancy. Mr. Rosenbaum additionally noted that the Coroner's request under Appropriations, Transfers, and Requests would be for 5 radios instead of 10, per a minor scrivener's error.

(Although no motion or second was performed, President Novak called for the question and all members voted in favor.)

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 25th, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

i. Motion to approve the October 25th, 2021 minutes made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Garner.

ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Center Township Trustee Lisa M. Pierzakowski

Mrs. Pierzakowski approached the Council as both trustee and as a representative of the local volunteer fire departments, requesting \$10,000 for additional items needed by each volunteer fire department within the County, preferably with funds to be taken from the ARP. Mr. Cunningham proposed offering \$10,000 a year for the upcoming 5 years, however with the happenstance of new Council elections

occurring in both 2022 and 2024, he could not guarantee the funds being secured upon the election of a new Council, and instead proposed a potential 2-year contract to sustain until the current Council's end-of-term.

Jeff Santana, Former La Porte County Councilman (via Zoom)

Mr. Santana opined that, regarding the upcoming salary and bonus discussions, he found it unwise to offer full bonuses upfront to current County employees for fear of the staff departing County employment immediately following the bonuses' distribution. Mr. Santana also advised caution in the hasty use of ARP funds, and urged its slower circulation to aid the community.

Andrew Voeltz, Local La Porte Attorney (via Zoom)

Mr. Voeltz recommended to the Council to set raises to be parallel to that of the Social Security increases of 5.9%, especially in the face of insurance rate increases of 4.5%, large staffing losses in the County, and what he referred to as underpaid local law enforcement. Mr. Rosenbaum disagreed with Mr. Voeltz's statement and clarified that the recent rise in health insurance costs for the County, 4.5%, was an increase on insurance premiums and did not target employee salaries, and as such the projected 4.5% increase on insurance premiums was much smaller of a purported cost to employees than what Mr. Voeltz perceived.

Jeff Koon, La Porte EMS Captain:

Mr. Koon explained that in the aftermath of losing roughly half his staff in the previous year, and with the EMS staff averaging around 60-hour weeks on 24-hour shifts with wages varying between \$12.81 and \$15.22 per hour, that the Council heavily consider his staff's arduous workload when considering salary increases and bonuses in the upcoming conversations to be had about County employee wages. President Novak commented that only four County employees are currently paid under \$15 per hour, and as a result of the recent increase in part-time pay, no other full-time employee should be making less than \$15 per hour. He advised any other full-time employee, who is making less than \$15 per hour, to let the Auditor know, because the Council needs to know about it.

Volunteer Fire Departments Comments

Several members of the surrounding volunteer fire departments approached the Council to discuss the proposed \$10,000 "bonuses" to be distributed to the various departments. One member noted how the \$10,000 could be used for the Center Township Volunteer Fire Department, noting specifically that it would be used for new medical equipment. Another volunteer noted the need for and the cost of new hoses, an air compressor, and a new firetruck, as two of the location's firetrucks were produced in the '90s.

Mike Callahan, Juvenile Services Center Assistant Director

Mr. Callahan began his statement by reaffirming to the Council that he had provided his request and quote for security cameras for the Juvenile Services Center. He added that his team had worked hard through the pandemic, working closely with the public, and asked the Council to take this into consideration when discussing wages and bonuses for County staff. President Novak inquired if the aforementioned cameras were on the agenda, which Auditor Tim Stabosz confirmed that they were not. IT Director Darlene Hale interjected to note that the cameras' discussion was to be had during talks about ARP funding. President Novak proposed amending the agenda to include the cameras and their cost, not to exceed \$80,000, in the form of a favorable vote, to be handled under New Business.

i. Motion made by Mr. Rosenbaum to add La Porte County Juvenile Services Center for Support Towards the Purchase of Security Cameras under New Business and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN FLOOR CLOSED.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Eric Hayes, Director of Animal Control

Mr. Hayes approached the Council with the request to transfer \$16,000 from Animal Control's full-time employee account to the department's part-time account. He noted that there was currently a shortage of full-time employees, and the funds would be used to pay the part-timers that were currently staffed within the department.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Andrew McGuire, Administrator of EMS

With regard to President Novak's earlier comment that, as far as we know, only four full-time employees were getting paid under \$15 per hour, Mr. McGuire approached the Council to inform them that he did in fact have multiple full-time staff members who were paid under \$15 per hour. He informed the Council that he would meet with Auditor Stabosz to have his concerns examined, and report back.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Garner: Mr. Garner reported that MS4 Director Rick Brown would officially be retiring at the end of January in 2022.

Councilwoman Gramarossa: Mrs. Gramarossa reported that everything was running smoothly with her various liaisons, and that Paladin would be approaching the Council at the beginning of the upcoming year to discuss their various requests.

Councilman Mollenhauer: Mr. Mollenhauer informed the Council that HR Director Barb Mossman would approach the Council later in the evening to report on the outcome of multiple job evaluations on various County employee positions.

Councilman Rosenbaum: Mr. Rosenbaum reported that he both ran one RDC meeting in addition to attending a second RDC meeting, in which bids for the infrastructure project for US Highway 421/I-94 had been reopened as the previous bids had expired, and price increases on new bids would assuredly be higher as a result of the passed time. He additionally noted that Coroner deputies were paid by a fixed fee, not a salary, and with the topic of salary increases on the table, the Council might want to consider raising the deputies' fixed fees in the evening's discussion.

Councilman Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham informed the Council that he was in contact with his liaisons and was actively working with them to offer progress with the various goings-on.

Councilman Yagelski: Mr. Yagelski informed the Council that the La Porte County Highway Department would be approaching the Council to request new trucks, and also added that although he would not be present at the meeting, Larry Levendowski of the Maintenance Department had provided a quote for the repair of an elevator, and would additionally be requesting a \$13,000 transfer between accounts to combat increased utility costs.

Councilman Novak: President Novak reported on attending a Redevelopment Commission meeting, in addition to partaking in a Building Department meeting, FMEC meeting, a couple of Finance Committee meetings, and multiple others. Mr. Garner informed President Novak that he had not heard any updates regarding the Purdue Extension liaison, to which President Novak reported that Purdue was responsible for sending out their own correspondence, and their next meeting was to take place the upcoming Wednesday. He additionally explained that Purdue was developing a committee to take on the advancement of the department.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

There were no ordinances or resolutions to report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2022 Salary Discussion and vote

- i. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to continue the budget process for 2022 and seconded by Mr. Garner. All members voted in favor.
- ii. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to offer full-time County employees a 4% salary increase, excluding part-time employees and seasonal full-time employees, seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

Mr. Garner inquired with Mr. Yagelski what the total estimated costs of the raises would be, which Mr. Yagelski confirmed would be roughly \$1.4 million. Mr. Rosenbaum added that the Council was trying its best to ensure that pay increases would be maximized, however the Council was bridled by the budget. He added that the ARP funds are assisting with this process, however the wage increase effort will be attended to on a year-to-year basis. He informed the Council of the State's potential halting of the Business Personal Property Tax, which would cut the County's budget by approximately \$3 million, and would assuredly effect wage increases in the subsequent years to follow.

Mr. Cunningham added that the County Commission President, Rich Mrozinski, had advised against the County slowly distributing ARP funding, and instead urged the Council to spend the funding swiftly to aid the local economy in its recovery from Covid.

Mr. Cunningham noted his firm disagreement with Mr. Mrozinski's statement and indicated that if the ARP funds were distributed too quickly, inflation very well could increase and cause more damage to La Porte's economy.

All members voted in favor of Mr. Yagelski's motion.

- iii. Motion made by Mr. Mollenhauer to offer "essential" employees a 5% salary increase, excluding part-time employees and seasonal full-time employees, seconded by Mr. Yagelski.

Mr. Mollenhauer listed off the eight departments that were to be considered as having "essential" employees, "essential" being staff members who were particularly at risk during the Covid-19 pandemic, and thus would be receiving an additional 1% wage increase in addition to the previously established 4% wage increase:

- La Porte County Sheriff's Department
- La Porte County EMS
- La Porte County Highway Department
- La Porte County Coroner
- La Porte County Community Corrections
- La Porte County Juvenile Services Center
- La Porte County IT Department
- La Porte County Weights & Measures

Mr. Cunningham noted that departments that were considered "non-essential" may very well take exception to being excluded from the additional 1% increase, which could cause dissent among County employees, a statement which Mrs. Gramarossa supported as well. Mr. Cunningham instead recommended setting aside \$5 million from the ARP Lost Revenue account, and using that toward employee raises in the upcoming year before the next County election, adding that he did not want to set aside funds any further than that, as the current Council should not commit funds beyond their own term limit. Mr. Yagelski noted that the Council could not add additional ARP funds without the Commissioners' recommendation, while Mrs. Gramarossa voiced concern that the proposed additional 1% might not be sustainable, and ran the risk of needing to be revoked from employee salaries in the future if the County was restrained by its budget. President Novak argued that the use of ARP funds for raises would not be sustainable for the long-term, to which Auditor Stabosz added that with La Porte's growth factor of 4.3%, a 5% salary increase for all employees could result in the County's budget suffering in other areas, such as funding for new hires, spare funds, etc. Mr. Cunningham recommended potentially putting the proposal of increasing the County income tax on the upcoming County election ballot, citing the County's proportionately low tax rate, as to accumulate funds for the wage increases. Mrs.

Gramarossa confirmed that the 1% wage increase would be a permanent increase, not a temporary one. Mr. Rosenbaum made a pitch to vote on the 1% wage increase at the special meeting in December, so as to increase the window of time to prevent making any errors and to ensure that all final numbers would be accurate.

Mrs. Gramarossa communicated her concerns that the Coroner deputies, who come in close contact with the public, did not receive the bonuses that County employees were given the year prior. President Novak confirmed that that was a result of the deputies' pay structure, which is on a call-based basis, where the deputies get paid for each call they respond to. County Coroner Lynn Swanson confirmed the deputies' pay structure, however when President Novak claimed that part-timers did in fact receive bonuses the previous year, Ms. Swanson indicated that the Coroner deputies in fact had not received any bonuses whatsoever. Mr. Rosenbaum proposed raising the call-out rate for the Coroner deputies, to which Ms. Swanson explained that she would need an increase in her budget to accommodate.

Mr. Cunningham took a moment to inform the room that the County, in addition to its citizens, was having to deal with the struggles of increased inflation, specifically citing the increased costs of resources to maintain the jail, Community Corrections, and the Juvenile Services Center. Mr. Stabosz added that upon reviewing the Waggoner Irwin Scheele salary study from five years prior, it was discovered at the time that La Porte County employees were on average underpaid between 5%-10%, and acknowledged that with the amount of time that has passed, this information has certainly changed, to some degree. He explained that using ARP funding for the salary increases could assist in catching up on this shortfall. President Novak noted that catching up in subsequent years could harm the County's bottom line, and added that bonuses would be discussed in December.

Mr. Rosenbaum requested to add the Facilities Department into consideration for the 1% pay increase, which Mr. Mollenhauer disagreed with, stating that the Facilities Department did not come in close contact with the public. Mr. Rosenbaum responded that IT, which was considered for the 1%, also did not come in close contact with the public, if at all.

President Novak asked Mr. Stabosz if a 5% across-the-board salary increase for full-time employees was sustainable with the current budget, which Mr. Stabosz confirmed it was, however the raises in upcoming years might be negatively affected, given that ARP funds would not always be at the County's disposal to bolster the budget.

Motion made by Mr. Mollenhauer to amend his previous motion and instead offer a 5% raise to all full-time County employees (excluding part-time and seasonal full-time staff), seconded by Mr. Yagelski. All members voted in favor.

iv. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to offer an additional 1% salary pay increase to front-line, non-clerical EMT, Jail, and Sheriff's Department employees, seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

Mr. Rosenbaum inquired with Mr. Stabosz if the additional proposed salary increase for the select departments was affordable, which Mr. Stabosz confirmed it would not be unaffordable, and would come in at a cost of roughly \$90,000.

Four members voted in favor (Mr. Novak, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner) and three members voted not-in-favor (Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum).

At this time, President Novak declared that the Special Meeting regarding the discussion of full-time employee bonuses would be held on December 13th 2021 at 5pm.

v. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to continue the budget process for 2022 and seconded by Mr. Garner. All members voted in favor.

2. Consider approval of Council President's authorization to hire replacement positions for:

a. La Porte County Animal Shelter – Assistant Director position

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

b. La Porte County Juvenile Services Center – Case Worker and Full-Time Cook

i. Motion to approve both positions made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

ii. All members voted in favor.

c. La Porte County Clerk's Office – Deputy Clerk

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

3. La Porte County Human Resources – Consideration and approval of the 2021 Job Evaluations

Human Resources Director Barb Mossman approached the Council to clarify the outcome of the 2021 Job Evaluations that had been performed throughout 2021. She confirmed that four positions experienced an increase in pay. The first position Mrs. Mossman delved into was the Office Manager of the Plan Commission, which was changed to Administrative Assistant as a result of increased job duties, and thus changing the pay from a COMOT 4 to a COMOT 5 position with a starting salary increase difference of \$3,469. The next position, the Plan Commission BZA Secretary, had recently been granted the new title of Plan Commission BZA Administrative Coordinator, which had originally been designated as a COMOT 3 and was instead evaluated to be a COMOT 5 position with a starting salary increase difference of \$5,204. Mrs. Mossman continued to iterate on the third position which had been investigated, the Building Commission Secretary, which had been now changed to Administrative Specialist, which was also elevated from being a COMOT 3 position to a COMOT 5 position, with an

increase of \$5,204 for its starting salary. The final position with a pay increase, the Highway Department's Software Payroll Clerk, was now currently titled as Administrative Specialist with a salary pay increase of \$3,465 as a result of being moved from a COMOT 5 position to a COMOT 6. Mrs. Mossman also clarified that a Secretary Bookkeeper, which was being hired out at the time and had previously been identified as a COMOT 4 position, was recently evaluated to be a COMOT 3 position at the time of its most recent assessment, thus reducing the salary for the position.

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

ii. All members voted in favor.

4. La Porte County Planner – Consideration of Lincoln Trail Extension commitment letter

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

ii. All members voted in favor.

5. La Porte County Hazmat – Requesting a vote of support for matching funds for a federal grant, not to exceed \$12,000

i. Motion of support made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

6. La Porte County Juvenile Services Center Security Cameras

i. Motion of support made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.

ii. All members voted in favor.

7. La Porte County E911 – Motorola invoice of \$89,962 to be paid by 911 User Fees

President Novak and Auditor Stabosz discussed having not received any information from E911 Director Barb Huston regarding the amount of available funds in E911's User Fees account to pay for the invoice, and as such, agreed to defer the item until the following month, where the item would then be listed under Old Business accordingly.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

La Porte County Assessor

Requesting permission to spend from Sales Disclosure account for:

Desk and computers for the Michigan City Courthouse

\$15,000 (not to exceed)

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting permission to spend from Probation User Fees 2102.41007.000.0334 for:

a. Replacement computers for Probation staff \$4,467

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

b. New desks and conference room furniture for Michigan City Probation office \$21,245

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Garner.

Mr. Yagelski inquired with President Novak as to whether or not any of the departments in relation to the Courts had fulfilled their promise to make contributions to the Michigan City Courthouse project. Mrs. Gramarossa questioned which departments were technically obliged to this promise, in which Treasurer Winski (via Zoom) attested that the Judges had intentions to pay for the installation of various speakers and equipment within the four new courtrooms as part of their portion of the building's contribution, per the Judges' previous agreement with the Council to make contributions to the Courthouse's improvements. She added that the Prosecutor's office had intentions to supplement its contribution to the building project by covering the cost of paint work and carpet installation; however, the Prosecutor's efforts were halted when the previous associate in charge of this part of the project left the employ of the County. Mrs. Winski added that the Prosecutor, who would be approaching the Council later that evening regarding the topic, intended to pay for items required by his office as part of this contribution. She continued that Adult Probation User Fees would need to be used on anything that would supplement the probationer's cost. Mrs. Winski added that even though the Health Department and Clerks were originally included under this promise, they had no funds at the time to commit as contribution.

President Novak informed Mrs. Winski that in their original stipulations, the aforementioned departments had been urged to utilize the furniture that was already at their disposal, and as such, purchasing new furniture to replace old furniture as a contribution for the Michigan City Courthouse should not be considered. Mrs. Winski responded that some of the equipment that was transported during the move had received damage, to which Mr. Yagelski inquired if any attorneys had been approached regarding suing for damages. Mrs. Winski replied that no attorneys were reached out to.

ii. One member voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum) and six members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mollenhauer and President Novak). Motion failed

La Porte County Auditor

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

Baker Tilly Invoices \$106,500

Mr. Rosenbaum called a point-of-order, expressing confusion as to why the Council would be required to pay the Baker Tilly invoices when it should have been covered by its correlating bond ordinances, and that funding for the invoice should be provided for by the Bond Fund. Needing more time to investigate the matter, Mr. Rosenbaum proposed tabling the item.

- i. Motion to table the item made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Sheriff

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

a. Overtime pay for garage \$1,500
b. Overtime pay for Court House Security \$1,500

i. Motion to approve both items out of General (1000) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

ii. All members voted in favor.

c. Requesting to spend from the Misdemeanant Account for replacement parts and to repair Jail sally port overhead door \$17,000

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Parks Department

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

Part Time pay \$5,000

i. Motion to approve from General (1000) made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County EMA

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

Replenish pay account \$9,291.35

President Novak inquired if the funds were even needed as the position for which the funds were allotted had been vacant, while Mr. Mollenhauer further commented that there currently was no intention to fill the position until January of 2022.

- i. Motion to table the item until January of 2022 made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

At this time, Council Attorney Guy DiMartino asked the Council to consider reopening Adult Probation's request to purchase new furniture for the Michigan City Courthouse, noting that state statute requires that the Council shall appropriate for the Probation Department, and specifically that the language used – utilizing 'shall' and not 'may' – obligates the Council to provide appropriation for the request. Mr. Yagelski argued that the statute had been created as only applying to the La Porte City location, and not the Michigan City location. President Novak and Mr. DiMartino clarified that the statute was firm for both locations regardless of the time frame of the statute's creation, and so as long as the funds would be taken out of Probation's User Fees account. Mr. Yagelski contested, and implored Mr. Eyrick to convene with the Judges involved in making the promise for making the contributions to ensure that the original deal would be seen through. Mr. DiMartino deflected Mr. Yagelski's comment, and explained that Probation's request needed to be looked at as-is.

Mr. Cunningham suggested that a motion be made to approve Probation's request, so as long as it was not considered their contribution to the Michigan City Courthouse project.

- i. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to amend Mr. Rosenbaum's original motion for Adult Probation's request for new furniture and approve the request, with the exception that the request would not be considered as a contribution to the Michigan City Courthouse project, and so as long as Mr. Eyrick approached the Judges to ensure that Probation's contribution would eventually be fulfilled, seconded by Mr. Garner.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Treasurer /CARES Act Committee

Requesting Additional Appropriation from General (1000) for:
CARES Reimbursement to Brown Mackie Fund (4355)

Three months rent and utilities	\$95,880
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- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Maintenance

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Emergency Reserve (1186) for:

a. Elevator repairs	\$50,000 (not to exceed)
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b. Complex HVAC unit repairs \$30,000 (not to exceed)

i. Motion to approve both items made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

c. Requesting to transfer \$13,000 from part time account to electric account due to rising utility bills. \$13,000

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Coroner

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or General (1000) or ARP (8950/8951) for:
Five New Unication Voice Pagers GS \$3,400

i. Motion to approve from General (1000) made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa and Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Human Resources

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or General (1000) or ARP (8950/8951) for:
a. Office supplies \$505
b. Professional Services \$264
c. Drug Testing \$3,200

i. Motion to approve all items out of General (1000) made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Commissioners

Requesting Additional Appropriation from ARP (8950/8951) for:
Kingsbury Creek Culvert/Drainage Improvements \$700,000 (not to exceed)

i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950), and otherwise ARP (8951), if not applicable, made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Prosecuting Attorney

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

a. Furniture for soft room \$25,000

i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950), and otherwise ARP (8951), if not applicable, made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. All members voted in favor.

b. New Office furniture for Michigan City Courthouse \$18,990

Prosecuting Attorney John Lake approached the Council to inform them that, although he had intentions to offer contribution to the Michigan City Courthouse by using funding from his IV-D money, he had encountered several roadblocks with his efforts, as he was required to explain what the funding was to be used for, an answer which he was not able to provide as the Michigan City Courthouse had not yet begun construction. Instead, Mr. Lake offered to pay for the furniture out of his Forfeiture Fund. Mr. Yagelski confirmed with the Council that, since the application process had not been fulfilled to refresh the funds for the IV-D account, the funding that was currently in the account could not be used as a contribution. He asked Mr. Lake to list off the funding that he had available at that moment. Mr. Lake explained that he had \$525,000 in IV-D (which he reiterated could not be utilized at this time), \$320,000 in his Diminishing Infraction Deferral Fund, and roughly \$40,000 in his Forfeiture Fund, which was the fund he intended to pay for the furniture with.

i. Motion to transfer out of Forfeiture Fund for the cost of the furniture made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham

ii. All members voted in favor.

To ensure that the error would not happen again, Mr. Yagelski urged looking into the matter of the IV-D funding not being fully applied for, which Mrs. Gramarossa backed, as the misstep has resulted in the County not receiving roughly \$500,000 in funding for the Prosecutor's IV-D account. President Novak added that he had not been aware that the federal government required a detailed explanation as to how the funds would be used.

i. Motion made by Mr. Yagelski to have the Council investigate the application of the IV-D funding and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

ii. All members voted in favor.

c. Request to spend from Infraction Deferral Pretrial Diversion Fund for:

5 new computers, 4 scanners, and software fees \$11,743.30

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Highway Department

Requesting Additional Appropriation from LIT (1112) for:

8 New Dump Trucks

\$1,800,000 (not to exceed)

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

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Mollenhauer took a moment to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, while President Novak and the Council shared some lighthearted banter about the appearance of a recently distributed political flyer.

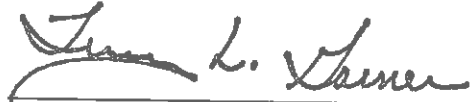
ADJOURNMENT

Although an action for motion to adjourn was prompted by President Novak, no formal motion and second was performed. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation, with all members voting in favor.

Examined & Approved by The La Porte County Council this 28th day of February 2022.



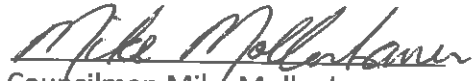
Councilman Earl Cunningham



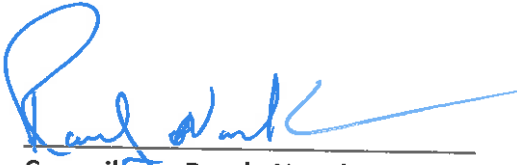
Councilman Terry Garner

- Absent -

Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Zagelski

ATTEST: 
Timothy Stabosz, Auditor