MINUTES
MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
May 29th, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on May 29th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (central time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, La Porte, IN 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Randy Novak.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Yagelski, followed by a moment of silence for Janet Wiencek, the recently deceased mother-in-law of Councilman Yagelski, as well as the recently deceased retired firefighter David Liebig.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Tim Stabosz called the roll: Councilman Cunningham, Councilman Novak, Councilman Kiel, Councilman Rosenbaum, Councilman Koronka, and Councilman Yagelski were all physically present for the meeting. Councilman Mollenhauer was absent from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 29TH, 2024 AGENDA

i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka with one amendment to the agenda: Under New Business, the removal of the Adult Probation Department's request for two Probation Officers due to advertising issues, seconded by Mr. Kiel with one additional amendment: under New Business, the addition of item "4. Discuss Capital Projects Plan."

ii. All members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the April 22nd, 2024 Joint Workshop Memorandum

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Approval of the April 22nd, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Holifield – 6782 E. 100 S., Mill Creek
Mr. Holifield praised the ongoing work and outreach of the US 30 Transportation Study that was taking place in the Hanna and Wanatah areas of the county.

Joe Haney – La Porte County Commissioner
Mr. Haney voiced concern over the City of La Porte's $500,000 request, specifically noting adversarial conduct from the city that was directed towards La Porte County's unincorporated residents, including threats to cut off water if annexation was not achieved. He felt it would be inappropriate to fund the request until the City of La Porte changed their behavior with county residents. Regarding the Commissioners' $70,000 request for Professional Services, Mr. Haney asked that the request be earmarked for the Legal Fee account within the Professional Services account, as not to deplete the Professional Services account inappropriately if the money was going to be used to pay for the costs of the Commissioners' legal counsel.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Heather Stevens – La Porte County Clerk
Mrs. Stevens thanked the Council for trusting her to move the county to utilizing vote centers, noting that the change was wildly successful, and would save the county money in the long run.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Kiel: Mr. Kiel reported that he and Mr. Koronka met to study the Insurance Committee, noting that the ordinance that was studied would be better revised to include the Commissioners, and hoped to bring it up at the next meeting for further consideration.

Councilman Koronka: Mr. Koronka attended two Redevelopment Commission Meetings, a Purdue Extension Board interview session for a new Ag Educator, and a Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting regarding the proposed industrial solar farm.

Councilman Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham praised La Porte County EMS for the awards that they did the week prior.

Councilman Yagelski: Mr. Yagelski waived his liaison report.

Councilman Rosenbaum: Mr. Rosenbaum reported that he was able to attend one Redevelopment Commission Meeting.

Councilman Novak: Mr. Novak attended the Double Track ribbon cutting event, and praised Mr. Yagelski for his work on the project.

CORRESPONDENCE

US 30 Transportation Study – Tom Spalding, C2 Strategic Communications
Mr. Stabosz noted that correspondence had been received from C2 Strategic Communications regarding the US 30 transportation study. Project Manager of the US 30 INDOT PEL Study, Brett Lackey, appeared via Zoom to give a presentation on the project, noting that the study covered 180 miles along US 30 and US 31. He clarified that that study would have a roughly 20-year horizon for transportation investments, and the outcome of the study would likely result in a set of alternatives to INDOT's regular call for projects. He added that although multiple public meetings had been held, comments would be accepted throughout the study going through the end of the year. Levels 1-3 would include a universe of alternatives, concepts for specific locations, and proposals of improvement packages, ending with a final report of recommendations.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution No. 2024-05 – Confirmatory Resolution for Spina Enterprises Economic Revitalization Area**

    i. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

    ii. All members voted in favor.

    iii. Mr. Stabosz read aloud the resolution by title only.

    Public Hearing was opened by Council President Novak. Matt Reardon of the Office of Economic Development explained that Spina was investing in a piece of equipment, and noted that the county had helped this small company in the past. The abatement would create 3 new jobs and increase Spina's overall payroll by about $150,000. Mr. Reardon

noted that the total amount of investment by the company at the moment was $160,000 so it would save about $7,100 with a $4,225 benefit to the county, while the company intended to invest $7 million to $10 million in the near future.

iv. Motion to approve the resolution made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

v. All members voted in favor.

2. **Ordinance No. 2024-05- Establishing Fund for the Payment of Legal Expenses for the La Porte County Auditor's Office**

Mr. Yagelski asked what the difference was in approving the ordinance that was on the table compared to having the Auditor's Office ask for appropriation from the Council for legal fees, which Mr. DiMartino clarified that establishing the account would establish framework for the payment of the Auditor's legal fees, as well as allow the Council to supersede the Commissioners' authority to oversee the Auditor's legal fees. Mr. Yagelski inquired if the Commissioners would approve of the ordinance, which Mr. DiMartino noted remained to be seen. Mr. Kiel questioned if there was a benefit to passing an ordinance instead of establishing a policy, as it was atypical of the Council to create ordinances regarding the establishment of accounts. Mr. DiMartino explained that an ordinance would be published, whereas a policy would not be.

i. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

ii. All members voted in favor.

iii. Mr. Stabosz read aloud the ordinance by title only.

iv. Motion to suspend the rules, and with unanimous consent, pass the ordinance on the second and final reading made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

v. Two members voted in favor (Mr. Koronka, Mr. Kiel) and four members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, and Mr. Novak). The motion failed.

vi. Motion to read by title only on first reading made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

vii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Rosenbaum).

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of overlap in pay to include the newly hired Party Chief for the Drainage Board, and the outgoing Party Chief, through May 31st, 2024.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider approval of Council President's authorization to hire replacement positions for:**
    a. La Porte County IT Department – System Technician
    b. La Porte County Commissioners – GIS Coordinator
    c. La Porte County Building Maintenance – Maintenance Position
    d. La Porte County Parks Department – Recreation/Education Programmer

        i. Motion to approve items "a" through "d" made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

        ii. All members voted in favor.

2. **Discuss ARP Fund Deadlines – Karl Cender, Cender Dalton Municipal Advisor**

    Mr. Cender reported that what remained of the initial $21,344,000 in ARP funding that had been received by La Porte County needed to be appropriated [sic] by December 31st, 2024. He added that these funds needed to be spent by December 31st of 2026, or else the county would be in danger of needing to return funds to the federal government. Mr. Yagelski inquired if the remaining ARP funds could somehow be directed into the General Fund, which Mr. Cender answered could not be done – the ARP funding needed to be directed towards any governmental purpose, however it must be directly spent out of the ARP fund and not directed towards another fund prior to spending. Mr. DiMartino noted that use of the ARP funds would need to be approved by the Commissioners. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if the ARP funds could be utilized towards payroll instead of using money from the General Fund, which

Mr. Cender clarified could be done, so as long as the appropriate process was followed to get it appropriated and included in the plan.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the $10,000 bonus that was distributed to each of the county's 16 volunteer fire departments could be paid with the ARP money early in 2026, followed by another $10,000 bonus for each fire department in very late 2026, in the form of an early distribution of the 2027 bonus, to ensure that the money was spent before the deadline. Mr. Cender clarified with Mr. Cunningham that this could be done. Mr. Novak clarified that the volunteer fire departments' annual $10,000 bonus was now being paid out of Public Safety LIT instead of ARP.

Mr. DiMartino asked if the ARP Lost Revenues was met, if it was considered the same as paying back the county for the money that it lost during Covid. Mr. Cender answered that the federal government defined the monies as usable for any government purpose, to which Mr. DiMartino questioned if this was so, if the Commissioners had, in a sense, already approved those funds as money that the county had lost and been reimbursed from ARP as the funds had already been allocated. Mr. Cender noted that he would research the question and return to the Council with an answer. Mr. Stabosz recommended prioritizing spending the remaining funds from ARP so that other funds, such as WinTax, Riverboat, and the General Fund could accumulate funds.

3. **Approval of Budget Meeting Dates**
   The Council discussed that the best days for the Budget Meetings would be July 23rd, July 24th, and an additional day on July 25th in case the Council needed extra time for hearings. There was no formal motion or second, however all members voted in favor.

4. **Discuss Capital Projects Plan**
   Mr. Kiel stated that he wanted to establish a framework for developing Capital Projects Plans for the county's departments to ensure that the Council understood their intentions for long-term projects and contracts so county spending could be more closely monitored. Mr. Koronka noted that many projects required placing an order or establishing a contract well before the item or service was fulfilled, which could complicate the process. Mr. Rosenbaum noted that he would rather see the request developed as a policy rather than an ordinance due to how dynamic departments' projects could be. Noting that departments' requests for fund transfers between accounts had sharply risen, Mr. Cunningham voiced concerns that these departments might return to the Council following the budget hearings in July to request appropriations to replenish the funds that had been previously transferred out of their accounts. Mr. Novak inquired if these transfers were strictly a bookkeeping measure for the Auditor's Office, which Ms. Graves clarified that these were actions that were required by law, with transfers being permitted between departments' own funds.

Mr. Rosenbaum suggested tabling the item so the Council had more time to review it before acting on it.

i. Motion to table the item until the next Regular Council Meeting made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.

ii. Five members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, and Mr. Koronka) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Kiel).

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

La Porte County Voter Registration
Requesting a Transfer within the General Fund (1000.132) from Office Supplies (20001) to Dues (30009) for:

Increase in IVRA Annual Dues	$20

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Prosecutor
Requesting the following Transfers within the Prosecutor Pretrial & Deferral Fund (2501):

Part Time 10130 to Other Supplies 20021	$10,000.00
Victim Advocate Officer 10138 to Other Supplies 20021	$5,000.00
Miscellaneous Claims 2022 to Other Supplies 20021	$55,216.05

i. Motion to approve all 3 transfers made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation of a Reimbursement Received for Prosecutor Victim Advocate Grant (8131) for:

Salary	$30,379.78	
OASDI	$1,677.46	
Medicare	$392.34	
PERF	$3,402.60	
Health Insurance	$7,165.73	$43,017.91

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation of a Reimbursement Received for Adult Protective Services Grant (8137) for:

Salary	$44,453.84	
OASDI	$2,641.50	
Medicare	$617.74	
PERF	$4,978.84	
Health Insurance	$7,410.76	
Other Services & Charges	$2,516.70	$62,619.38

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Circuit Court

Requesting an Appropriation from Domestic Relations (2503) for:

Professional Services	$50,000
Capital Purchases	$5,000

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Parks Department

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Purchase of Mower	$7,539

La Porte County Parks Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki clarified that he would only need about $4,539 in appropriation in total, as he intended to sell the mower that he was replacing to the FMEC for $3,000. The Council concluded on pursuing a motion not-to-exceed in the originally requested amount to ensure that Mr. Sobecki's request could be accommodated while the check from the FMEC got directed through the proper avenues.

i. Motion to approve not-to-exceed $7,539 out of ARP (8950) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

ii. Five members voted in favor (Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham).

La Porte County Parks Department

Requesting a Transfer within the Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund (1179) from Other Supplies (20021) to Other Services & Charges (30120) for:

Replacement of the Roof at the Environmental Education Center at Red Mill Park	$8,500

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Clerk
Requesting an Appropriation from Clerk's Perpetuation Fund (1119) for:
Other Supplies $5,000

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Animal Shelter
Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Part-Time Pay $25,000

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

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

Requesting an Appropriation from Animal Shelter Donations (4100) for:
Other Services & Charges $18,400.66

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Adult Probation
Requesting an Appropriation from Superior Court #4 Transfer Fees Fund (7121) for:
Transporting a Probationer $4,097

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation from La Porte County Adult Probation Supplemental Fund (2102) for:

Computer	$869.00	
Laptops	$1,562.22	
Video and Audio Systems	$748.00	
Courtroom Chairs	$1,040.00	$4,219.22

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Kiel asked why Adult Probation's third request had been removed from the agenda, which Mr. Rosenbaum noted was because the item had been advertised under Other Personal Services instead of Payroll. Ms. Graves clarified that Other Personal Services *was* Payroll, and the account would be negative if it was not paid. When Mr. Rosenbaum argued that the account had been negative for four months, Ms. Graves rebuked that it had not, to which Mr. Novak recommended that Ms. Graves speak with Mr. DiMartino as to whether the item should remain on the agenda or be advertised for the next meeting.

La Porte County Building Maintenance
Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
County Complex Basement Sewer Repair $112,080

i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

La Porte County Building Maintenance
Requesting the Following Transfers:

1. Transfer from 1000.01065.000.0142 (misc. receipts) to 1000.20032.000.0142 (air handler) due to reimbursement $2,607.81
2. Transfer from 1000.01065.000.0142 (misc. receipts) to 1000.20029.000.0142 (building repair) due to reimbursement $403.75
3. Transfer from 1000.01065.000.0142 (misc. receipts) to 1000.30040.000.0142 (electric) due to reimbursement $131.10

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Planner
Requesting an Appropriation from Cumulative Bridge Fund (1135) for:
Match for Grant – Bridge #189 $70,313.40
Match for Grant – Bridge #46 $79,566.00

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from LIT Economic Development (1112) or Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Matching for Grant – La Porte County Comprehensive Plan Update $36,000

i. Motion to approve out of LIT Economic Development (1112) made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Kiel.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

La Porte County Courts
Requesting an Appropriation from Jury Pay Fund (2506) for:
Supplemental Jury Payments $15,544.77

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Sheriff's Department
Requesting an Appropriation from Misdemeanant Fund (1175) for:

Backup Batteries for Doors, FOBs, and Cameras	$11,480.00
Washer and Dryer Purchase in 2023	$28,537.15

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation from K-9 Grant 2024 (8229) a reimbursable grant for:

Other Supplies	$1,736.50	
Other Services & Charges	$8,255.00	
Other Capital Purchase	$12,000.00	$21,891.50

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation from reimbursable grant Marine Patrol (8230) for:
Payroll to Patrol Lakes – Overtime $10,500
(Payroll Deductions to be Paid by Sheriff's Budget)

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Board of Commissioners
Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Invoices: SEH, Maximus, Baker Tilly, and Nyhart $75,000

Mr. DiMartino clarified that the request was to pay for vendors' services that were utilized by the Auditor's Office to perform tasks such as reviewing TIF information, in addition to other specialized tasks. Mr. Koronka noted that the invoice listed a $60,022.25 bill for SEH, as well as a $11,200 invoice for Maximus, however there was no specific invoice for Baker Tilly and Nyhart, and questioned if the roughly $3,800 discrepancy was intended to pay bills for Baker Tilly and Nyhart. Mr. DiMartino stated that he had seen the bills for Baker Billy and Nyhart, and though he did not know the specific amount, their bills were greater than the $3,800 discrepancy.

i. Motion to approve out of ARP (8950) made by Mr. Kiel, with the condition that the items have their costs researched and split from the Commissioners' budget and be prepared as line items in the Auditor's budget for 2025, seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

Mr. Novak questioned why these items were listed under the Commissioners' budget, which Mr. DiMartino clarified that this had always been the case, however it could be reconsidered at the Budget Hearings.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Rainy Day (1186) or Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Complex Flood Renovation $626,385.11

Mr. Novak clarified that this money had been appropriated from the Rainy Day Fund the year prior, however had not been encumbered over, and the balance needed to be reappropriated.

i. Motion to approve out of Rainy Day (1186) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

Mr. Kiel asked Mr. DiMartino what the likelihood was that the county would receive reimbursement for these expenses, and how much more the county should anticipate spending for the duration of the project. Mr. DiMartino answered that the county would likely need to

appropriate another $4 million before the project concluded, however this did not necessarily mean that La Porte County would *not* receive reimbursement in the long run.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Anthem Final Bill $19,787.62

When Mr. Kiel inquired why the county was receiving this bill when it did not make a contribution to employees' dental insurance, Mr. Novak recommended tabling the item so Mr. DiMartino might be able to reach out to Anthem to negotiate the bill.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

La Porte County Council
Requesting a Transfer from Attorneys (10142) to Professional Services (30135) for:
To cover expenses over and above the retainer fees for Professional Services $16,800

Ms. Graves explained that the bill was for the invoices from Mr. DiMartino for his retainer fee, as well as an invoice from Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele Associates for the most recent training service that the Council received from them.

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

ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
City of La Porte Housing Development $500,000

City of La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody explained that, per the Vibrant Communities study, La Porte County would be in need of 5,700 total net new units of housing by 2030 and approached the Council for a $500,000 request for appropriation that would be directed towards two particular housing developments that would supply 177 new units of housing in La Porte County. Mr. Dermody also highlighted the work that had been performed by the City and by local investors to increase housing of all types in the La Porte area and urged the importance of providing even more housing to accommodate the residents of La Porte as large companies scoped out the county in consideration of establishing or expanding their operations in the area. He added that the $500,000 request for ARP money would be the county's 25%

commitment to the project, with the remaining 75% to be a match from the City of La Porte. He noted that the project would move forward with or without the Council's investment.

La Porte City Councilwoman Laura Konieczny elaborated on the current housing market and demand in La Porte County and noted that the funding requested by the City of La Porte would be directed towards two developments in particular. She clarified that with accelerating home prices, $300,000 was within reach of the average citizen in La Porte, and the proposed value of the homes that would be built in the development would range from $388,000 to $489,900, which she stated was within the parameters of both developers' projects. She added that homes of similar value in a separate development in the area saw a high absorption rate.

Community Development & Planning Director for the City of La Porte, Craig Phillips, emphasized the significant need for all kinds of housing with varying prices – including apartments, town homes, family homes, and residencies with senior accommodations – in La Porte County.

Burt Cook, Executive Directed of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, explained that expanding the housing in La Porte County would ensure that people could move to La Porte for employment instead of being pushed off to surrounding communities when they moved into the area for work.

Pointing out that the county would be reimbursed through the county income tax of these future residents of the proposed developments, Mr. Rosenbaum inquired what estimated average estimated income would be for the targeted demographic who would be purchasing the housing. Mr. Cook noted that he was unsure of a particular average, as the housing would vary in value, however Mr. Reardon calculated that with an average of 177 homes multiplied by the average property [sic] tax rate (following deductions), upwards of $442,000 could be brought in, with the county's portion being between 15%-20% of that. Mr. Reardon also emphasized the importance of bringing in more housing to accommodate residents of St. Joseph County, which was also seeing sudden increased economic growth.

Mr. Yagelski voiced concerns with some of the internal practices between the county and La Porte City and Michigan City, citing specific concerns about La Porte County trying to pursue real estate tax sales, with some housing in question that was under the cities' jurisdictions being demolished before the tax sale could initiate. He added that coding concerns, such as Michigan City enforcing 1,000 sq. ft. housing when the average housing in the area was 750 sq. ft., was problematic, and additionally stated that he would prefer that the cities' inspection departments be more accommodating to homeowners and landlords who wished to develop their own construction and perform their own repairs. Mr. Dermody agreed with Mr. Yagelski, noting that he also wanted to see the development of homes with smaller square footage, and added that although the City of La Porte wanted to welcome responsible landlords to pursue development, any landlords who were unethical in their management or building practices would not be welcome in the City of La Porte, as the city had been taking great measure to reduce crime and make the community more appealing to renters and buyers. He additionally

noted that there was plenty of expected demand for the square footage of the houses that would be built in the proposed developments.

Mr. Kiel asked Mr. Dermody if he would be willing to prohibit tax abatements and TIFs for the development, to which Mr. Dermody responded that he was 100% committed to not turning the projects into a housing TIF.

i. Motion to approve out of ARP made by Mr. Kiel with the exception that tax abatements and TIFs be prohibited, conditional to the Commissioners' acceptance and approval that the item met ARP qualification, seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. DiMartino explained that there had been discussion regarding the advertisement of the Adult Probation Department's request for appropriation for two probation officers and payroll deductions and clarified that a typo resulted in the incorrect listing of the advertisement; he thusly recommended that the item be added back onto the agenda.

i. Motion to bring Adult Probation's request for additional appropriation for two Probation Officers and Payroll Deductions back onto the agenda made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Kiel.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

La Porte County Adult Probation
Requesting an Additional Appropriation from LIT Public Safety (1170) or Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:
Two Probation Officers Missed during Budgets $103,170
Payroll Deductions (to be appropriated in June from same fund – approx. $20,000)

Chief Probation Officer Stephen Eyrick explained that the item was overlooked when the grant that originally paid for the two employees was not distributed to La Porte County for 2024. When he approached the Council to inform them that the grant was not acquired, it was decided that Public Safety LIT funding would be utilized to pay for their salaries, however it must have been overlooked during budget hearings. Mr. Kiel inquired if the grant would be acquired again in the future, to which Mr. Eyrick replied that it had been applied for again, however Adult Probation would not know if it was approved until July, which he could not confirm would happen before the budget hearings.

i. Motion to approve out of Riverboat (1191) made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

ii. Four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

Ms. Graves noted that she pulled the ledger for Adult Probation's Personal Services account and confirmed that it had only become negative on May 14th of 2024.

When Mr. DiMartino recommended setting a date to establish a joint workshop with the Council and Commission to address the Complex Building's HVAC system, Water Loss Project, and Juvenile Services, the Council arrived at a consensus that the workshop would be held on June 10th, 2024 at 6pm CST.

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 June, 2024.

Councilman Earl Cunningham

Councilman Adam Koronka

Councilman Justin Kiel

Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

Councilman Randy Novak

Councilman Mike Rosenbaum

Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: Rhonda Graves, Chief Deputy Auditor
Timothy Stabosz, Auditor