

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
May 22nd, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on May 22nd, 2023 at 6:13 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 by Council President Mike Rosenbaum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Koronka.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Tim Stabosz called the roll: Councilman Cunningham, Councilman Yagelski, Councilman Kiel, Councilman Rosenbaum, Councilman Mollenhauer, and Councilman Koronka were all physically present, while Councilman Novak appeared electronically via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MAY 22ND, 2023 AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6TH, 2023 JOINT COUNCIL/COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 24TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- i. Motion to approve with one correction: On page 9 under New Business, the appropriation for the Complex Building's repair should be \$1.3 million, not \$3 million; made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Lucas – Prairie Trails Club Board Member

Mr. Lucas approached the Council to receive support for the Prairie Trails Club project to expand the Eerie Trail in Starke County by eleven miles, going toward the direction of La Porte. If approved, said portion of the trail would be known as the Grand Kankakee Trail as it moved toward northwest Indiana. Mitch Barloga, active Transportation Manager for NIRPC, added that the Council's support would assist in bringing the Great American Rail Trail from North Judson to LaCrosse, where he would be able to work with officials in Hebron to coordinate the trail's expansion out of LaCrosse. Mr. Cunningham asked how much usage the trail in North Judson received following its completion, which Mr. Lucas noted that part of the trail in the more rural Bass Lake area saw an attendance of roughly 8,000 visitors per year, with usage of the trail having only recently been recorded, and at this time, recording was only done during the trail's off-season. He added that the trail was for cycling and walking, and for nine of the eleven miles of the trail going southeast, it also served as an equestrian trail.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Paul Vincent – Center for Economic Development, Planning, & Governmental Affairs

Mr. Vincent explained that there was an uprise with IEDC-related manufacturing and industrial opportunities, with 18 notable opportunities that have been responded to year-to-date. He noted that one site visit with selectors had been held, and that several conversations had been held with local developers regarding active projects or project requests. On the topic of broadband pursuits, Mr. Vincent noted that he was working with a consultant to add neo-networks to the project. In addition to reaching out to multiple communities regarding their project requests, Mr. Vincent also explained that he was working on adding property information to the ZoomProspector database. For his final report, Mr. Vincent informed the Council that the Center for Economic Development, Planning, & Governmental Affairs was focusing on TIF districts to continue researching development.

Joie Winski – County Treasurer

Ms. Winski informed the Council that the 2023 spring tax collection amounted to just under what was collected in spring of 2022, and that the Treasurer’s office would be moving forward with the processing of late tax payments.

Mitch Bishop – County Planner

Mr. Bishop approached the Council with a request to begin taking aerial photographs of one or two locations for a DriveWise Indiana Program that would allow for the installation of five EV charging stations to be installed at each selected location, with one stall at each location being ADA dedicated. He noted that a letter of support would be required to proceed with the project, and added that the EV stations would need to be installed on La Porte County property. Mr. Bishop explained that La Porte County would need to pay 20% of the cost of the installations; however it would receive this money back in tax credits, which would pay upwards of 30% of anything that was paid for construction, essentially making the cost of the project free in the long run.

- i. Motion to sign a commitment letter made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Novak.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Jeremy Sobecki – County Parks Superintendent

Mr. Sobecki informed the Council that all the Parks Department’s positions were currently filled, including both programming staff positions, and additionally that Pioneer Days was scheduled to return in September. Additionally, Mr. Sobecki noted that he was waiting on the septic permit for Creek Ridge Park, and once that had been acquired, materials could be delivered to the park to begin construction on the restrooms.

Allen Stevens – County Highway Superintendent

Mr. Stevens reported that the Highway Department had begun work on the Johnson Road & 400 W. relocation project, which would move the intersection further west along Johnson Road, with all work being done in-house to save the county money. He noted that the 400 S. Community Crossings project finished up earlier in the afternoon, with asphalt millings from the project being retained, which allowed for the top-dressing of 25 miles of dirt and sand roads so they can be converted into all-surface roads. Mr. Stevens also explained that that he would be bringing in a screening plant for additional millings so they could be processed into 1000 tons of #11 crushed limestone aggregate for a chip seal program, which would save La Porte County \$24,000. He also reported that, from the #11 crushed aggregate, the department would be making 3000 tons of #73 crushed aggregate, which would save the county an additional \$75,000. Mr. Stevens went on to note that the Community Crossings Project was inspected in-house, which saved the county \$30,000.

Mr. Stevens informed the Council that the Highway Department had gone through \$40,000 in funding for cold patching year-to-date, and that a new hot asphalt patch wagon was purchased, which would hopefully cut down on workers compensation cases. Additionally, he noted that he planned to chip seal 209 miles of roads in 2023. Mr. Mollenhauer asked how long chip sealing prolonged the life of the county's roads, which Mr. Stevens responded that if the county chip sealed roads with a PASER rating of 4-5, the lifespan of the roads could be extended as long as eight years.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Mollenhauer: Mr. Mollenhauer met with Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Kiel on several occasions regarding the wage concern of the Juvenile Services Center, and attended the County Commissioner, EMA Advisory Board, La Porte County Government Quarterly Employee Committee on GIS Insurance, and Job Evaluation Committee meetings. Mr. Mollenhauer additionally attended the annual Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony and met with Juvenile Services Center Director Dion Campbell to tour the facility. He also attended a tour of the newly restored Barker Mansion.

Councilman Koronka: Mr. Koronka attended the Board Reorganization Meeting at the Purdue Extension.

Councilman Rosenbaum: Regarding the Agenda Review Committee, formerly known as the Finance Committee, Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the committee was planning to meet earlier and trying to tie up any loose ends on reviewing agendas and appropriations.

Councilman Kiel: Mr. Kiel reported that 67 county employees partook in Human Resources' Employee Wellness Days event the week prior. He corresponded with the Treasurer's Office regarding a county investment strategy, and noted that given the historically high level of interest rates at this time, the county had an opportunity to make revenue that had not been previously forecasted by investing its tax collection revenue into investments such as but not limited to the Trust Indiana Fund, which could yield the county upwards of \$11,000 per day for the next upcoming two weeks if the county worked quickly to invest the funds.

Mr. Kiel attended the Redevelopment Commission, NIRPC, and US 30 Coalition meetings, and added that there would be a public meeting regarding the US 30 Planning & Environmental Linkages Study on June 6th at 4pm at the school in Wanatah. Mr. Kiel additionally sat in on a meeting with the Auditor and SEH, met with the DLGF budget director regarding property tax revenue, and attended a State Department of Health meeting via Zoom with Health Department Administrator Amanda Lahners regarding funding increases that the county would be eligible for because of Senate Bill #4. Mr. Kiel and Mr. Mollenhauer met with Juvenile Services Center Director Dion Campbell regarding employee wages at the facility, and joined Mr. Cunningham in a meeting with Parks Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki to discuss trails and

county parks. Mr. Kiel, Mr. Rosenbaum, and Mr. Mollenhauer met twice to discuss wage concerns, while Mr. Kiel also joined Mr. Novak in two meetings regarding EMA's siren study proposal.

Additionally, Mr. Kiel attended three Commission Meetings, the Westville and LaCrosse Town Council meetings, a SEAC meeting, sat in on a Job Evaluation Committee meeting, and listened to La Porte City's 39 North Annexation presentation.

Mr. Yagelski: After meeting with several businesses and teachers, Mr. Yagelski voiced his concerns over the reduction in programming provided by Purdue Northwest, noting that Purdue Northwest had reduced its program options by two-thirds when the County had, in the past, appropriated funds for the school to build a facility.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham agreed with Mr. Yagelski's concerns regarding Purdue Northwest, and added that the closing of the law school at Valparaiso University also had an adverse effect on the County's educational offerings.

Mr. Novak: Mr. Novak waived his liaison report.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Concerned Homeowner

Mr. Stabosz noted that the correspondence regarding the concerned homeowner, whose complaint was regarding fireworks, had been passed onto the Sheriff's Department per the Council's instruction.

2. Indiana Department of Transportation

Mr. Stabosz clarified that the roughly 40 pages of correspondence from INDOT, regarding a small structure project (notably the replacement of an 84-inch diameter corrugated pipe with a reinforced concrete culvert), had been forwarded to the Council for their review over e-mail.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Vanair Economic Revitalization Area

Vanair Chief Executive Officer Ralph Kokot explained that Vanair currently had 78,000 square feet at their 300 North property, and an additional 78,000 square feet at their northern location near US-12, and additionally just broke ground on another 100,000 square feet to expand their operations in the county even further. He explained that the new facility would increase their employee base from 160 by an additional 75 people. Vanair President Greg Kokot noted that the total project would cost \$8.3 million or

more, depending on how much Vanair wanted to expand their operations. He added that the building was scheduled to be complete by the fourth quarter of 2023.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Confirmatory Resolution: Vanair Economic Revitalization Area

- i. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. Auditor Tim Stabosz read aloud the resolution.
- iii. Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- iv. All members voted in favor.

2. Consider amending Salary Ordinance – 2023-01

- i. Motion to suspend the rules, and have the Auditor read the entirety of the ordinance, made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. The Auditor read aloud the ordinance, which amended the original 2023-1 ordinance's line "K" as follows: "If employed on January 1, 2023, full time employees are to receive a \$1000 (one-thousand dollar) bonus at mid-year 2023. The bonus is to be prorated by the number of full months employed for the bonus period, January through June 2023", with a footnote, "An employee will qualify for the June 2023 proration if they are employed from 6/1/2023-6/23/2023."

When Mr. Yagelski asked if the amendment would clarify which employees, including elected officials, would receive a bonus, Mr. DiMartino explained that the only purpose of the amendment was to clarify concerns regarding proration of the bonus for employees who had not been employed full-time long enough to receive the full \$1,000 of said bonus. Mr. Stabosz noted that his previous Chief Deputy may have left out some language from the original ordinance regarding proration, in addition to a few of the Council Members' privately discussed concerns regarding getting the bonuses to county employees earlier in the summer than later, which is why it was submitted to Mr. DiMartino for amendment. Mr. Stabosz added that the bonuses were to be applied on June 23rd, 2023, and distributed in the June 30th 2023 paychecks. Mr. Kiel asked which

employees would be eligible for the bonuses; while Mr. Stabosz was unsure whether elected officials would receive bonuses due to the salary ordinance being passed in January of 2023, Mr. DiMartino stated that since the actual salaries were not being amended, elected officials would be eligible for the bonus. Mr. Kiel confirmed with Mr. DiMartino that all employees covered under the salary ordinance would therefore be eligible for the bonus, which Mr. DiMartino affirmed was true. Mr. DiMartino added that he hoped to have the salary ordinance passed in December in the future, which would avoid any confusion regarding who would receive bonuses in the future.

- iv. Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- v. All members voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Annex Insurance Claim Update – Guy DiMartino

Mr. DiMartino recommended setting up a joint executive session to discuss potential litigation regarding the Annex Building, to be held relatively soon, with the complete Council and Commission. Mr. Rosenbaum recommended reaching out to the Commissioners with the proposed dates of May 30th at 6pm, or May 31st at 6pm, relative to whichever date would work with their respective schedules.

2. JSC/Community Corrections Salaries

After reaching out to Waggoner Irwin Scheele & Associates, in addition to the Payroll Department, the Juvenile Services Center, and meeting with Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Kiel noted that the Council would hopefully have a proposal regarding the Juvenile Services Center and Community Corrections' salaries at the next Council meeting on June 26th, 2023. Mr. Rosenbaum added that he, Mr. Kiel, and Mr. Mollenhauer would be meeting again on May 30th regarding a solution to the wage concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of recommendation from the Job Evaluation Committee:

- a. La Porte County Treasurer's Office – Second Deputy and Reconciliation Deputy positions
 - i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

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

a. La Porte County Sheriff’s Department – Clerk/Typist, COMOT IV

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

Regarding the earlier correspondence regarding the concerned homeowner and their complaints about fireworks, Mr. Cunningham asked if the Sheriff had no power at any time of the year to address fireworks complaints. Sheriff Ron Heeg clarified that the Sheriff could respond to and address complaints regarding fireworks, and that the homeowner had been reached out to by his department about his concerns.

3. La Porte County Clerk – Request to reinstate the First Deputy for Elections position

County Clerk Heather Stevens noted that when she had first taken office, the First Deputy for Elections had retired. Additionally, there was another First Deputy position that was currently filled, which she thought was unusual, so she had eliminated the First Deputy for Elections position, as there were no employees trained to work elections at the time anyway. Now, however, she did have an employee who was trained to work elections. The employee in question worked a vigorous job during elections and often had to work additional hours and during election day, so Mrs. Stevens requested that the employee in question be reinstated to First Deputy for Elections so they may receive increased pay for their work during elections. Mrs. Stevens added that she have the employee be paid this rate going back to the beginning of 2023.

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

4. Introduction of Resolution No. 2023-6, followed by a request to schedule a Public Hearing to consider this resolution to grant a waiver of non-compliance on an untimely filing of the January 1st, 2022 assessment date FORM CF-1/Real and FORM 322 for NP Westville Industrial LLC. Sponsor: Councilman Kiel.

Mr. Kiel explained that there had been an error that occurred in the filing process which resulted in NP Westville Industrial LLC’s paperwork not being filed with the Auditor’s office in time to qualify for their abatement, and NP Westville Industrial was asking that the county waive the noncompliance and reinstate their abatement. NP Westville

Industrial's request before the Council at this time was strictly informational, and they planned on bringing forward a resolution at the June 26th 2023 Council Meeting to address their request.

- i. Motion to schedule a public hearing at the June 26th 2023 Council Meeting made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

5. Motion of Support for Grand Kankakee Trail - \$200,000

Mr. Kiel explained that the Healthcare Foundation's \$200,000 contribution and LaCrosse's \$50,000 contribution would be directed toward the creation of a 9-mile long trail that would span between LaCrosse and North Judson, and an additional \$200,000 from the Council would fulfill the request for the local match to be applied for in the next round of Next Level Trails grants. Mr. Cunningham voiced his thoughts on the importance of having hike and bike trails for La Porte County's youth, and noted that trails served as a "linear park" that was cheaper to build and maintain than a standard park. Park Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki recommended planning ahead to ensure that the trails could be properly maintained, and voiced his support for the project.

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

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

La Porte County Animal Shelter

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Truck Repair not-to-exceed \$7500

- i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat made by Koronka and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

La Porte County Emergency Management

Requesting Additional Appropriation from LIT – Public Safety (1170), Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Emergency Siren Survey, Inspection and Repair \$49,403

- i. Motion to approve not-to-exceed \$50,000 out of LIT Public Safety (1170) made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Novak.

Interim EMA Director Rob Sabie informed the Council that after several committee meetings, EMA decided to go with the proposal to identify where all the sirens were located, and which ones needed to be replaced or repaired. Mr. Koronka added that going with this proposal would allow for the sirens that needed to be immediately repaired to be prioritized.

Mr. Yagelski asked if this proposal would allow for moving sirens that had overlapping ranges, which Mr. Novak noted that in this proposal, there were not enough funds to do so, however Mr. Koronka explained that the proposal allowed the county to remove a contractor from the study which allowed for the project to not be advertised for competitive bid. Additionally, the \$50,000 proposal allowed for more work on the sirens than the more expensive previously proposed study, which would have only allowed for an outright study and no repairs at all. Chief Deputy Auditor Rhonda Graves clarified that the request for appropriation was advertised as \$49,403, and Mr. Koronka would need to amend his motion to reflect this request.

- ii. Mr. Koronka amended his motion to approve \$49,403 out of LIT Public Safety (1170), seconded by Mr. Novak.

Mr. Kiel informed the room that, by creating a committee to scrutinize the original quote for a study, the Council managed to save taxpayers over \$20,000 *and* increase the scope of the work to be done on the project.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Sabie how wind affected the sirens' performance; Mr. Sabie stated that he was unsure and would need to reach out to the manufacturer of the sirens to check this, however in optimal conditions, the span of the sirens' alarm radius ranged about 6,500 feet. Mr. Cunningham advised Mr. Sabie to stay in touch with local media to keep residents of La Porte County up to date on all the options available for staying aware of local emergencies. Mr. Sabie added that previously, EMA did have a printer where they could print media to distribute across the county, however between the Annex building flooding destroying their printer and the county losing an employee who previously managed printing services, distributable paper media was now no longer an option for the department. Mr. Yagelski clarified that the Commissioners had a budget for printing, and if Mr. Sabie needed printing services, he would simply need to reach out to them for more information.

- iii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau

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

Billboards \$50,000

Mr. Rosenbaum clarified that this request for appropriation had been approved in 2022, however due to an error it had not been encumbered by December 31st 2022, and therefore the request needed to come before the Council again. Mr. Cunningham explained that, when

the item was originally brought to the table, the Convention and Visitors Bureau originally asked for \$150,000. Upon further inspection, the County realized that the Convention and Visitors Bureau would be able to pay for part of the request, and Council ultimately asked them to pay \$50,000 of the appropriation request, while the Council would cover the remaining \$100,000 of the request in two installments. The request before the Council was the second, remaining installment of \$50,000 from the Council’s original appropriation of \$100,000.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

La Porte County Planner

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Cumulative Bridge (1135) for:

Bridge #7 Engineering Match	\$259,850
Bridge #214 Engineering Match	\$225,000
Bridge #509 (Liberty Trail Bridge) Match	\$80,000

- i. Motion to approve all three matches made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Kiel.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

Fair Management and Events Corporation

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Additional Amount Needed for Restroom Facilities	not-to-exceed \$100,000
--	-------------------------

Mr. Novak explained that the construction on the restrooms was coming along quickly and that their construction would be completed before the 2023 La Porte County Fair began.

- i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950/8951) made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

La Porte County Highway Department

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Local Road & Street (1169) for:

Road Maintenance	not-to-exceed \$2,500,000
------------------	---------------------------

Mr. Stevens explained to the Council that the \$2,500,000 appropriation would be used on oil and stone that would be used to pave 209.80 miles of road for maintenance in La Porte County. He noted that utilizing this amount of funding would leave the account with a remaining \$500,000, however the account accrued \$357,000 monthly from proceeds such as the fuel tax and other sources, so its funding would continue to recover despite the large appropriation.

Mr. Rosenbaum noted that, upon looking at the map that was provided by Mr. Stevens, the areas to be serviced in La Porte County were not limited to any single area or community, and encompassed a wide range of the county.

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Kiel.
- ii. During roll call, six members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Kiel, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Novak). The motion passed.

La Porte County Sheriff's Department

Requesting Additional Appropriations form LIT Public Safety (1170), Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

3-year Firewall Protection for Fortigate and Internet Service \$35,247.80

- i. Motion to approve out of LIT Public Safety (1170) made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

Inmate Food \$396,000
Inmate Medical \$100,000

Mr. Kiel asked Sheriff Ron Heeg why his request for inmate food had not been budgeted for during budget hearings, to which he explained that every year he received a budget for inmate food, however he was advised by the Council to approach them for an additional appropriation when the need arose, noting that the Sheriff approached the Council about the same time of year every year for this particular request.

- i. Motion to approve Inmate Food and Inmate Medical out of Public Safety LIT (1170) made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting Permission to Spend form Marine Patrol Donation Account for:

Purchase of new Watercraft \$9,600

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

Requesting Permission to Spend from Commissary Account for:

Uniforms not-to-exceed \$25,000

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

La Porte County Voter Registration

Requesting a Transfer of Funds from office Supplies (20001) to Dues (30009) for:
 Indiana Voter's Registration Association Dues \$30

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

La Porte County Assessor

Requesting to Spend form the Sales Disclosure Fund (1131) for:
 Training/Education not-to-exceed \$2000
 Used Office Copier \$6000

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

La Porte County Assessor Mike Schultz explained to the Council that he was able to locate a used copier for \$3500, and his original \$6000 request was simply to secure the Council's approval for appropriation.

- ii. Mr. Kiel motioned to amend the original motion so the request would reflect an appropriation of not-to-exceed \$3500 for a used office copier and not-to-exceed \$2000 for training and education fees, seconded by Mr. Yagelski, and unanimously carried.
- iii. All members voted in favor of the amended request.

La Porte County Prosecutor's Office

Requesting a Transfer of Funds in the IV-D Incentive Fund (8897) for:

Salary	\$7709
OASDI	\$478
Medicare	\$112
Perf	\$864

With the Prosecutor not being available at the meeting to explain what type of employees would receive the proposed benefits, Mr. Rosenbaum voiced his concerns that he was unsure if the transfer before them would be directed at a IV-D employee.

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

La Porte County Auditor

Requesting Additional Appropriations from LIT Public Safety (1170) for Pole Position Raises \$400,000
Sheriff's Department Merit Program \$100,000

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. During the roll call, six members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Kiel, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Novak) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Mollenhauer). The motion passed.

Requesting Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Legal Fees not-to-exceed \$10,000

- i. Motion to remove from table made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. During roll call, three members voted in favor (Mr. Kiel, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Koronka) and four members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Novak). The motion did not pass, and the item remained tabled.

When Mr. Stabosz noted his concerns that the item should not have needed to be removed from the table at all, Mr. DiMartino voiced his own frustration that the Council had not reached out to him to review Mr. Stabosz's request, and had instead chosen to keep the item on the table for six months. He suggested to the Council that they direct him to investigate Mr. Stabosz's case pleadings in the subject legal dispute so he may advise the Council on how it may wish to act on it, to which Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mr. DiMartino to proceed, looking into Mr. Stabosz's request.

La Porte County EMS

Requesting Additional Appropriations form LIT Public Safety (1170), Riverboat (1191), Wintax (4220), or ARP (8950/8951) for:

Uniforms \$5000
Training \$6000

- i. Motion to approve both items out of LIT Public Safety (1170) made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

Other Ops \$29,000
Gas & Oil \$47,000

Overtime \$98,000

- i. Motion to approve out of Public Safety LIT (1170) made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Novak.
- ii. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

La Porte Superior Court No. 1

Requesting a Transfer of Funds from Court Reporter Pay (10174) to Subscriptions (30017) for:
ZipRecruiter Fees to help in hiring Court Reporter \$4000

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Kiel.

Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mr. DiMartino if the transfer would be possible if going from a one-hundred account, as a payroll item, to a non-payroll three-hundred account. Mr. DiMartino noted that he was unsure, while Mr. Yagelski added that while two-hundred, three-hundred, and four-hundred accounts were generally interchangeable, one-hundred accounts generally did not share this flexibility.

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

Mr. Kiel noted that Prosecutor Sean Fagan had appeared via Zoom to explain his request for transfer.

La Porte County Prosecutor's Office (Un-tabled)

Requesting a Transfer of Funds in the IV-D Incentive Fund (8897) for:

Salary	\$7709
OASDI	\$478
Medicare	\$112
Perf	\$864

- i. Motion to un-table the Prosecutor's request for transfer made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- ii. Five members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Kiel, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Koronka) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Novak).

County Prosecutor Sean Fagan explained that traditionally, the Prosecutor's Office set aside a portion of their Incentive Fund every year to pay for one employee's annual salary and benefits, and confirmed that the transfer would be used for a IV-D employee.

- iii. Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- iv. During roll call, all members voted in favor.

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Cunningham thanked Chief Deputy Auditor Rhonda Graves for her work in preparing the Council's packet for the evening's meeting, and informed the room that he was declaring himself an Independent, opining that party loyalty on the national, state, and local levels was becoming a detriment to the taxpayers of La Porte County, and noted his loyalty to the citizens of La Porte County, regardless of what political party they have voted for.

Mr. Yagelski asked that his concerns regarding Purdue Northwest be added under New Business for the next Council meeting, and that the Commissioners be informed of these ongoing issues as well.

Mr. Rosenbaum praised the Council for their teamwork and communication in addressing the requests and concerns brought before them during the current meeting and in the month preceding.

Mr. Novak clarified that the only reason that he voted against the Highway Department's \$2,500,000 for road maintenance was because the request was brought before the Council last-minute, and the Council did not have time to review such a large appropriation. He asked that requests for appropriation, especially large requests, be given to the Council with enough time to review the information provided before council meetings.

Noting that he felt as though some of the issues before the Council were not being addressed efficiently, Mr. DiMartino urged the Council to reach out to him any time they had legal questions, and advised them to reframe the way they looked at issues and concerns so that they may take an approach to resolving them and moving things forward.

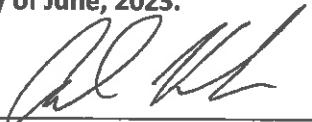
ADJOURNMENT

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

Examined & Approved by the La Porte County Council this 26th day of June, 2023.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



Councilman Adam Koronka



Councilman Justin Kiel



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Timothy Stabosz, Auditor