

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
August 26th, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on August 26th, 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 Brent Soller.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 26TH, 2024 AGENDA

- i. Mr. Koronka motioned to approve with the addition of one item under New Business: item no. 1-F, La Porte County Highway Department's request for approval to hire an Administrative Assistant. Mr. Novak requested the removal of the Enterprise Fleet Management item under Old Business. No formal second was made.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF JULY 22ND, 2024 MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Harte – President & CEO of NWI Development Group

Mr. Harte introduced himself as a real estate developer who had been working with the Office of Economic Development, primarily with the Avant Terra housing development, and noted his anticipation to continue developing housing in La Porte County.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Heather Stevens – La Porte County Clerk

Mrs. Stevens noted that she was awarded a grant from the Secretary of State that she planned on using to pay for election equipment, however to use the grant, money would need to be spent by the Clerk, and then said grant would reimburse the funds that she had spent. Chief Deputy Auditor Rhonda Graves clarified that as long as the request was on the agenda and Mrs. Stevens received a motion of support from the Council, public money could be spent so the Clerk could receive reimbursement from the awarded grant. Mrs. Stevens explained that the funding would be used towards flags that indicated voting locations, as well as heavy duty transport bags for voting equipment.

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

Connie Gramarossa – Board of Commissioners President

Regarding the Clerk's new voting machine boxes and the lack of space to accommodate their large size, Mrs. Gramarossa proposed keeping the 320 boxes at Michigan City's 8th Street and Wabash location, as it was already climate controlled, enclosed and separated, had restrooms, was able to be locked and monitored, and could serve as a permanent early voting location as long as the county kept the property. She noted that La Porte County Maintenance could do painting and other tasks, while Mrs. Stevens added that she planned on purchasing two doorbell cams for the entrances to the boxes' storage area. Mr. Yagelski stated that the 8th Street and Wabash location had the potential to be sold by La Porte County, adding that surrounding counties such as Porter County leased spaces or buildings during their election to store their equipment. Mr. Novak clarified that a large amount of floor space would be needed to store the boxes, as their unwieldy size made it unfavorable to stack the boxes or store them on racks. Mrs. Gramarossa added that Adult Protective Services would be utilizing the building space that would not be occupied by the boxes' storage. Mr. Yagelski recommended utilizing the 8th Street and Wabash location for storage until the following year, when the need for storage could be reassessed.

Mrs. Gramarossa noted that the outsourced work to make the building compliant to the Clerk's storage needs would cost about \$23,000, and the item would not be bid out to ensure that the

work could be done in a timely manner. She explained that the need for space for all the equipment was not able to be explored prior to knowing when the renovation at the Complex building was going to be completed.

- i. Motion of support made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Koronka.

Mr. Novak recommended that La Porte County Building Maintenance perform some of the tasks to save on costs. Mrs. Stevens noted that fixing the opening to the storage area by providing doors and doorways would be the primary updates that were immediately needed. Mr. Mollenhauer inquired if by allowing the Maintenance Department to perform some of the work, whether \$20,000 would be enough for the work to be completed. Mrs. Gramarossa responded that the county would utilize any amount of money the Council was willing to offer for the project.

- ii. Mr. Mollenhauer amended his original motion, to instead approve not-to-exceed \$20,000, seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- iii. 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 waived his liaison report.

Councilman Novak: Mr. Novak waived his liaison report.

Councilman Koronka: Mr. Koronka waived his liaison report.

Councilman Kiel: Mr. Kiel waived his liaison report.

Councilman Mollenhauer: Mr. Mollenhauer waived his liaison report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**
- 2. Present Letters of Interest for the La Porte County Council Attorney Position**

Mr. Stabosz reported that the county had received two pieces of correspondence, the first being from NIRPC stating that La Porte County’s contribution would be increasing on a scale each year, and the second being correspondence from 4 different attorneys from 3 offices, that indicated their intent on seeking to fill the open Council Attorney position. Mr. Novak appointed Mr. Mollenhauer, Mr. Yagelski, and Mr. Koronka to a committee that would review the attorneys’ applications and return to the Council with recommendations on who to select during a future executive session.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Amendment to Salary Ordinance 2023-01**

Council Attorney Guy DiMartino explained that the purpose of the ordinance was to clarify what the Assessor and his Chief Deputy were paid in 2023.

- i. Motion to suspend the rules to allow for a single reading made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion to read by title only made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
- iv. All members voted in favor.
- v. Mr. Stabosz read aloud the ordinance by title only.
- vi. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- vii. All members voted in favor.

- 2. Resolution 2024-8 – A Resolution Authorizing Per Diem Payment to Assessor and Deputy Assessor for Continuous Reassessment Activities**

Mr. DiMartino informed the room that the per diem pay was originally established following the high reassessment costs that the county incurred by contracting Tyler Industries to

perform them around the 2000's. The per diem pay, which was permitted under statute, was established to serve as an incentive for the Assessor and his Chief Deputy to perform these re-assessments to save on outsourcing costs. The State Board of Accounts permitted this pay, however needed to see it documented so it could be observed during audits.

- 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.
- iv. Motion to adopt made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- v. All members voted in favor.

3. Ordinance 2024-8 – An Ordinance to Adopt Request to Use Recorder's Perpetuation Fund to Cover Office Expenses and Salaries

Mr. Cunningham clarified that this ordinance permitted the Recorder's Office to partially self-fund its employees' salaries using recording fees, and thus taking some financial pressure off the General Fund.

- i. Motion to suspend the rules made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. All members voted in favor.
- iii. Motion to read by title only for the first reading made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
- iv. All members voted in favor.
- v. Mr. Stabosz read aloud the ordinance by title only for the first reading.
- vi. Motion to read by title only for the second reading made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- vii. All members voted in favor.
- viii. Motion to adopt made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

- ix. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. La Porte County Human Resources – HR Assistant
 - b. La Porte County Health Department – Environmental Health/Food Specialist
 - c. La Porte County Prosecutor – Victim Advocate
 - d. Michigan Township Assessor – Real Estate Deputy
 - e. La Porte County Superior Court #4 – Court Reporter
 - f. La Porte County Highway – Administrative Assistant
- i. Motion to approve all items made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
 - ii. All members voted in favor.

2. La Crosse Public Library

a. Presentation of Budget

La Crosse Public Library Directed Tiffany Atkinson informed the room that the library's budget was \$150,340, and that the cost for the lease was \$51,500.

b. Public Hearing

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

Mr. Holifield confirmed with Mr. Novak that the county was not leasing the building to the library.

Public comment closed after there were no further questions from the public.

Mr. Novak noted that the item would go onto the upcoming September Regular Meeting Agenda for adoption.

3. Consider approval of Statement of Benefits for Alexander Chemical – Matt Reardon, Economic Development

Matt Reardon of the Office of Economic Development informed the Council that this was Alexander Chemical's third request for assistance, and the county's continued cooperation would assist them by making their LaPorte location competitive with their other locations. He explained that Alexander Chemical wanted to invest \$13 million total

to refurbish and fix chemical cylinders to prevent them from leaking. Mr. Reardon clarified that they were looking for an abatement on personal property, and the real estate would remain taxable, with the collected funds to be used in the TIF for infrastructure improvements.

- i. While no formal motion or second was made, all members voted in favor.

4. Consider Approval of Job Evaluation Committee 2025 Recommendations

a. Michigan Township Assessor – Brett Banic

- i. Commercial Real Estate Deputy from COMOT IV to COMOT V
- ii. Residential Real Estate Deputy from COMOT IV to COMOT V

- 1. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

Director of Human Resources Monique Thomas clarified that the increase in pay was directed towards the two listed employee positions for the assessor, as training requirements had been increased. Mr. Yagelski argued that, with the requirement for training for the two positions, the employees might be more qualified than the elected Michigan Township Assessor, who was not required to take these training courses. Mrs. Thomas added that any future employees who filled the two positions would need to complete this training within six months of being hired to sustain their position and receive its increased pay, and the job description would reflect this.

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

b. La Porte County Assessor – Mike Schultz

- i. PTABOA/Exemption Deputy Assessor from COMOT IV to COMOT V

- 1. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

- 2. All members voted in favor.

c. Community Corrections – Mericka Beaty

- i. Change Counselor position to Case Management Coordinator putting this position on the same POLE level as other Coordinators

1. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.
2. All members voted in favor.

d. Health Department – Amanda Lahners

- i. New position added for Director of Nursing (Unclassified)
- ii. New position for Health Education Specialists/School Liaison (non-exempt)
- iii. New position for Nursing Supervisor

Health Department Administrator Amanda Lahners explained the Nursing Supervisor position was not a new position, but a reworking of a current position into more of a management position. Mr. Kiel inquired if salaries had been set for the positions, and if the positions would become active in 2024 or 2025. Ms. Lahners noted that she was given permission to hire the positions in 2024, however she did not know what the salaries were set at. Mr. Kiel noted that the Council would need to set a salary for any unclassified positions, which Ms. Lahners explained that the only unclassified position was the Director of Nursing. Mr. Novak stated that the salary for the Director of Nursing would need to be set at another meeting, while Mr. Kiel added that the salary ordinance would need to be amended to reflect this.

1. Motion to table all three items, so the Health Department could return with the three salaries for the positions and allow for the salary ordinance to be amended, made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
2. All members voted in favor.

e. Human Resources – Monique Thomas

- i. Change Part-Time HR Administrative Assistant to Full Time at COMOT IV
- ii. Change HR Assistant to Unclassified with a recommended base salary

1. Motion made by Mr. Kiel to move the items to go before the full Council and Board of Commissioners Human Resources Committee to address it and other Human Resources concerns.

Mr. DiMartino explained that the language for the ordinance that established the Human Resources Committee was primarily centered around the Director of Human Resources, so he was unsure how both boards would meet regarding the

structure of the Human Resources Department. Mr. Novak added that he would rather have Mr. Kiel, Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Koronka meet with Mrs. Thomas regarding the restructuring. Mrs. Thomas clarified that she was asking to move her only part-time employee to the currently vacant full-time Human Resources Administrator position with COMOT IV pay, thus ending the part time position and making three total full-time positions in the Human Resources department.

2. Motion to table both items to allow for more research and discussion on the items made by Mr. Kiel and seconded by Mr. Yagelski.
3. All members voted in favor.

f. Board of Commissioners – Connie Gramarossa

i. Confidential Secretary to the Board of Commissioners from COMOT V to COMOT VI

1. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
2. All members voted in favor.

Mrs. Gramarossa explained that the Commissioners' Secretary had taken on more tasks as of her rehiring due to her overseeing the county's use of the county credit card, and the increase had been approved by the Job Evaluation Committee in 2022, however had been tabled by the Council. Mr. Novak clarified that the item on the table allowed for the Secretary's pay to be increased in 2025, but not for 2024 or retroactively to an earlier date. Mrs. Gramarossa clarified that she was requesting a motion of support to allow for the pay increase to become effective immediately following the Council's approval, while Mr. Novak added this could be done while the salary ordinance could be amended at the next Regular Council Meeting.

3. Motion of support to amend the salary ordinance at the next Regular Council Meeting and to allow for the Board of Commissioners' Secretary pay increase to be immediately effective, but not for retroactive pay, made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
4. 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).

g. Information Technology – Darlene Hale

i. IT Network Administrator position be equivalent to the E-911 Network Administrator position with starting salary of \$61,494

1. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

2. All members voted in favor.

IT Director Darlene Hale clarified that the item was approved by the Job Evaluation Committee the year prior, however had been tabled by the Council. She was asking for the pay increase to become effective immediately following the Council's approval.

3. Motion of support for the pay increase to be made effective immediately made by Mr. Mollenhauer and seconded by Mr. Rosenbaum.

Mr. Kiel added that the salary ordinance would need to be amended for this request as well.

4. 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).

h. County Highway – Charity Glaser

i. New position added for Crew Leader, LTC IV

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

2. All members voted in favor.

i. Adult Probation – Steve Eyrick

i. Administrative Assistant from COMOT V to COMOT VI

Mrs. Thomas noted that the item had been approved by the Job Evaluation Committee in 2023, as tabled by the Council, as was now being brought back before the Council for approval.

1. Motion to table until Chief Probation Officer Steve Eyrick could present to the Council made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.

2. All members voted in favor.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND REQUESTS

La Porte County Health Department

Requesting Fund Transfer to Correct an Error within the Preparedness Grants:

From Fund 8903 Preparedness 17 to Fund 8277 Preparedness 19	\$5,944.18
From Fund 8903 Preparedness 17 to Fund 8242 Preparedness 18	\$8,582.88

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

La Porte County Auditor

Requesting Transfers from Riverboat (1191) to Rainy Day (1186) for

½ April 2024 Riverboat Deposit	\$109,820.58	
½ July 2024 Riverboat Deposit	\$244,927.50	\$354,748.08

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

Requesting a Transfer from Regional Planner 7300.20200 (miscellaneous claims) to 7300.30120 for: (Correct Fund number is 7401 Regional Planner)

Other Services & Charges – Payment to NIRPC	\$78,691.90
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- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Appropriation from Fair Security Fund (4904) for:

Personal Services – Remainder of EMS Services at County Fair	\$6,070.34
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- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or Opioid Unrestricted (1237) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Personal Services – Group Health Insurance	\$500,000.00
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- i. Motion to approve \$125,000 out of Riverboat (1191), \$125,000 out of Opioid Unrestricted (1237), \$125,000 out of WinTax (4220), and \$125,000 out of ARP (8950) made by Mr. Yagelski and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- 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).

La Porte County Coroner

Requesting an Appropriation from Coroner Non-Reverting Fund (2053) for:

Grant Match	\$6,000.00
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- 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 Prosecutor

Requesting Appropriations for Reimbursement from Prosecutor Pretrial Diversion & Deferral Fund (2501) for:

Services & Charges – Scholarship Reimbursement	\$2,190.10	
Services & Charges – Scholarship Reimbursement	\$1,654.09	\$3,844.19

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

Requesting Appropriations for Grant Reimbursements from Adult Protective Services Fund (8137) for:

Personal Services – Salary	\$55,759.60	
Personal Services – OASDI	\$3,342.46	
Personal Services – Medicare	\$781.69	
Personal Services – PERF	\$6,245.10	
Personal Services – Health Insurance	\$7,410.76	\$73,539.61
Services & Charges		\$8,818.69

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

La Porte County Sheriff

Requesting Additional Appropriation from LIT Public Safety (1170) or Riverboat (1191) or Opioid Unrestricted (1237) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Personal Services – Pension Fund	\$355,966
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Mr. Novak clarified that the item did not necessarily need to be paid for at this time, however it would need to be paid for before the end of 2024. Mr. Kiel questioned if paying into the Sheriff’s Pension Fund would create a higher market yield for the Sheriff’s Department in contrast to La Porte County’s other investments. When Mr. Koronka began to motion to approve the item out of ARP (8950), Ms. Graves and Mr. Kiel informed the room that ARP funding could not be directed towards the payment of pensions.

- i. Motion to table made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Kiel.
- ii. Six members voted in favor (Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Rosenbaum, Mr. Novak, Mr. Koronka, and Mr. Kiel) and one member abstained (Mr. Mollenhauer).

La Porte County Building Maintenance

Requesting Additional Appropriations from Riverboat (1191) or Opioid Unrestricted (1237) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Services & Charges – Water Utility Bills	\$85,000.00	
Services & Charges – Koorsen Fire & Security Repairs	\$28,355.64	\$113,355.64

La Porte County Building Maintenance Director Sheryl Lestinsky clarified that, due to an error, the request for water utility bills was actually \$56,730, not \$85,000.

- i. Motion to approve the \$56,730 for the water utility bills and \$28,355.64 for the Koorsen Fire & Security Repairs made by Mr. Koronka 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).

La Porte County Parks Department

Requesting a transfer from ARP 8951.20200.0155.1012 (Miscellaneous Claims) to 8951.30120.0155.1012 (Other Services & Charges) for:

Services & Charges – Proper Invoicing	\$16,308.80
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- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Koronka and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.
- ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting a Transfer from Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund 1179.20021.000.0259 (Other Supplies) to 1179.30120.000.0259 (Other Services & Charges) for:

Services & Charges – Removal of Roof in Preparation for Replacement at Red Mill	\$10,852.70
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- i. Motion to approve made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Cunningham.

- ii. All members voted in favor.

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Riverboat (1191) or Opioid Unrestricted (1237) or WinTax (4220) or ARP (8950) for:

Services & Charges – Roof Repair at the former highway property in Rolling Prairie \$5,300.00

- i. Motion to approve out of WinTax (4220) 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 Permission to make Advanced Payment for Approving Roofing Job at Red Mill Park. Payment will be to JB West and was appropriated in July.

Half Down as Deposit \$26,992.32

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

Requesting Permission to make Advanced Payment to Prepare Red mill Roof for Replacement. Payment will be to JB West.

Half Down for Deposit \$5,426.35

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

La Porte County Highway Department

Requesting a Transfer from Major Bridge 1171.20200.000.0215 (Miscellaneous Claims) to 1171.30120.000.0215 (Other Services & Charges) for:

Services & Charges – Proper Invoicing \$728,448.77

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

Requesting a Transfer from LIT Economic Development 1112.20200.0200.0208 (Miscellaneous Claims) to 1112.30120.000.0215 (Other Services & Charges) for:

Services & Charges – Proper Invoicing \$2,500,000.00

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

Requesting Transfers from LIT Economic Development 1112.20200.00143.0208 (Miscellaneous Claims) to 1112.30120.000143.0208 (Other Services & Charges) for:

Services & Charges – Marquette Grant	\$56,517.39
Services & Charges – Union Mills Grant	\$108,446.00

- i. Motion to approve both transfers 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 Local Road and Street (1169) for:

Capital Purchase – Two Side Rotary Mowers	\$338,053.98
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- i. Motion to approve out of Local Road and Street (1169) 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).

La Porte County Superior Court #4

Requesting an Additional Appropriation from Opioid Restricted (1237) or Opioid Unrestricted (1238) for:

Services & Charges – WAIR, Inc.	\$5,000.00
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- i. Motion to approve out of Opioid Restricted (1237) made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Mollenhauer.
- 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).

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Yagelski emphasized the need to consider selling the county's unused or low-use buildings in contrast to investing money in them for only minor or seasonal purposes.

Mr. Koronka noted that the Job Evaluation Committee would need to be collectively more organized to ensure that the Council and public were fully aware of what was being voted on. Mr. DiMartino added that job descriptions for any re-evaluated position should be provided as well. Mr. Novak questioned if there was a window of time that department heads should present positions that they wanted evaluated, to which Ms. Graves responded that the language for this was located within the county's salary ordinance.

Mr. Cunningham requested that the county's annual commitment to the 16 volunteer fire departments be placed on the next month's agenda to allow for the \$10,000 bonus checks to be appropriated for 2025 and 2026 respectively. He also reported that \$1,363,000 in additional requests for funding had been addressed during the evening's agenda, and voiced concern as to why the Council was budgeting when so many additional monies were being supplemented to the budget. He noted that requests for additional appropriation had come in as early as February of 2024, and early to late fall was traditionally where the Council saw an increase in requests for appropriation. He stated that he understood that the budgeting was for state purposes, however he urged caution in the appropriating and budgeting process.

Mr. Rosenbaum advised coordinating a workshop to determine how much funding for APR remained, which upcoming projects previously received support for these monies, and which projects the funding should be directed towards should the funding fall short.

ADJOURNMENT

- i. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Rosenbaum and seconded by Mr. Koronka.
- ii. 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).

Examined & Approved by the La Porte County Council this 30th day of September, 2024.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



Councilman Adam Koronka



Councilman Justin Kiel

Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



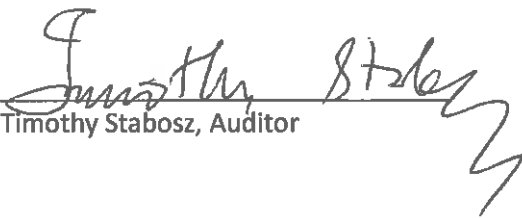
Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Timothy Stabosz, Auditor