

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2010

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Yagelski

The pledge of Allegiance was lead by the members of the Junior Leadership program of LaPorte County.

Roll Call was taken by Auditor, Craig Hinchman. Those attending were Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Garner, Mr. Ford, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, and Mr. Yagelski. Also present were Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray and Council Attorney Don Baugher.

The agenda was approved by all members.

The February 22, 2010 minutes were amended and then approved by all members.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer invited all citizens to a public “town hall” meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 24th, 2010 at the Springfield Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. He also stated that the Sheriff’s Office web site was operational and the public can now access area crime information.

He read a news release stating that he has purchased enough DVR’s from the commissary fund to be able to record 96 areas of the jail. This is phase one, he hopes to purchase more in the future. This purchase is under the same contract that was approved last year but never given the funds to actually purchase the equipment.

Auditor Craig Hinchman came before the council to request hiring a replacement for the Excise Tax & Account Payable clerk who accepted a position in the Prosecutor's office. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Hinchman stated "let me understand, if you don't allow this position to be filled, you are telling me to close the Michigan City Auditor's Office and bring that person over to the LaPorte Auditor's Office to fill the position?" Mr. Ford said, "Yes, that's what we are telling you". Mr. Yagelski then told Mr. Hinchman that his request would be voted on under New Business.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Garner said that he thought we were getting closer on the tax situation compromise. He met with the Auditor's office regarding the replacement of the Excise/Account payable employee leaving April 1, 2010. He stated that in his opinion, the office duties should be reorganized. He stated that in the near future, the Treasurer will be coming to the Council to request funds for the processing and postage for another provisional tax bill to be sent out soon.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Park & Recreation Department. The request on tonight's agenda will be tabled until further notice. He is waiting for information on the grant. He reported that he met with the Assessor's office. They are requesting two replacement employees. Since the Assessor is no longer a voting member of the PTABOA, and she is the Secretary of the Board, she should do the job, she as secretary does not need a secretary. The other position should not be filled at this time, and when it is, a level two assessor should be hired.

Mr. Cunningham met with the Community Corrections; no report other than he is also going to meet with all the Judges on April 20th.

Mrs. Sosinski met with HR regarding the replacement of employees in the Auditor's and Assessor's offices.

Mr. Ford had no report

Mr. Mrozinski met with the LaPorte County Home. Reported that there were some emergency repairs needed. Mrs. Felton paid for this out of her budget.

Gutters---\$1,700.00 and the freezer compressor---\$2,700.00

Veterans medals are scheduled to be given out on April 24, 2010 and the Veterans Day observance will be on May 15, 2010.

Mr. Yagelski met with N.I.C.T.D.; there was a discussion about a rate increase next year of 2% and 2% the following year. Also, new cars will be purchased from a manufacturer in Japan. There are no companies in America that make these cars.

Mr. Yagelski invited the Board applicants to the PTABOA to make a short statement regarding their qualifications. Mr. James Irwin, Mr. Thomas Ruda and Mr. Roger Miller all gave a short presentation. Before a decision is made, there needs to be a determination if the board will have three or five members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Kobos inquired if tonight's meeting was live or being taped. The reply was both. He inquired what happens to all the old equipment that the county disposes of. He congratulated Kay Felton, director of the County Home for doing such a good job. He is against Mr. Baugher representing LaPorte City and LaPorte County Council. It is definitely a conflict of interest.

Mr. Dennis Metheny wants all County vehicles marked with larger signs, not just tiny ones that are hard to see. The County Clerk should present three bids when requesting funds. The Auditor needs to replace the employee he is losing, the Assessor does not need another employee, but, if the Assessor gets the employee then definitely the Auditor should get theirs.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS

LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Tabled at February 22, 2010 meeting

Requesting up-front funding for CMAQ Grant from any of the following:

CCD Fund (216-20200-000-216)

Win Tax Fund (257-20200-000-257)

For the purchase of a 2010 Dodge 3500 REG ST 4WD dump

Truck with snow plow \$39,654.48

Requesting approval to expend from its non-reverting capital fund

(560-20200-000-560) for surcharge \$ 3,123.38

Motion was made to take off the table

All members voted in favor

Motion to table until a later time

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tabled at February 22, 2010 meeting.

Requested funds from River Boat Admissions (272-20200-000-272)

To purchase 16 defibrillators @\$1,295.00 each and 16 alarmed wall
Cabinets @\$249.95 each \$24,719.20

Motion to take off the table

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

After a discussion, a motion was made to amend the amount per a new bid

To \$21,475.20

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Mrs. Huston suggested to Mr. Mrozinski to inquire about insurance paying the County Home repairs. He stated he didn't even think about that but thanked her and said he would inquire.

CLERK OF LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT

Requested the purchase of new computers for the
Clerk's offices.

From the Child support Account (571-20200-000-571) (not to exceed) \$50,000.00
(Detailed bids to follow)

After a debate regarding replacing all computer vs. replacing computers as they crash, a
Bid was presented and a motion was made to approve the request with an amount

Not to exceed \$19,000.00

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

From the Document storage fee account (341-20200-000-341)

Not to exceed \$100,000.00

(Detailed bids to follow)

Bid was presented and a motion was made to approve the request with the
Amount of \$49,221.00

Mr. Yagelski voted against

All remaining members voted in favor

Motion approved

**CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT/SECRETARY OF LAPORTE COUNTY
ELECTION BOARD**

Requested additional appropriation to (100-30005-000-131) for database
Preparation and on site election day support, election night tabulations

And report printing \$48,000.00

Motion made to approve the request

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested funds from the Win Tax (257) to replace 16 tables and 5 dollies for the polling places. (The existing equipment is 25 years old) \$2,261.93
Motion made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested an additional appropriation into the Lead Grant Non-reverting fund (626-20200-000-626) \$23,100.00
For timely payment of claims.
Motion made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requesting permission to hire two full time employees to replace two employees that have given notice to leave. After a long discussion, a motion was made to allow the PTABOA secretary to be hired but must obtain a level one designation within six months; it was then amended to say within the next schooling schedule.
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Garner voted in favor
Mr. Ford, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Bernacchi voted against
Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor Hinchman made the request to replace the employee transferring to the Prosecutor's office. As he stated earlier, this position is essential to his department. Motion was made to deny the request.
Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted to deny the request
Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Bernacchi voted to allow the request
Motion denied
He was told to bring the Michigan City employee to the LaPorte Office and close the Michigan City Office.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Mrozinski said that his mom now had cable television so he just wanted to say hi.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm

