

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
June 24th, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on June 24th, 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 Cunningham, followed by a moment of silence for the recently deceased La Crosse firefighter Ken Caldwell and 4-H Extension Board Member Jenny Minich.

ROLL CALL

Chief Deputy Auditor Rhonda Graves called the roll: Councilman Cunningham, Councilman Novak, Councilman Mollenhauer, Councilman Rosenbaum, Councilman Koronka, Councilman Yagelski, were all physically present for the meeting. Councilman Kiel attended electronically via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24TH, 2024 AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the May 28th, 2024 Workshop Memorandum

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. Six members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Rosenbaum).

Approval of the May 29th, 2024 Joint Workshop Memorandum

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

Approval of the May 29th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Holifield – 6782 E. 100 S., Mill Creek

Mr. Holifield invited the Council and any elected officials, or candidates, to the Lion’s Club Veterans Affairs Fund for the Lion Paws for Support event on July 2nd, 2024 at Fish Lake.

Rich Mrozinski – La Porte County Board of Commissioners Vice President

Mr. Mrozinski requested that the Enterprise Fleet Management item be considered by the Council, to which Mr. Novak noted that he had not received a formal request to add the item onto the evening’s agenda, so it would be placed on the July 22nd, 2024 regular meeting agenda instead.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Rob Sabie – La Porte County EMA

Mr. Sabie noted that EMA would be hosting a table-top exercise for the Michigan City Boat Race on June 25th, with another to take place on June 27th for the Northern Regional Tabletop in Plymouth for a hazmat exercise. He added the Red White & Brew would be taking place during the upcoming weekend, and the 4th of July Parade, Michigan City fireworks, fair week, jet ski races, La Porte Fest, and Michigan City Grand Prix were all upcoming summer events.

Brian Veach – La Porte County EMS

Mr. Veach reported the EMS had three vehicles that were currently out of commission – two 2012 Chevy Tahoes and one 2015 Chevy Tahoe – which due to their extended mileage, damage, and age, it was not advisable to try and repair them. He informed the Council that he was asking for a motion of support to purchase a vehicle at the cost of not-to-exceed \$49,788. He noted that EMS’s contribution would be the trade-in value of the three older vehicles, however he did not have an exact amount of what the trade-in-value would be at this time.

- i. Motion of support made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. Five members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham waived his liaison report.

Councilman Yagelski: Mr. Yagelski waived his liaison report.

Councilman Rosenbaum: Mr. Rosenbaum attended the joint county task force with New Carlisle and St. Joseph County regarding the area's recent economic development. He additionally attended the Redevelopment Commission Meeting, FMEC Job Classification Review Board Meeting, the Budget Finance Seminar in Carmel, and ICA State Conference. He also met with several department heads to discuss their budget concerns, and attended a CVB meeting.

Councilman Mollenhauer: Mr. Mollenhauer attended the Long Beach Public Safety Facility Grant Opening, Sheriff Office Merit Commission Meeting, the Golden Spike Open House, a LGBTQ+ legislative breakfast, a tour of the Complex building to address cooling concerns, and spoke with Eric Fenstermaker regarding EMS's vehicle request.

Councilman Koronka: Mr. Koronka attended the June 10th Council & Commissioners Joint Workshop, the HR & Payroll joint discussion on software options, the Job Evaluation Committee Meeting, the AIC Budget & Finance Meeting, and met with several individuals regarding the cooling concerns of the Complex building.

Councilman Kiel: Mr. Kiel waived his liaison report.

Councilman Novak: Mr. Novak attended the Golden Spike Open House, the FMEC Meeting, Complex building meetings, and an MS4 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Planning and Redevelopment – Michigan City, Indiana

Ms. Graves clarified that the correspondence was regarding the south side redevelopment allocation area, east side economic development allocation area, 2023 south side expansion allocation area, community center no. 1 expanded urban renewal allocation area, northeast Rusky Ave. economic development allocation area, mixed use transit project allocation area,

and the 2023 consolidated expansion area, in which the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission notified the Council regarding the no-excess assessed value that may be allocated to the overlapping taxing units in the manner described in subdivision 1 of the ACT. Mr. Novak noted that this was a standard notice that went out as a result of Michigan City having TIF districts.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 2024-05 – Establishing Account for the Payment of Legal Expenses for La Porte County Auditor’s Office – 2nd Reading

- i. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Ms. Graves read aloud Ordinance No. 2024-05 by title only.
- iv. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- v. Six members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and one member voted not-in-favor (Mr. Yagelski).

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss Capital Projects Plan

Mr. Kiel noted that establishing a requirement for departments to present capital projects needs would allow for the county to better plan for the future by helping it identify future expenditures and contracts, and allowing for more accurate tracking of funding projects and department budgets. He noted that if departments were to utilize capital projects plans, he would want them to be used not by submitting “wish list” items, but primarily by reporting what the departments legitimately needed and planned to bring before the Council the following year. Mr. Koronka noted that certain departments pursued more projects than others, and might require more frequent or expensive projects to be completed. Mr. Novak noted that although he agreed with the concept of implementing a Capital Projects Plan policy, he wanted to specify the expectations of these plans, and from whom they should be received, noting many departments’ projects were executed by Building Maintenance, and others such as the Sheriff’s Department, Highway Department, EMS, and E-911 saw a high volume of projects compared to other departments. Mr. DiMartino stated that he wanted the Board of Commissioners to be included in the discussion of capital projects plans, to which Mr. Rosenbaum agreed, stating that he wanted to establish a working model now and exact a

permanent plan once the Board of Commissioners could get involved. Board of Commissioners President Connie Gramarossa also agreed, citing that the Commissioners oversaw both the bounty buildings and projects. Mr. Novak stated that a joint workshop on capital projects plans would be scheduled for the near future once the Council and Commission coordinated a date.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. La Porte County Building Maintenance - Janitorial
- b. La Porte County Juvenile Services Center – Teacher (2 positions) and Counselor
 - i. Motion to approve items “a” and “b” made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

2. 2024 Community Crossings Grant – Mitch Bishop, County Planning Director

Mr. Bishop noted that the grant had increased from \$1 million to \$1.5 million and was asking for a motion of support on a commitment letter from the Council for their 50% contribution to the grant.

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

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

Building Maintenance

Requesting an Appropriation in the General Fund (1000.0142) for:

Reimbursement of Supplies \$3,142.66

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

La Porte County Adult Probation

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) for:
 Payroll Deductions for Two Probation Officers Missed During Budgets not-to-exceed \$20,000

- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. During roll call, five members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

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

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Desktop Computer for Superior Court #1 | \$1,243.14 | |
| Laptop for Superior Court #4 | \$1,899.00 | |
| 5 Laptops for Adult Probation | <u>\$9,495.00</u> | \$12,637.14 |

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

Following a collaborative training between Adult Probation and Community Corrections the day prior and that day, Adult Probation's Chief Probation Officer Stephen Eyrick requested that the Council give him approval to pay for the lunch that was purchased for the training out of the Probation Fees account.

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

La Porte County EMA

Requesting a Transfer from the General Fund (1000.0153) from account 10181 (Comm. Officer) to account 20030 (Repair/Equipment) for:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Repair and Upgrade Warning Siren and Operation System | \$6,510 |
|---|---------|

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

La Porte County Prosecutor

Requesting an Appropriation from Prosecutor PCA Fund (8099) for:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Supplies | \$358.25 | |
| Services & Charges | \$358.25 | \$716.50 |

Requesting an Appropriation from Prosecutor Title 4D Incentive Fund (8897) for:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Supplies | \$96,378.00 | |
| Services & Charges | \$350,184.16 | \$446,562.16 |

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

La Porte County Assessor

Requesting an Appropriation from the Sales Disclosure Fund (1131) for:

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Education/Training | \$12,000 | |
| Mileage | \$4,000 | |
| Michigan Township Assessor Education/Training | \$5,000 | \$21,000 |

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

La Porte County Assessor Mike Schultz informed the Council that, during the recent State Board of Accounts audit for 2021, it was discovered that his and his chief deputy's per diem pay had been integrated into the budget, but not into the salary ordinance for that year. He informed the Council that the SBOA was requesting that the per diem pay be included in the previous and current year's salary ordinance, along with making a policy for it. He noted that the per diem pay was \$28.60 per day, and it would only increase if a pay raise was directed towards the salaries.

La Porte County Juvenile Services Center

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from LIT Public Safety (1170) or Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Replace Generator | not-to-exceed \$300,000 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|

- i. Motion to approve out APR (8950) made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. During roll call, five members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting a Transfer in the Asset Forfeiture Fund (4003.0398) from account 30120 (Other Services & Charges) to account 40112 (Other Capital Purchases) for:

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Laptops | \$57,274.20 |
|---------|-------------|

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

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from LIT Public Safety (1170) or Riverboat (1191) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Pension Fund Funding \$460,966

Noting that there was only \$105,000 available to use in LIT Public Safety funding, Mr. Yagelski indicated that his motion would be to direct a partial payment of \$105,000 towards the Sheriff's request, with the remainder of the request to be addressed at the next meeting when more funding could be located to pay for it.

- i. Motion to approve \$105,000 out of LIT Public Safety (1170) made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. During roll call, four members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel), two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski) and one member abstained (Mr. Mollenhauer). The motion passed.

Requesting an Appropriation from Misdemeanant Fund (1175) for:

Garage Door Attached to Jail \$9,742.50

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

La Porte County Commissioners

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Rainy Day Fund (1186) for:

Completed Work on the Complex \$1,000,000

Mr. Novak informed the room that a check in the amount of \$1.6 million had been received from the insurance company, which Commission President Connie Gramarossa added that the check had been deposited, with part of it being directed towards billing arrears for the Complex building's repair. Noting that more than \$1 million would be needed to finalize the building's repair, Mr. Novak requested that the remainder of the check from the insurance company be prioritized to pay for the Complex building's ongoing repairs before the \$1 million request for appropriation that was on the table.

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

La Porte County Auditor

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from DLGF Homestead Property Database (7110) for:

Copier/Printer for Payroll \$3,500

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

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

Requesting a Transfer in the General Fund (1000.0102) from account 20021 Office Supplies to account 40122 (Bond Lease Rental Payment) for:

Bond Payment Shortage \$1.00

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

La Porte County Council

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

Homeward Bound \$100,000

Mr. DiMartino informed the Council that he had been working on a sub-grant agreement with Homeward Bound which indicated that the money granted to them could only be used on infrastructure, along with details about repayment provisions. He asked that the motion be contingent on the finalization of the agreement.

- i. Motion to approve out of APR (8950) contingent on the finalization of the agreement made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. During roll call, five members voted in favor (Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, Mr. Mollenhauer, and Mr. Kiel) and two members voted not-in-favor (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Yagelski).

Requesting to Transfer funds from Riverboat (1191) to Rainy Day (1186) for:

Regular Transfer of one half of the Riverboat Fund Deposit \$109,820

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

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. DiMartino noted that the agreement for the City of LaPorte’s most recent request for appropriation had been drafted and signed by the mayor and clerk, and would soon be presented to the Auditor to be signed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Examined & Approved by the La Porte County Council this 22nd day of July, 2024.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



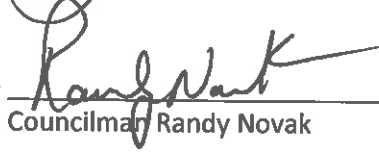
Councilman Adam Koronka



Councilman Justin Kiel



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



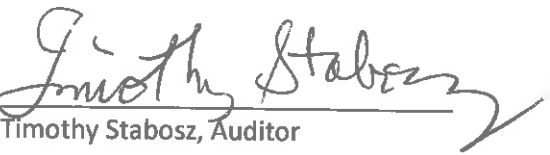
Councilman Randy Novak

Absent

Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Timothy Stabosz, Auditor