

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
November 28th, 2022 at 6:00PM

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on November 28th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (central time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex, 809 State St., La Porte, IN 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by the Council President, Randy Novak.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Novak, followed by a moment of silence for the recently deceased Jamal Agemy, who served on the Property Tax Board of Appeals.

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 NOVEMBER 28TH, 2022 AGENDA

Mr. Rosenbaum requested to add additional items to the agenda:

1. Under New Business: letter item c. "La Porte County Parks Department – Chief Naturalist"
2. Under New Business: item no. 9 "Honorable Judge Richard R. Stalbrink Jr., Superior Court No. 2 – Request Court Administrator position be upgraded from COMOT V to a PAT V"
3. Under New Business: item no. 10 "La Porte County Human Resources – Requesting the 2023 Health Insurance premiums be approved"
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 24TH, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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

- ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Dermody – La Porte Family Advocates Chief Executive

Mrs. Dermody informed the Council of La Porte Family Advocates' intention to be on their agenda in January of 2023 with a request to receive a balance of the funds that had been previously allocated to them by the Council in August of 2022 for 2023. She added that in the past, the Council had provided \$90,000 to them which was used to match a state grant. In 2023, however, said grant would be reduced by \$54,000 as a result of reduced CHINS cases, which were in turn a result of a reduced number of CHINS petitions filed because of COVID-19. This in turn reduced the offered grant funding available to Family Advocates, and as such, Mrs. Dermody informed the Council of the organization's request for \$25,000 to ensure that the grant could be attained, and would be brought before them in January of 2023.

Pamela Rensberger – E-911 Employee

Mrs. Rensberger explained that she had worked in E-911 as a full-time employee in 2020, however she transitioned to a part-time position with E-911 on September 25th of 2021. She noted that despite working all of 2020 as a full-time employee, she was now being denied previously established pandemic pay due to her current part-time status, while other employees who were hired post 2020 were approved to receive this pay. She asked the Council to consider extending the pandemic pay to her, to which Mr. Novak asked if she happened to receive any of the bonuses that were offered to full-time employees, which Mrs. Rensberger noted that she had not. Mr. Yagelski recommended looking into the matter, which Mr. Novak added that he would meet with the Auditor to discuss a solution.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mericka Beaty – Community Corrections Director

Mrs. Beaty noted that after being previously approved to receive \$200,000 from the Council to pay for Total Court Services for GPS units, she had forgotten to note that an outstanding bill of \$7,621.75 was due to pay for a deficit in the 4909.30039.000.0590 account, and was asking the Council for permission to transfer funds from another account to balance it. Council Attorney Guy DiMartino clarified that Mrs. Beaty's request could be approved without advertisement, as it was a transfer of funds. Mrs. Beaty also noted that her 9107 account (La Porte County Community Corrections Grant Account) was also in the red due to a recent bill from one of Community Corrections' security vendors, which she also asked permission to transfer funds from one account to another to pay for.

Mr. Cunningham asked for the totals and the account numbers that would be used in the transfer, which Mr. Rosenbaum elaborated that the first transfer would be for \$7,621.75 from account number 4909.1109.000.0590 to account number 4909.30093.000.0590, and that the second transfer would be for \$3,257.99 and split into two payments. These funds would be coming from account number 9107.20060.000.0584, and \$192.99 would go into account number 9106-30135.000.0584, while \$3,065 would be going into account number 9106.30013.000.0584. Mr. Yagelski asked Mrs. Beaty when she

would be applying for grant funding again, which Mrs. Beaty confirmed that she believed should be able to apply again in March of 2023.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Monique Thomas – Interim Human Resources Director

Mrs. Thomas approached the Council as a representative of the Job Evaluation Committee, and explained that Judge Stalbrink, Judge Alevizos, and E-911 would be approaching the Council regarding their respective departments, however the Job Evaluation Committee would like to recommend a 20% pay increase for the Highway Department's schedule, dependent upon the classification of a recent salary study for Equipment Operators. Mr. Yagelski stated that a recent 10% pay increase was intended to raise their pay up to \$20.00 per hour, while Mr. Novak confirmed with Mrs. Thomas that Equipment Operators were considered under the LTC 3 pay schedule. Mr. Novak inquired if the committee would consider looking into if the Highway Department's Equipment Operators could be considered under the LTC 4 pay schedule in future review, as pay increases could not be individually adjusted within a pay category, which Mrs. Thomas noted that this could be considered. Mr. DiMartino added that offering increased pay for the Highway Department's LTC 3 employees would create an issue with not providing similar pay to other non-Highway Department LTC 3 employees, many of which did not require CDLs like the Equipment Operators required. Mrs. Thomas recommended the creation of a Highway Department Equipment Operator pay schedule, while Mr. DiMartino continued that the requirement of needing a CDL for the position should warrant a pay increase for an LTC 3 employee, or a rise to the LTC 4 pay schedule. Mr. Novak recommended revisiting the topic in December to secure a new pay for the position.

Still representing the Job Evaluation Committee, Mrs. Thomas asked for approval of the Commissioners' Secretary's pay going from a COMOT V to a COMOT VI, which had been proposed a few months prior, but was never voted on despite being approved by the Commissioners. Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the Council had not seen any documentation about the recommendation, which IT Director Darlene Hale noted that the request had been brought up, however the Council stated that it would be discussed during budget hearings, which Mr. Novak noted that those hearings had long since passed. Mr. Mollenhauer stated that it must have been the workshop budget hearing in which it was to be discussed, while Mr. Rosenbaum proposed adding the item to the agenda of the next Council meeting, which Mr. Novak agreed with.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas explained that Network Administrators were also reviewed by the Job Evaluation Committee, which concluded that they were also considered for an increase in pay. Mr. Rosenbaum stated that the various Network Administrators need to have very clear descriptions of their duties as they were not all the same, and that the Council had not yet received their distinctive classifications. Mrs. Gramarossa noted that one of the Network Administrators had a master's degree in their field, while Mr. Rosenbaum pressed that he wanted each position clearly stating what its duties entailed, adding that the firm that he worked for determined salaries in a similar manner. Ms. Hale added that the Network Administrator position was not classified, so none of the employees would be considered for longevity pay at this time. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Rosenbaum if the firm that he referred to earlier was a private firm or a government firm, which Mr. Rosenbaum answered that he

worked for a private firm, however if public salaries were going to be raised as if they were private salaries, then they should receive similar classifications and standards that private salaries would entail.

Mike Schultz – County Assessor

Mr. Schultz asked the Council for permission to spend from the Assessor's Sales Disclosure Fund in the amount of (not-to-exceed) \$96,200.53 for 17 new computers for the LaPorte County Assessor's Office and 5 laptops for the Michigan Township Assessor's office. He explained that IT had stated that the LaPorte County Assessor's current computers were still running on Windows 10 and had inadequate RAM for the Assessor's needs, and that 5 laptops, which themselves would cost \$37,928.81, were requested because the Michigan Township Assessor's employees often had to do field work, for which they could not bring a desktop computer with them to perform these tasks. Mr. Yagelski asked if all the Michigan Township Assessor's employees were required to be out doing field work, which Mr. Schultz noted that although he was aware of their need to work out of the office, he was unsure as to how many needed to be out, and that he was only relaying the request of the Michigan Township Assessor. Mr. Schultz advised that, if Mr. Yagelski wished to manage the Michigan Township Assessor's employees and how many of them were permitted to do field work, he should submit his request in writing.

Mr. Schultz explained that one of the computers that he intended to replace would replace an even older computer that was located in the LaPorte County Assessor's back room, however the remaining computers that would be replaced could be utilized by any of the County's departments as the Council saw fit. Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mr. Schultz if he knew any locations that the computers could be placed, and asked the age of the computers. Ms. Hale and Mr. Schultz both confirmed that the computers were roughly 6-7 years old, while Ms. Hale added that Juvenile Probation could potentially utilize some of the computers, as they worked primarily with desktop computers, however they would have interest in a single laptop so that they could take to home visits with probationers. Mr. Rosenbaum recommended establishing a rotation schedule for computers to ensure that the older technology could slowly be rotated with newer equipment. Ms. Hale explained that the IT Department stretches the lifespan of the County's computers as long as they could, as it saves funding.

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

Barb Huston – E-911 Director

Mrs. Huston explained that she approached the Council in May of 2022 to request new consoles, however the request had been tabled. She noted that earlier in November, the vendor of the consoles stated that the cost of building the new consoles that she had requested would be going up in price on January 1st of 2023, with the increase being \$48,000, which was roughly a 6%-10% increase of what Mrs. Huston had been quoted in May of 2022. The vendor did agree to honor the previously approved rate through January 6th of 2023. Mrs. Huston clarified that she was asking for a motion of support to purchase the consoles at their originally contracted price before the deadline of January 6th.

- i. Motion to un-table made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion of support made by Mr. Rosenbaum to allow for E-911 to place the order for the consoles so it can be paid for in 2023 out of Public Safety LIT funds, seconded by Mr. Yagelski.

Mr. Mollenhauer voiced his frustration that new consoles were being asked for now when E-911 had recently paid for the reconfiguration and reorganization of the current consoles. Mr. Yagelski explained that current, 18-year-old consoles had deteriorated considerably, while Mr. Rosenbaum added that in moving the consoles, unseen damage from their previous placement had become more visible. Mrs. Huston clarified that the original quote for the new consoles was roughly \$497,000, while costs for additional technology from Dell, Motorola, Kemp's, Marquiss Electric, and Amazon would bring the final cost up to \$605,693.21.

- iv. All members voted in favor.

Mrs. Huston explained the Job Evaluation Committee advised creating two Assistant Shift Supervisor positions in the E-911 center. She explained that the E-911 center already had three Shift Supervisors, one for the day shift, one for the afternoon shift, and one for the midnight shift, and that an Assistant Shift Supervisor would be used in the afternoon and midnight shifts. The assistant would work four shifts on and two shifts off, and would alleviate overtime expenses incurred by the current Shift Supervisors, and would assist in juggling their tasks. Assistant Director Matt Deckard clarified that this would inherently be a created position, as it would simply be an internal promotion of two established employees, which would raise E-911's payroll by \$2,000 per employee per year. Mr. Novak noted that the request would be added to the Council's list of considerations.

Tony Rodriguez – Director of Community & Economic Development

As a representative of the US Route 30 Coalition, Mr. Rodriguez explained to the Council that a PEL Study was going to be performed by the Indiana Department of Transportation, which could expand and modernize US Routes 30 and 31. He provided a list of meeting dates to the Council, and explained that the first, and most important, meeting would be held at the Oregon-Davis school located at 5990 N. 750 E. in Hamlet, Indiana, with the meeting schedule for 5pm-7pm. Mr. Rosenbaum added that this meeting would be the closest one happening near La Porte County, and that all meetings following would take place going eastward across the state.

Amanda Lahniers – Health Department Administrator

Having been elected as the non-official spokesperson for AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) for County buildings, Ms. Lahniers noted that only 7 AEDs were located throughout the County's various buildings. She added that she had received requests for more AEDs from various County departments, with numbers totaling up to 25 additional units. She asked that her request be put on the January 2023 agenda, so she could give the Council an idea as to how much the AED units would cost, and whether

they should be rented or outright purchased. Mr. Novak advised looking into AEDs that were all similar to one another, while Mr. Rosenbaum asked for a list of locations where AEDs were requested.

Lynn Swanson – Coroner

Ms. Swanson wanted to update the Council on the Coroner’s number of investigations for the year, and noted that despite the foreseen projection of deaths increasing from the previous year, many of the numbers of investigations decreased from the previous year. She explained that in 2021 at this time, 330 deaths were registered, while currently in 2022, 302 deaths had been registered. She added that in 2022, overdoses were at 45, down by 8 from the previous year. Additionally, 2021’s suicides at this time of year were at 31 while 2022’s current suicides were only at 21, while 2021’s homicides were at 9 and 2022’s homicides dropped down to 5. Her last reported number was on motor vehicle accidents, with 2021 having 17, and 2022 having 15.

Ms. Swanson also reported that she had two new deputies in training, who would be working for two increments of 30 day schedules before going off to school in February. She added that she might take on two more deputies in January, who could also attend February classes. If this were to happen, this would bring the Coroner’s staff up to 10 deputies.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham chose to waive his liaison.

Councilman Yagelski: Mr. Yagelski chose to waive his liaison.

Councilman Rosenbaum: Mr. Rosenbaum chose to waive his liaison.

Councilman Garner: Mr. Garner explained that he had touched bases with the Recorder, the Treasurer, the Commissioners, and the Auditor.

Councilwoman Gramarossa: Mrs. Gramarossa chose to waive her liaison.

Councilman Mollenhauer: Mr. Mollenhauer attended two Job Classification Committee meetings and attended the La Porte County Government GIS Quarterly Commissioners’ Insurance meeting. Additionally, he thanked Facilities Director Larry Levendowski and his maintenance team for the Courthouse’s holiday light display.

Councilman Novak: Mr. Novak chose to waive his liaison.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2022-01(Amended): Ordinance adopting County of La Porte, Indiana salary schedule and Compensation policies

Mr. DiMartino explained that the only change was to reflect E-911's \$5,000 pay increase as established on September 26th of 2022.

- i. Motion to suspend the rules made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- iv. All members voted in favor.
- v. Chief Deputy Auditor Vaughn Galloway read aloud the ordinance.
- vi. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- vii. All members voted in favor.

Resolution No. 2022-11: A Resolution approving policy for waiver, negotiation, or settlement of certain delinquent property tax penalties

Mr. DiMartino explained that the resolution was in regards to the May 2022 tax error in which an incorrect tax bill was issued, resulting in taxpayers paying incorrect taxes, which resulted in a new bill needing to be sent out. The resolution was to give the Auditor and the Treasurer the ability to supersede any late fees associated with the payment of the newly issued tax bill, however only for the May 2022 tax season. Mr. Yagelski debated that a resolution shouldn't have to be made, as the error was the mistake of the Auditor, and that they should instead be accountable for enforcing any policies about lifting the late fees. Mr. DiMartino informed Mr. Yagelski that the resolution reflected the fact that taxpayers had the right to wipe away these late payment fees for the May 2022 tax season, and the resolution was needed for software reasons.

- i. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Mr. Galloway read aloud the resolution.
- iv. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- v. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider approval of Council President's authorization to hire replacement positions for:**
 - a. La Porte County Assessor – Real Estate/Personal Property Deputy
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Garner.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
 - b. La Porte County Health Department – Public Health Clerk in Michigan City
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
 - c. La Porte County Parks Department – Chief Naturalist position
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
- 2. Honorable Judge Thomas Alevizos Circuit Court – Requesting a reclassification of the Chief of Staff/Paralegal position currently in the budget of the La Porte Circuit Court to be raised from a PAT V to a PAT VI.**
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mrs. Gramarossa and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.
- 3. Honorable Judge Greta Stirling Friedman, Superior Court No. 4 – Requesting a motion of support for Additional Appropriation of \$3,752.61 for Bailiff Account 1000.10175.00000.0152.**

In addition to the advertised line item, Magistrate John Link approached the Council on behalf of Judge Friedman to request to transfer funds from the Extra Hire Part Time/Seasonal Account to the Bailiff Account in the amount of \$2,790.06. Mr. DiMartino recommended that a motion to amend the agenda be made to accommodate the additional request, however Mr. Galloway informed Magistrate Link that, since his

unadvertised request was regarding a transfer was between two 100 accounts, all he would need to do is visit the Auditor's office to approve the transfer of the funds.

i. Motion to approve line-item no. 3 made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.

ii. All members voted in favor.

4. La Porte County Sheriff – Permission to spend \$15,000.00 from Misdemeanant account for annual subscription for Office 365 internet usage.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

5. La Porte County Adult Probation – Permission to spend (not-to-exceed) \$15,450.91 from Probation User account to purchase computers for La Porte Superior Court No. 1.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

6. La Porte County EMS – Request approval for the Office Manager/Executive Secretary position to be raised to a COMOT VI per the Job Evaluation Committee.

Mr. Rosenbaum clarified that the employee in question was currently listed as a COMOT V employee.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

7. La Porte County Human Resources – Discuss the following topics: Berkley Stop Loss Renewal, Berkley Contingent Quote, UMR Admin. Renewal, and Renewal Summary.

General Insurance Services President Craig Menne approached the Council to address any of the questions that they had about the line item. He noted that the insurance plan was self-funded, essentially making the County the primary insurance company, in which the County would cover most of the claims itself, while General Insurance Services would purchase excess coverage. This shared captive arrangement was managed through a company called Berkley, which pooled La Porte County alongside La Porte City, Michigan City, and Porter County, which drives some returns over time. The plan is running right now a \$1.2 million surplus with a forward-looking renewal, with the initial renewal coming in at just over a 16% increase, negotiated down to 7.8% on an expected basis. Principal

UMR would be the administrator and Berkley would be the stop-loss carrier for the County and its employees.

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

Mrs. Gramarossa asked why the surplus was not being returned to employees, and why instead, the 7.8% was being passed onto the employees. Mr. Menne stated that this matter would be a Human Resources concern. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if with a surplus, if the County would receive a benefit of the calculations of having funds already on-hand to keep the premium down. Mr. Menne stated that in total yes; if one was looking over multiple plan years. The current \$1.2 million surplus was based on present experience, where the 7.8% was forward-looking, however the \$1.2 million was not taken into consideration to directly reduce premiums. Mr. Menne added that this was a result of projections for the coming year, with some County employees being predicted to have potentially large claims due to more serious preexisting medical conditions that might need to be budgeted for. Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mr. Menne if the County was limited to paying upwards of \$250,000 per employee, which Mr. Menne in turn confirmed.

Mr. Cunningham asked how La Porte County's \$1.2 million compared to with the surrounding member of policy pool. Mr. Menne stated that La Porte County was doing better than most, with results varying from year-to-year. Mrs. Gramarossa asked if the recently established employee clinic might have anything to do with these numbers, which Mr. Menne noted that interest in primary care does assist with the numbers, keeping people healthy and managing their conditions, in addition to having attractive pricing points for the policy that would attract more people to pay into the package, which would in turn save the County more money and add to the current surplus. Mrs. Gramarossa asked when consideration would be taken to direct the surplus funds to the employees, to which Mr. DiMartino clarified that the Commission would be in charge of making that decision.

ii. All members voted in favor.

8. La Porte County Plan Commission – Request to transfer \$1,500.00 from 206.30047.00000.0246 (Mileage) to 2067.10142.00000.0246 (Attorneys) to cover costs for attorney fees for the remainder of the year.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

9. Honorable Judge Richard R. Stalbrink Jr., Superior Court No. 2 – Request Court Administrator position be upgraded from COMOT V to a PAT V.

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

10. La Porte County Human Resources – Requesting the 2023 Health Insurance premiums be approved

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

11. La Porte County Adult Probation – Requesting to spend (not-to-exceed) \$6,000.00 from Probation User Fees for security cameras in Michigan City Court House

- i. Motion to amend the agenda and add line-item number 11: “La Porte County Adult Probation – Requesting to spend *\$6,000.00 from Probation User Fees for security cameras in Michigan City Court House” made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

Mrs. Gramarossa asked why the requested cameras had not been purchased and installed during the time that the Michigan City Court House was initially being constructed. Ms. Hale noted that the cameras in question would be used in the Adult Probation hallways as additional security, and that Adult Probation was paying for the cameras out of their own User Fees Account, and that they had been advised to wait on purchasing them until the building’s construction was complete. Sheriff John Boyd also confirmed that, upon looking at the building’s blueprints, it was very difficult to tell at-a-glance where cameras should be placed, especially with the inclusion of various blind spots, and unexpected areas of high foot traffic upon the building’s opening and occupation.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Human Resources – Request to change Admin Assistant position to full time and re-classify HR Assistant position from COMOT V to Unclassified

Mr. Cunningham asked Mrs. Thomas that, if the Admin Assistant position became full time and a Human Resources Director were hired, if Mrs. Thomas would lose her job. Mrs. Thomas noted that this would not be the case, and the request was for the Admin

Assistant to retain full-time status once a Human Resources Director was established, which would leave Human Resources with three full time employees. Mr. Novak stated that he did not feel comfortable staffing three full time employees in the Human Resources Department, although he would be okay with making the part time employee full time on a temporary basis until a Director is hired. Mrs. Thomas indicated that two full time employees and one part time employee would not be sufficient to staff the department, and added that the Human Resources budget did not have the funding to pay for a temporary employee. Mr. Yagelski informed Mrs. Thomas that if she did not have the funding for a temporary employee, she could approach the Council for additional funding. Mr. Cunningham advised Mrs. Thomas to reach out to the County's retired employees to see if any would be interested in short-term employment. Mr. Thomas also noted that, in addition to a budgeting issue, the department didn't have the physical capacity to allow for another employee, as she was only the Interim Director and not the Human Resources Director, and as such could not use the Director's office. Mr. Yagelski advised that the Council would give her approval to use the office until the Director was selected.

i. Motion to approve the hire of a temporary, full time employee and to permit the Interim Human Resources Director to utilize the Director's office made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

ii. All members voted in favor.

2. Coroner – Permission to spend from Non-Reverting Fund for Deputy Uniforms
(Tabled from Oct 24 Council Meeting)

Coroner Lynn Swanson clarified that the amount of funds that she was going to utilize would be not-to-exceed \$1,800.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

Honorable Judge Richard R. Stalbrink Jr., Superior Court No. 2

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

Upon approval of re-evaluated position \$9,500.00

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Auditor

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

Bond Administrative fees \$500.00

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

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting Additional Appropriation from CCD (1138) for:

Equipment for requested vehicles \$75,000.00

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Sheriff

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

Gasoline \$40,000.00

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

La Porte County Council

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

Volunteer Fire Departments In La Porte County \$160,000.00

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer.

Mr. DiMartino recommended doing a motion of support instead of a motion to approve, as so as not to supersede the decision of the 2023 County Council.

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

Mrs. Gramarossa added that she would be interested in the 16 volunteer fire departments supplying the Council with financial reports that would indicate what each respective fire department spent its bonus funding of \$10,000 on. Mr. Cunningham recommended that the

volunteer fire departments could just as simply supply a brief summary of their spending every year when they approach the Council to approve their bonus funding again.

- iii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Commissioners

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

Liability Claims account \$1,010,000.00

Mr. Rosenbaum explained that there was not enough funding in Riverboat or the General fund combined to address the costs of the line item, and that ARP funding could not be directed to the line item as it did not meet the ARP's spending requirements. He recommended tabling the item so it may be instead readvertised out of the Emergency Reserve Fund. Mr. DiMartino explained that for an item to be paid for out of the Emergency Reserve Fund, a super-majority vote indicating the item as an emergency would be required in order for the payout to be from the account. Mr. Rosenbaum informed the Council that the line item was for liability claims that had already been paid out. Mr. Yagelski proposed holding the item until the next meeting and having an executive session to discuss the funds.

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

Professional Consulting Services \$50,000.00

- i. Motion to table made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Yagelski.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Professional Services account not-to-exceed \$75,000.00

- i. Motion to table made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mrs. Gramarossa.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

The Council scheduled an executive meeting for the Commissioners' line items on December 15th at 5:30pm.

Mr. DiMartino recommended scheduling a workshop to evaluate the remaining requests for salary increases so he may finalize the Salary Ordinance before December 31st, 2022. Mr. Yagelski recommended preparing the salary ordinance as-is and simply amending it in 2023, which Mr. DiMartino confirmed could be done; however the Highway Department's Equipment

Operators would only receive the previously established 10% increase until otherwise addressed. He added that it could be addressed at the executive workshop, as well. Mr. Cunningham also noted that retroactive pay could be applied if an increased salary was applied at a later date.

The Council scheduled an Organizational Meeting on January 9th of 2023 at 6:00pm.

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

The Council Members thanked each other for their time together, and Mrs. Gramarossa noted that she would be joining the La Porte County Commission in 2023. The Council gave a standing ovation to Councilman Terry Garner for his service on the Council, as he would not be returning to reprise his role as Councilman in 2023. He in turn thanked the Council for their many years of service with him.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Examined & Approved by the La Porte County Council this 9th day of January, 2023.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



Councilman Adam Koronka



Councilman Justin Kiel



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer




Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Tim Stabosz, Auditor