

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**September 26th, 2022 at 6:00PM**

A regular meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on September 26th, 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 6:18pm by the Council President, Randy Novak.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Novak.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Novak, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Garner, and Mrs. Gramarossa were all physically present for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26th, 2022 AGENDA**

Mr. Rosenbaum noted that under New Business, almost any account would be available to glean funding from for appropriations, and also requested to add four new items to the agenda:

1. Under New Business: item no. 4 "Public Hearing on La Porte County Recycling (Solid Waste District) 2023 budget", item no. 9 "Franklin Street Bridge - Discussion concerning repairs", and item no. 10 "Center Township – Rental Assistance need of \$11,000"
2. Under Old Business item no. 1, "La Porte County Community Corrections - Total Court Services lease agreement of \$100,000"
  - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
  - ii. All members voted in-favor.

## APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### **Mark Parkman – 4052 S. 1100 W., Westville**

Mr. Parkman took a moment to thank the Council for their helping the Purdue Extension, while Mr. Novak added that the Purdue Extension had appointed a new Interim Director to assist with the extension's daily functions.

#### **Cindy Davis – Director of the North Central Community Action Agency**

Mrs. Davis offered the Council a packet that highlighted the amount of people that the North Central Community Action Agency served in La Porte County, and explained that the primary purpose of the agency was to aid in energy payments during winter, along with providing youth, senior, ramp programs, and more. She explained that she was approaching the Council for approval to build an addition onto the YMCA Center that would serve the youths of the Michigan City area, and had received a quote from Tonn & Blank of \$300,000 to build the addition. Mrs. Davis added that she was looking for a motion of support for \$100,000 of ARP funds from the Council, and would be reaching out to Michigan City and various local businesses to acquire additional funding.

- i. Motion of support to approve \$50,000 made by Mr. Rosenbaum, who advised that the project must also be approved by the Commission, seconded by Mr. Garner.

Mr. Mollenhauer asked if Mrs. Davis would be approaching other counties to receive additional funds, which Mrs. Davis noted that she would not be, as the YMCA Center in question was located in Michigan City, and did not expand to other counties. Mr. Cunningham explained that Mrs. Davis could additionally approach the Council for more ARP funds at a later date, without restriction.

- ii. All members voted in-favor.

#### **Brett Kessler – 489 W. State Rd. 2, La Porte**

Mr. Kessler thanked the Council, Commission, and State Senator Mike Bohacek for their actions taken with the Purdue Extension. He explained that as a representative of the La Porte County Ag Association, he was approaching the Council to ask for approval of a new, additional set of restrooms at the La Porte County Fairgrounds, preferably to be located at the north end where the old racetrack was once located, and noted that building the facilities would benefit FMEC, fairgoers, 4-H, and event renters alike. Additionally, he asked that the Council look into renovating the on-site campgrounds located at the fairgrounds, and also advised the Council to consider updating the speaker system at the fairgrounds, as it was currently privately owned and inaccessible if the private owner were not available or able to be reached out to.

Mr. Rosenbaum recommended approaching one request at a time, and to consider reaching out to Pioneer Land for potential financial assistance. Mr. Kessler noted that the Ag Association would be

comfortable with a 4-5 year commitment, with the primary focus being on the building of a new set of restrooms.

Mrs. Gramarossa contested that over \$1 million had already been invested into the fairgrounds year-to-date, with \$600,000 going toward the repair of the grandstands, \$300,000 in paving, and \$250,000 in additional funds. She asked Mr. Kessler what specific commitment he sought from the Council to which Mr. Kessler replied that the Ag Association had no control over what kind of buildings the County constructed, and the Ag Association could only voice their support for improvements to be made on the La Porte County Fairgrounds. He added that during the repair of the grandstands, the Ag Association had spent \$30,000 of their own funding on portable structures, which Mr. Novak clarified that the grandstands in question were not owned by the County, but by the Fair Board. When Mrs. Gramarossa asked what funding would be required for the Ag Association's request, Mr. Novak explained that the items were advertised under the Appropriations, Transfers, and Requests portion of the agenda as \$20,000 for engineering of the facilities, \$22,000 for electric work, and \$60,000 for the full installation and maintenance of the sound system. Mrs. Gramarossa explained that much work still needed to be done on the County's administrative buildings, citing that one bathroom was entirely missing a sink, and many areas needed various repairs.

**Ron Heeg – President of the Board of Directors of Stepping Stone Shelter for Women**

Mr. Heeg approached the Council as the President of the Board of Directors of the Stepping Stone Shelter for Women. He introduced Interim Director Deb Varnik, who explained that Stepping Stone was the only domestic violence shelter in La Porte County, and served men and women alike primarily through grant funding and donations. She added that although Stepping Stone did receive funding through state grants, these grants were reimbursable grants, meaning that the Stepping Stone's funding would need to be spent before being given a reimbursement, however their current cash level made abiding by the grant's requirements a challenge. As such, Mrs. Varnik informed the Council that Stepping Stone was asking for \$150,000 of ARP funding in two installments to assist with their operations. When Mr. Rosenbaum asked if Stepping Stone would be comfortable receiving the funding over a period of time, Mrs. Varnik clarified that Stepping Stone would like one half of the installment paid out in 2022 and the other paid out in 2023. Mr. Cunningham added that, as new ARP funds would be secured in each upcoming year, Stepping Stone would be able to approach the Council at a later date to ask for any additional ARP funds.

- i. Motion of support to provide \$50,000 each year over a three-year period made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**Lisa Pierzakowski – Center Township Trustee**

Regarding item no. 10 under new business, Mrs. Pierzakowski explained that the Rental Assistance Program was down to \$9,802.01 of funding, and had received more evictions from the Coolspring apartment complexes, and with the increased costs of living during the active recession, was unsure of exactly how much funding would be needed for the Rental Assistance program going forward. She noted that two candidates from the program would be dropped - one who had taken on additional costs due to purchasing a car, and another who had concerning fluctuating numbers of co-tenants in their apartment in a 30-day period of time.

Mr. Yagelski noted that employment shouldn't be a concern for the prospective candidates applying for the Rental Assistance Program, as with the current job market, any candidate should be able to secure employment. Mrs. Pierzakowski agreed, and added that employment was required to receive assistance as part of the program's requirements. Mr. Novak thanked Mrs. Pierzakowski for her scrutiny in selecting candidates for the program, and asked how much she had left in the County fund, which she answered was roughly \$9,800. When Mr. Novak noted that \$11,000 was available in the County's account to offer to the Rental Assistance Program, Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mrs. Pierzakowski if she needed the funds at this time, which Mrs. Pierzakowski noted that she felt as though she had enough funding at the time to get by.

- i. Motion to approve the transfer of \$11,000 made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**Michael Seitz – 212 Lakeside Dr., Walkerton**

Noting his experience in working with the organization, Mr. Seitz explained that he wanted the US 30 Coalition's voice to be heard regarding improvements, and voiced his support of the proposed funds to be allocated for the organization later in the evening's meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN FLOOR CLOSED.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Lynn Swanson – La Porte County Coroner**

Ms. Swanson approached the Council regarding the consideration to make the Coroner's part-time position a full-time position with corresponding increase in pay. Additionally, with new correspondence that identified the Coroner and staff as first responders as of July of 2022, she proposed potentially funding the Coroner's team by utilizing Public Safety LIT funds. She also asked the Council to once more consider raising the pay for the Coroner position, as with her department being understaffed and the increase in calls, she was having to perform additional work, working upwards of 60 hour weeks and being on-call 24 hours a day at a pay rate of roughly \$10.75 per hour. Ms. Swanson cited the starting rate of a local business, Bubbles Ice Cream Parlor, as starting their new hires off at a \$20 per hour, and asked specifically that the Coroner position be given a salary of \$60,000 per year, which would bring her hourly rate to about \$20.83 per hour if she worked a 60 hour week.

Ms. Swanson took a moment to thank Facilities Director Larry Levendowski for repairing a broken window located in the Coroner's Department.

Ms. Swanson explained that her department had attended to 278 calls year-to-date, and was down to one Chief Deputy and four deputies, while normally the department was to have one Chief Deputy and seven or eight deputies, who were all paid per-call. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if the deputies were paid via a set contracted amount, which Ms. Swanson confirmed was true, and as a result, one of her deputies made twice the amount of her own salary in a previous month. Mrs. Gramarossa added that during the August Council Meeting, she had made a motion to increase the Coroner's pay, however her motion had not been seconded, and asked if instead the consideration for the Coroner's pay could go before the

Review Board. Mr. Novak noted that Ms. Swanson's request did not fall under the jurisdiction of the review board, while Mr. Mollenhauer added that this was so because the Coroner's position was an elected one. Mr. Mollenhauer added that Ms. Swanson was elected as a part-time official, to which Ms. Swanson argued that the increased caseload in La Porte County could no longer be done on a part-time basis, and explained that in 2008, the Coroner only attended to 96 deaths, whereas in 2022, the year-to-date caseload was already up to 278, with roughly 400 cases to be expected by the end of the year. Additionally, between her sixty-hour workweeks and attendance of various meetings, she did not have time to take on another job with the County or elsewhere.

- i. Motion to increase the Coroner's pay to \$45,000 and make the position full-time made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.

Council Attorney Guy DiMartino asked if the proposed \$45,000 would be applied to the following year's Elected Official position of the Coroner, which Rosenbaum clarified that the pay increase could only be applied beginning 2023 and no sooner, and considering that the position offered benefits regardless of it being full-time or part-time, opted to simply increase the pay to \$45,000 and keep the position part-time.

- ii. Six members voted in-favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mrs. Gramarossa, Mr. Garner) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski).

**Tony Rodriguez – Director of Community & Economic Development**

Mr. Rodriguez explained that Economic Development had successfully supported three firms who will be significantly expanding their broadband service in La Porte County, and on October 7<sup>th</sup>, will be hosting "Connecting La Porte County's Future: A Look at the Broadband of Tomorrow" at 9:00am, which will highlight where the broadband infrastructure would be laid out. Mr. Rodriguez asked the Council if they would consider moving up his appropriation request while he was at the podium.

**La Porte County Economic Development**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

US Route 30 Coalition Membership Dues \$12,000

- i. Motion to approve out of LIT (1112) made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**Amanda Lahners – La Porte County Health Department Administrator**

Ms. Lahners informed the room that employee flu clinics would begin the following week, Thursday at 1pm-3pm in both La Porte and Michigan City health Department locations, and another clinic would be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and the shots being provided were strictly flu vaccines and not Covid vaccines. Regarding a previous request to acquire a van for the Health Department's mobile clinic, Ms. Lahners informed the Council that the Health Department was unable to secure one of these vans due to high demand and competition with Amazon. Instead, she proposed utilizing recently acquired grant funding to secure a trailer, which would be self-contained and stocked with a restroom and solar power generator. While the grant did fully cover the cost of the trailer, she explained that the Health

Department currently did not have a truck to pull the trailer with, and asked the Council for permission to use the \$60,000 of funds that had been set aside for the previously approved van on a truck instead, and added that the truck would be cheaper to purchase than the van would have been. Mr. Rosenbaum asked how long it would take for the trailer to be made, which Ms. Lahners confirmed that there would be a six month wait time as the trailer was built.

- i. Motion of support to purchase both the truck and the trailer made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**Mike Callahan – Assistant Director of the La Porte County Juvenile Services Center**

Mr. Callahan reported that the previously approved cameras that the Juvenile Services Center had asked for had been installed, and voiced his thanks to the Council for project's approval. Additionally, Mr. Callahan sought clarification as to whether the center's registered nurse was considered a PAT 3 or a PAT 5 employee, as he and his staff were unsure of the outcome of this decision during recent budget hearings. Interim Human Resources Director Monique Thomas clarified that the Council had not yet voted on the subject, although it had been approved in a previous budget meeting. Mr. Novak asked Mr. Callahan to prepare information regarding the position and send it to the Council so they could see what could be done about it in October. For his last request, Mr. Callahan asked that his staff be considered for wage increases with the recent passing of the Public Safety LIT. He explained that the La Porte Juvenile Services Center was an understaffed 24-hour facility, and that not only had he paid out \$88,921 in overtime for the year-to-date, but for each juvenile hosted at the facility paid a per diem of \$776.75 per day into the General Fund, resulting in a return of \$272,801 to the Fund. Mr. Callahan added that the per-diem rate would rise to \$952 per juvenile per day in 2023. He also took a moment to thank Sheriff Boyd and his team of officers in assisting with the Juvenile Services Center, as often times, many of the violent or unstable juveniles who were housed at the facility as a last resort, caused staff injuries that required hospitalization, which without Sheriff Boyd and his team's intervention would likely be worse.

**Rich Mrozinski – La Porte County Commissioner**

Mr. Mrozinski explained that he was unsure of specifically what funding was approved by the Council for the Franklin Street Bridge's repair during their vote in November of 2021, however he noted that the Commission had discussed funding \$1 million to \$1.5 million per year for the following three years of the funding's approval. Regardless of whether the funding was \$1 million or \$1.5 million per year for the upcoming three years, Mr. Mrozinski urged for the swift repair of the Franklin Street Bridge to ensure that no cataclysmic damage would occur and cost the County a greater sum of money to repair. Additionally, Mr. Mrozinski pressed the Council to vote on establishing current Interim Human Resources Director Monique Thomas as the full-time permanent Director, as that office was understaffed and overworked, and doing so would allow Mrs. Thomas to begin the hiring process to hire another assistant in the department. Mr. Mollenhauer asked if any new applicants had reached out regarding the position, which Mr. Mrozinski explained that those who had applied declined when they learned that they could lose the placement once the Council and Commission voted on who would permanently fill the position. Mr. Cunningham rebuked that the Council did not have the authority to approve the appointment of the position, and that both the Council and Commission must vote together on which applicant would fill the position. Mr. Mrozinski stated that he believed the Council could vote during the meeting and the Commission could vote at a different time, and that no two entities needed to be collectively present to vote, however Mr. Cunningham noted that it had never been done this way,

and Council Attorney Guy DiMartino added that the previous joint-hire position had been voted on with both the Council and Commission being in each other's presence. Mr. Novak advised the Commission to procure a date for an executive session and special meeting to address the appointment of the Human Resources Director, which Mr. Rosenbaum agreed with, and Mrs. Gramarossa stated that she wanted to review the advertisement and subsequent applicants for the position.

**Joie Winski – La Porte County Treasurer**

Mrs. Winski informed the room that the Indiana Finance Housing Authority provided assistance for those who were paying their taxes as a result of Covid-related issues and advised any inquiries to reach out to the Treasurer's Office or the Commissioner's Office to acquire more information. She also reminded the room that the last day to pay taxes was on November 10th of 2022, and there would be no protection from penalties as opposed to the spring tax season. She noted that \$5 million in tax payments had already been received for the fall tax season.

Mr. Rosenbaum brought up the Treasurer's Appropriation request.

**La Porte County Treasurer**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Bank reconciliation for 2020 not-to-exceed \$40,000

Mrs. Winski clarified that the appropriations requested were to cover the costs of reviewing the 2020 bank reconciliation, which the State Board of Accounts had requested that the whole year be reviewed once more due to missing information in the December portion of the reconciliation. Mrs. Winski explained that initially, the faulty reconciliation had been executed by the previous Treasurer, and reviewing another Treasurer's work proved difficult and time consuming. She added that the current deadline for the 2020 bank reconciliation would land in mid-October, and the Commissioners had already paid \$40,000 earlier in the year to help push through the document's completion.

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Garner. Mr. Cunningham asked if the total funds, the \$40,000 from the Commissioners and proposed \$40,000 from the Council, was spent from July going to mid-October, which Mrs. Winski clarified that work on the 2020 report had begun as early as January of 2022, hence the sizable bill.
- ii. Five members voted in-favor (Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Garner) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mrs. Gramarossa).

**Mitch Bishop – La Porte County Planner**

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Matching Grant for IDNR – Next Level Grant \$304,000

La Porte County Planner Mitch Bishop explained that the Next Level Grant that he applied for in November of 2021 had been granted and received, and now the Council only needed to appropriate the funds for it as part of its original commitment. He added that the grants, three in total, would be used for a trail expansion near 350 S., just north of 200 S. and just south of Kessling Park. One of the plans to

use the grant included a bypass of area wetlands, instead of utilizing funds to try and work through the wetlands.

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950/8951) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

**Councilman Cunningham** – Mr. Cunningham waived his liaison report.

**Councilman Yagelski** – Mr. Yagelski waived his liaison report.

**Councilman Rosenbaum** – Regarding the 39 North Conservancy’s failure to secure any grant funding for projects, Mr. Rosenbaum stated that the Redevelopment Commission would be investigating why no federal funds were being brought into the district.

**Councilman Garner** – Mr. Garner visited with the Treasurer who had already spoken about her needs, and also spoke with the Recorder. He also attended a Sheriff’s staff meeting, and was updated on the goings-on of the Purdue Extension by Mr. Novak. Additionally, he reached out to Facilities Director Larry Levendowski regarding the La Porte County Fairgrounds.

**Councilwoman Gramarossa** – Mrs. Gramarossa voiced her concerns that a newly established part-time employee in the voter registration office was being paid \$30.52 when the Council previously established that starting pay for part-time employees was not to exceed \$13.00 - \$15.00 per hour. Auditor Tim Stabosz informed Mrs. Gramarossa that the concern had already been rectified. Mrs. Gramarossa handed out pictures of various damages found on the first floor of the La Porte County Courthouse, ranging from chipping paint to missing sinks and other damages. She noted that the damage had been reported but nothing had been done to repair it, and it adversely affected the work conditions of the building’s staff members, and reiterated that over \$1 million had been invested into the fairgrounds for repairs when the County’s office buildings were in a state of disrepair.

**Councilman Mollenhauer** – Mr. Mollenhauer attended the Solid Waste District joint board meeting, and attended the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the death of Neil Thompson, a La Porte County Deputy, at the New Carlisle Cemetery.

**Councilman Novak** – Mr. Novak asked Mr. DiMartino to draft a resolution to support diversity in the La Porte County Government workforce prior to the next Council meeting. No Councilmembers were opposed.



## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The auditor reported that there was no correspondence.

## **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

There were no ordinances or resolutions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Consider approval of Council President's authorization to hire replacement positions for: La Porte County Prosecuting Attorney – Full-time Investigator**

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

### **2. The Judiciary of La Porte County – Requesting that two employees be moved from Administrative User Fee Fund 2004.10173.000.0364 to the General Fund 1000.10173.000.0147.**

- i. Motion to move the two employees' pay to Public Safety LIT made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

### **3. La Porte County Sheriff –**

- a. Permission to spend from Misdemeanant Fund in the amount of \$13,750 for annual warranty for jail body scanner and (not-to-exceed) \$19,000 for new washing machine in the jail.
- b. Requesting to spend (not-to-exceed) \$8,200 from Firearms account (1156) for 7 new patrol rifles and 4 subcompact handguns.

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

### **4. Public Hearing on La Porte County Recycling (Solid Waste District) 2023 budget**

Mr. Rosenbaum informed the room that there was a contractual increase in recycling fee costs for 2023.

Mr. Yagelski noted that he had reached out to various restaurants and vendors in the area regarding the use of Styrofoam containers in contrast to using eco-friendly containers, and asked Executive Director Clay Turner what the Solid Waste District was doing to help with Styrofoam recycling. Mr. Turner explained that many Styrofoam producers made little attempt to recycle their Styrofoam products, as it was easier to create new Styrofoam than to recycle old Styrofoam. He added that the

Solid Waste District offered two Styrofoam pickups annually, however any Styrofoam could be dropped off in Elkhart anytime of year free of charge. He clarified that Solid Waste recycled any plastics that were no. 1 through no. 5, in addition to no. 7, however they did not recycle plastic no. 6, which was composed primarily of plastic bags, which could be dropped off at the Solid Waste District's office at any time, or dropped off at various local businesses such as hardware stores or groceries. He added that any curbside recycling was always recycled as long as it was a recyclable material. Mr. Yagelski noted that state representatives had not had any correspondence with the La Porte County Solid Waste District, which Mr. Turner rebuked that Solid Waste had their own lobbyist to represent them in Indianapolis for any meetings that would apply to them.

Mr. Novak asked if Solid Waste would be willing to drop off any Styrofoam given to them to the facility in Elkhart, which Mr. Turner explained that the Solid Waste District did not have the facilities to house such large amounts of Styrofoam at this time. Mr. Turner urged bringing one's own reusables to restaurants to cut back on Styrofoam usage in the County.

Brett Kessler re-approached the podium to state that, when he had left out multiple recycling bins with no. 4 and no. 5 plastics, a recycling associate informed him that these materials were not recyclable and would be directed to the landfill. Mr. Turner clarified that no. 4 and no. 5 plastics were recyclable, so as long they were not woven feed bags.

**5. La Porte County Hwy Department –**

- a. Requesting to spend (not-to-exceed) \$300,000 from their budgeted LIT for Paving.
  - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
  - ii. All members voted in-favor.
- b. Requesting to spend from MVH (1176) in the amount of (not-to-exceed) \$5,000 for office furniture for the new Rolling Prairie building.
  - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
  - ii. All members voted in-favor.

**6. La Porte County Coroner – Requesting to spend from Non-Reverting Fund for Entomology training and hotel rooms for 3 individuals.**

- i. Motion to approve (not-to-exceed) \$15,000 made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

Ms. Swanson proposed bringing up her appropriation request since she was already at the podium.

**La Porte County Coroner**

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Pay for Deputy Coroners \$20,000

i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.

ii. All members voted in-favor.

**7. Todd Elliott, NorthShore Chief Strategy Officer – Update the Council on the La Porte County NorthShore Health Clinic.**

Mr. Elliot voiced his enthusiasm to supply healthcare for La Porte County Government employees, and reminded the room that, due to its federal status as a healthcare provider, NorthShore Health Clinic provided discounted medication for County employees. He explained that the clinic had filled 85 scripts in the past month, and served 60 patients. He asked that anyone with inquiries or comments reach out to him, the clinic, GIS, or to Human Resources. He added that DOT physicals would be added to the list of services that NorthShore Health Clinic offered.

**8. La Porte County EMS – Requesting motion of support for the new equipment to stock the additional ambulance.**

EMS Administrator Andrew McGuire explained that although he had an ambulance that could be traded in for roughly \$9,000, he would prefer to keep the ambulance on-hand for non-emergency purposes, as it was not in the usual state of disrepair that most trade-in ambulances were. He did note, however, that he was able to secure a GPC discount through Ford that absorbed roughly half of the cost of what the trade-in value for the old ambulance would be, and the remaining cost could be absorbed through Loose Equipment funding. As a result, with the purchase of a new ambulance and the older ambulance not being traded in, the new ambulance would need to be fully stocked with new equipment, which would cost roughly \$143,509 for the outfitting. He added that he was only looking for a motion of support due to the request being so late in the year. Mr. Rosenbaum asked when the ambulance would become available, which Mr. McGuire noted that it would not be in the County's possession until 2026 due to high demand.

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

ii. All members voted in-favor.

**9. Franklin Street Bridge – Discussion concerning repairs**

Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the Council had not made any formal motion to pay for the Franklin Street Bridge's repair over the course of a few years, and that only a one-time payment of \$1.5 million had been previously approved due to the last-minute needs of the bridge's repair. Since the cost of the new repairs were over \$150,000, he explained that the project would need to go out for bid, and that paying for the bridge's repairs now would hopefully prevent a need to repair any cataclysmic damage down the road.

i. Motion to send the request back to the Commissioners for proper process and planning made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.

ii. All members voted in-favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**La Porte County Community Corrections**

- i. Motion to take Community Corrections requests off of the table made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

- ii. All members voted in-favor.

- 1. Requesting to pay out compensation time totaling \$44,240.09 from their own monies (Tabled from August 26th, 2022 Meeting.)

Administrative Coordinator Mericka Beaty clarified that the comp time buyout came out to \$44,240.09. She noted that since her previous meeting with the Council, a few of her employees had resigned, while one or two had left their employment with the County. Mr. Yagelski explained that a payout for employees who had left the employment of the County needed to be readvertised, while Mr. Novak noted that the only comp time, sick, and vacation payout appropriations that had been made in the past had been presented to the Council as a result of a department not having enough funding to pay it, whereas Mrs. Beaty did have the funding to pay off the requested comp time payout. Mrs. Beaty added that she had enough funding to pay out the comp time of her grant employees, but not the County employees, whose amount due for comp time came out to roughly \$18,000.

- i. Motion of support not-to-exceed \$19,000 for County employees comp time buyout, with permission to spend \$44,240.09 of Community Correction's own monies for grant-funded employees made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

- ii. All members voted in-favor.

- 2. Requesting Additional Appropriation from General (1000) for:

Overtime Budget \$20,000  
(Tabled from August 26th, 2022 Meeting.)

- i. Motion to approve out of General (1000) and create the overtime account made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

- ii. All members voted in-favor.

- 3. Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Total Court Services lease agreement \$100,000  
(Original request was \$200,000 and split into two different payments.)

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

- ii. All members voted in-favor.

4. Mrs. Beaty asked for a motion of support for future salary increases in an attempt to retain staff members.
  - i. Motion of support for a 10% salary increase made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
  - ii. All members voted in-favor.

**APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS**

**Family Advocates**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Cover costs associated with supervised visitation \$12,500  
 (Full amount was previously advertised and broken down to two equal payments.)

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**La Porte County Maintenance**

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

1. Engineer’s study of year-round bathroom at Fairgrounds (not-to-exceed) \$20,000

Facilities Director Larry Levendowski explained that his own engineer would be able to efficiently address the study of the year-round bathroom at the fairgrounds, obviating the \$20,000 cost. No vote was taken.

2. Engineer’s Study of electrical infrastructure improvements (not-to-exceed) \$22,000

Mr. Levendowski explained that by adding new electrical infrastructure to the La Porte County campgrounds, 128 new camping spots would be acquired, which would increase the amount of rental funds gleaned from the site, with rentals costing roughly \$30-\$40 per night per renter.

- i. Motion to approve out of Economic Development LIT made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

Mrs. Gramarossa asked where the monies acquired from campground renters would be directed, which Mr. Levendowski explained that it would split between the Fair Board and FMEC, with Mr. Novak adding that the FMEC took most of the funding.

- ii. Six members voted in-favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Garner) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mrs. Gramarossa).

3. Replace the speaker/paging system at Fairgrounds (not-to-exceed) \$60,000

Mr. Levendowski explained that the current sound system at the La Porte County Fairgrounds was owned privately by one individual, and when use for the system was requested or it became sporadically faulty, County Maintenance was required to reach out to the sole owner, who often was unreachable. The new system, which would be owned by the County, would extend out to the campgrounds and would be accessible by the Fair Board or the FMEC. IT Director Darlene Hale added that the system would run on a much more efficient fiber, and would be expandable if any new buildings were established on the fairgrounds in the future. When Mr. Rosenbaum asked if there was the potential for wireless capabilities, Ms. Hale noted that wireless would not be reliable, hence why she proposed using fiber instead. Additionally, Mr. Rosenbaum asked is a generator would be available to run the speakers in the event of an emergency, which Mr. Levendowski noted that a portable generator could be easily made available, as one was usually allotted already to serve Community Corrections if they needed to evacuate their clients to the fairgrounds.

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950/8951) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Garner.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**La Porte County Parks Department**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Air Conditioning unit at Red Mill (not-to-exceed) \$5,000

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**La Porte County E-911**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

- 1. Pay increase for 10 pays \$67,160.40
- 2. Pay increase for 9 pays \$60,444.36

- i. Motion to approve item no. 2, pay increase for 9 pays, out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**La Porte County Sheriff**

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Jail Overtime \$91,000

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**La Porte County Weights and Measures**

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

Part-time pay \$2840

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Garner and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**Pioneer Cemetery**

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or ARP (8950/8951) or General (1000) or LIT (1112) for:

- 1. Survey Cost
  - a. Sharp Cemetery \$4,100
  - b. Miriam Benedict Memorial Cemetery \$3,900
  - c. Webster Cemetery \$3,900
- 2. Retracement Costs for each Parcel I.D.
  - a. 46-05-22-200-015.000-046 \$2,100
  - b. 46-14-06-100-004.000-056 \$1,500
  - c. 46-09-34-300-016.000-027 \$2,500

When Mr. Cunningham voiced confusion as to why two different surveys were listed for the same cemeteries, Pioneer Cemetery Commission Board Member Sue Webster spoke electronically via Zoom to declare that she only had one set of surveys that had been given to her, and the alleged other set of proposed survey rates was unknown to her. Mr. Novak noted that the second set of survey rates came from Matt of Charles Hendricks and Associates, whereas the first set of survey rates came from Keil and Associates. Mr. Yagelski asked if the surveys were a federal requirement, which Mrs. Webster explained that the purpose of the surveys was to establish where new fencing could be established to protect the cemeteries, as one cemetery had no fencing at all, and the other two had cemetery fencing that was altogether missing.

- i. Motion to table to allow for time to choose a vendor made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in-favor.

**COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There were no council or attorney comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

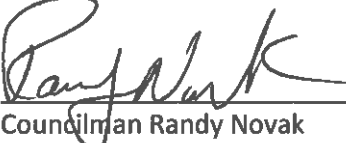
**Examined & Approved by The La Porte County Council this 24th day of October, 2022.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Earl Cunningham

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Terry Garner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa

  
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Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Randy Novak

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Mike Rosenbaum

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Stabosz, Auditor