

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2009**

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on June 22, 2009 in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Council Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Yagelski

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Auditor Craig Hinchman had roll call and the following Council Members were present: Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski. Also present were Council Attorney, Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray. Auditor Hinchman declared a quorum.

The Agenda was amended to omit the Auditor's request then the agenda was approved by all members.

The minutes from the May 26, 2009 meeting was approved by Mr. Bernacchi, Mr Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski, Mrs. Sosinski abstained since she was not present at the May meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

None

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Mrs. Sosinski reported meeting with the Human Resources Dept. regarding the employee hand book and the success of the employee wellness testing. She also met with the Recorder's Office regarding the Affordable Housing fees added to the recording charges. It was determined that August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 will be the starting date due to obtaining State approval and computer software upgrade.

Mr. Ford met with Court House Security regarding maintenance on the X-ray machine and the printer.

Mr. Mrozinski met with the Veterans Services regarding the medal presentations on July 11, 2009. He also met with the County Home and was told that there are now thirty six residents. He also met with the Animal Shelter and was told that they are at capacity and are looking for people to adopt. The economic situation has made it hard for people to care and keep their pets.

Mr. Garner met with Purdue Extension and Parents and Friends regarding the lease for office space that Purdue is occupying. He also stated his opinion to use the 2005/06 property values and trending forward from those values.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Park and Recreation Dept. regarding the transfer of funds for the emergency repairs to the Red Mill Dam. He also announced that a program is being worked on for clean air and "Green" ideas. He also met with the Assessor's office regarding a part time employee staying on for the remainder of the year and hiring seven new people to work building permits.

Mr. Cunningham met with Juvenile services regarding a Sanction committee. He also stated that he was going to attend the ICCA Conference sponsored by the DLGF and State Board of Accounts.

Mr. Yagelski commented on the overtime requested by the EMS and Sheriff's department for the RPM Festival. He stated that he would abstain from voting, also Mr. Garner and Mrs. Sosinski would abstain from voting regarding this. He asked the Council to table these requests until next meeting to give a "cooling off" time before a vote is taken. A committee was formed with Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Ford and Mr. Mrozinski and one Commissioner to discuss and make a recommendation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Dennis Metheny stated his objection regarding paying over time for EMS and the Sheriff Department at the RPM festival. He stated that had nothing to do with a County event, it was a personal commitment with the promoter. Tax payer's money should not be used. He stated his objection of paying rent for the Purdue Extension office, he feels there is room at the court house or at the complex. He questioned the request for overtime in the E911 department. He also questioned the need for another Economic Development Service when there are already three agencies in the County doing the same thing.

Mr. Mike Kobos stated that he totally agreed with Mr. Metheny regarding all matters that he just spoke about. He is tired of wasting tax payer's money.

## **APPROPRIATIONS-TRNSFERS OR REQUESTS**

### **LAPORTE COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TEAM**

Motion to take off the table from the May 26, 2009 meeting.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

Requested \$12,000.00 from AFG Grant (624-20200-000-624) for firefighter turn out gear. Amount was reduced to \$10,888.00.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY GOVERNMENT HUMAN RESOURCES**

Requested \$1,491.50 from Group Health Insurance Fund (296-20200-000-296) to pay the balance of funds for the 2009 Employee Wellness Days.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DEPT.**

Requested (\$5,492.78) be transferred from the general fund (100-10610-000-100)

To Highway Dept. Gas, Fuel & Oil acct. (200-20025-000-204) for the emergency repairs at the Red Mill Dam.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor.

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION**

Requested (\$500.00) be transferred from the Donation Fund (350-02061-000-260) to the fencing and gates fund (260-41029-000-260) for the fence restoration at Coulter Cemetery.

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Requested \$9,750.00 be put into her overtime account (100-10130-000-109) for salary of part time employee for the remainder of the year.

Voice vote taken, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mrs. Sosinski voted in favor, Mr. Cunningham voted against.

Motion approved

Requested \$5,000.00 to be put into her overtime fund (100-10130-000-109) for seven part time people working on building permits.

Voice vote taken, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Yagelski voted in favor, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted against.

Motion approved

Assessor Carol McDaniel introduced her attorney, Mr. Sheele who spoke about the complaint his client has filed in LaPorte Circuit Court against the LaPorte County Auditor, Mr. Hinchman. Mr. Sheele expressed the he would like the County to pay for his services but Mr. Cunningham pointed out that a contract was never approved for his work by the County Commissioners and the County Council has not allocated funding for him.

### **LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Requested \$75,000.00 from the Riverboat Admissions tax (#272-301350-200-272) for funds to continue environmental work at the Rolling Prairie L.U.S.T site. It was suggested that the County take legal action against Federal and State government to put a halt to the frequent testing.

Motion to table.

Voice vote taken, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted in favor, Mr. Bernacchi voted against.

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

(Tabled from May 26, 2009 Council Meeting)

Requested the following from the following funds:

#272-20200-105-272 (Riverboat Admission)

Or

#216-20200-105-216 (County Cumulative Capital Development)

Video Recording System for LaPorte County Jail

Miner Electronics \$326,297.59

Or

Communication Company of South Bend \$273,230.00

Motion to take off table

Voice vote taken, all members voted in favor

Motion approved

New motion to table again, all members voted in favor

Motion approved

### **LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF**

#100-10140-000-105 (overtime)

Requested funds to pay overtime worked at the RPM Fest. \$24,360.00

Motion to table

Voice vote taken, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted in favor, Mr. Cunningham voted against

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY EMS**

#100-10140-000-140 (overtime)

Requested funds to pay overtime worked at the RPM Fest \$6,937.50

Motion to table

Voice vote taken, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted in favor, Mr. Cunningham voted against.

Motion approved

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICES**

#257-30070-133-257(Riverboat Win Tax)

Requested funds for Office Rent not to exceed \$24,000.00. New amount to Be \$20,800.00.

Motion to approve, voice vote taken, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, voted in favor, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski voted against.

Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY 9-1-1 CENTER**

Requested transfer from #598-02061-000-598 (911 Surcharge Acct)  
TO

#598-10140-000-598 (overtime account)

To pay employee overtime for remainder of 2009 \$30,000.00

Motion to approve

Died for lack of Second

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.**

Requested consideration to assist LaPorte County with professional Services for Economic and Community Development Project Management  
Fee not to exceed \$65,000.00

Motion to approve, all members voted in favor

Motion approved

## **COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Yagelski asked the Council Attorney, Don Baugher to contact County Attorney Craig Braje to follow up on legal issues regarding the 211 center.

He also announced the budget hearings will be August 10, 11 & 12, 2009, and the LaPorte County Fair will be July 19<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.**