

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 25, 2010**

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, October 25, 2010, 7:00 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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

The agenda was approved by all members

The September 20, 2010 Council minutes as well as the budget hearing minutes from August 11, 12 & 23, 2010 and the second budget hearing minutes from October 11, 2010 were approved by all members.

**Department Head Reports**

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer announced that the trick or treat party hosted by his department will again be held across the street from the complex by the renovated depot on Sunday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Goodies and safety items will be given out.

Assessor, Carol McDaniel received a statement from Tyler group for \$74,000.00. She has requested an itemized bill before allowing it to be paid. She gave an update on the reassessment work and is not happy. She stated that no field work has been done yet. Only three people are working on the reassessment and they are just using the pictometry. She stated that she was told that the deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> will not be met. Also, no local people have been hired yet.

Assessor elect, Mike Schultz stated that if anyone should be concerned it is him. As of January 1, 2011 it is going to be his responsibility and he is confident that the work will be done properly. He stated that Tyler Group has found several errors as well as parcels that have never been assessed. Pictometry is being used to do the ground work before there is field work. This way, it will save time and be more accurate when the field work begins. He is confident that all deadlines will be met.

## Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner had no report

Mr. Bernacchi had no report

Mr. Cunningham had no report

Mrs. Sosinski stated that the Committee for the archiving of e-mails needs direction. Attorney Don Baugher will follow up to request a meeting between the Data Committee,

the County Clerk and the Public Document committee to set a meeting for the discussion regarding public documents.

A motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Mr. Ford recommended the approval of the Surveyor's spending out of the Surveyors Corner Perpetuation Fund and recommends approval of the EMS's request.

Mr. Mrozinski requests the approval of the County Home's request. He is also included in the mediation of the settlement of the RPM fest suit against the County. If this had been paid when requested, it would have cost the County \$22,990.00, now it will be a huge amount. He has been apart of a discussion with the Commissioner's regarding a plan for the County concerning deputies working off duty. Mrs. Sosinski stated that in Indiana officers are never off duty. A meeting was going to be requested with the Commissioners and the Sheriff regarding this issue. Attorney Baugher, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Garner want to be included.

Mr. Yagelski stated that if there were no objections by the Council, there will not be a December meeting of the County Council.

Mr. Yagelski stated that there is an estimated nine million in tax revenue expected to be added the general fund from the November installment of taxes. From that, the loan from the emergency reserve account must be repaid by December 31, 2010 and then re-borrow again in January 2011.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the AIC conference was great. Mrs. Sosinski stated that in the future, when the County pays for reservations for employees/officials, they should attend, not just be no-show's.

## Public Comments

LaPorte County Sheriff Deputy Andy Hynek stated that the State of Indiana gives them arrest powers 24 hours a day; this is not a local power. He states that most officers need side jobs just to support a family. State Case law gives them a right to these off duty jobs. He suggested that the Council contact a law firm in Indianapolis that specializes in this. He has repeatedly mentioned this to Commissioner Layton, but believes that he has not done so.

David Gariepy stated that he was falsely accused in the press conference held earlier in the day by the Sheriff and his Chief Deputy and Jail Commander. He said information was brought to him regarding an investigation and that the deputies involved thought there was a cover-up. He then conferred with Commissioner Layton and Attorney Atley Price and the H.R. Department and then to the State Police. He stated that this was not political. Mrs. Sosinski asked if he was biased against the Human Resources Department to which he stated he was not. Mrs. Sosinski also feels that H.R. does a good job but they have been extremely busy with open enrollment.

Mrs. Scott Bell stated that Mr. Gariepy has nothing to do with the Sheriff's Department so why was he even involved with this if it wasn't political.

Former County Councilman, Jerry Cooley told the Council that they should be happy that Sheriff Mollenhauer was willing to provide commissary information, because as they know,





Motion was made to approve  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Requested approval to set up a separate fund for an immunization program grant for \$16,111.00 and place it in a claims line item  
Motion made to approve the request  
All Members voted in favor—Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY HOME**

Requested an additional appropriation into  
100-30030-000-146 to cover water and sewer bills \$2,000.00  
Motion was made to approve  
All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**LAPORTE COUNTY EMS**

Requested the purchase of two new MedTec ambulances and equipment for those ambulances, and one support vehicle from the CCD fund (216) \$270,690.00  
Motion was made to approve  
Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Garner voted in favor  
Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Bernacchi voted against  
Motion denied  
After further discussion a motion was made to approve the purchase of two ambulances and the equipment for those, deleting the support vehicle. Total amount \$236,532.00  
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor  
Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Cunningham voted against  
Motion approved

Requested an additional appropriation into the  
Overtime fund 100-10140-000-140 \$ 25,000.00  
Motion was made to approve  
Mr. Cunningham voted against  
Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner  
Voted in favor  
Motion approved

**AUDITOR**

Approval to use the balance of the funds appropriated from win tax (257) in 2008 for training and assistance regarding the reconciliation bills  
For 2006 pay 2007 \$20,000.00  
Motion made to approve

All members voted in favor  
Motion approved

**CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Requesting permission to replace a probation officer that  
is leaving October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.