

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

September 20, 2010

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, September 20, 2010, 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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

The revised agenda was approved by all members present after removing the Commissioners request for \$300,000.00.

The August 11, 2010 special meeting and August 23, 2010 Council minutes were approved by all members present.

Department Head Reports

Mr. Ott from the Building Maintenance Department discussed trading in the 2002 Chevy truck for a truck with a snow plow. After much discussion, a motion was made to approve as long as all funds needed were already in Mr. Ott's budget. No additional funds would be provided by the County. All members present voted in favor. Motion was approved. The Council also discussed the possibility of giving the old truck to the County Home.

Treasurer Nancy Hawkins and Chief Deputy Treasurer, Mikey Mauer spoke on the controversy regarding the investment of Major Moves money. Major Moves money was not invested separately, just as part of the general fund. Mrs. Hawkins told the Council that after checking with the State Board of Accounts, she was instructed that she cannot transfer any interest from the general fund into the Major Moves fund. Mrs. Hawkins and Ms. Mauer both stated that they cannot invest that fund unless they are specifically directed to do so. Mr. Yagelski stated that the prior Treasurer was told to do it. Mrs. Hawkins stated that she must be told every year, she cannot transfer funds without direction. She then asked the council to please communicate with her directly, not through a Commissioner.

#### Liaison Reports

Mr. Mrozinski met with Congressman Donnelly regarding the lack of shelters for the homeless Veterans. He also met with Representatives from the County home and stated that at the present time there are thirty three residents. Mr. Mrozinski also reported that the Animal shelter is at full capacity. Now would be a good time to think of adoption. He also attended a meeting with The Economic Development Alliance. The group is attempting to recruit new business as well as retaining existing businesses. Mr. Yagelski congratulated Mr. Mrozinski on being appointed to the Federal Selected Service Committee.

Mr. Garner reported that the Sheriff will be coming to the Council after the first of next year regarding the purchase of cars. He also met with the Soil and Water department regarding part time help as well as Purdue Extension regarding housing for their office. He also met with the Treasurer.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Treasurer and Commended Chief Deputy Treasurer Mikey Mauer for the good job she is doing for the County. He met with the Assessor regarding the re-assessment being done by the Tyler Group. He stated that all is going according to schedule. He

also met with Judge Boklund regarding the lighting problem in his court room.

Mr. Cunningham met with the Community Corrections. Mr. Layton was also involved. The drop dead date was extended to October 25, 2010 and will most likely be given another extension. There is a possibility of getting state support for the project.

Mr. Yagelski reminded all that the AIC conference is being held at the Blue Chip Casino Conference rooms on September 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. He estimated 2,500 people will attend.

#### Public Comments

None

#### APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

##### **SUPERIOR COURT NO. 4**

Requested appropriation for improvements and or repairs

To Court Rooms and Offices. (152)

From either Riverboat Admissions (272) or Win Tax (257)

\$25,721.41

Tabled from the August 23, 2010 Council Meeting

Motion to take off the table

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

After a short discussion there was a motion to table again

Until the January 2011 Council Meeting

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

##### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Requested appropriation for archive software upgrade

Per State requirements 157-41006-000-157

From Riverboat Admissions or Win Tax (272) or (257)

\$58,000.00

Tabled from the August 23, 2010 Council Meeting

Motion to take off the table

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Motion to table this again until the January 2011 Council Meeting

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

##### **(REMOVED)**

Requesting an additional appropriation into Liability Claims Account

#299-20200-000-299 to cover expenses anticipated for the

Remainder of 2010 from either General Fund #100 or  
Riverboat Admissions #272 \$300,000.00

Requested the re-appropriation of funds from the General Fund#100  
Back into the LaPorte County Mental Health/Swanson Center  
Fund (100-30072-000-143 \$118,976.00

After discussion a motion was made to approve this request only  
If the State Board of Accounts give permission  
All members present voted in favor  
Motion approved

Requested appropriation of funds into the Commissioners Printing  
Fund (181-41006-000-181 from Riverboat Admissions #272

To purchase printing equipment

Motion was made to approve but delay payment

Until January 2011.

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

\$30,000.00

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Requested appropriation of funds from Riverboat Admission  
Tax (272) to pay for the paving of the Michigan City Court House  
Parking Lot. (272-20200-200-272) \$100,000.00

Motion to approve

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Review the budget of Solid Waste District of LaPorte County**

Motion was made to approve the budget after removing any raises.

Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Garner and Mr. Cunningham voted in favor

Mr. Yagelski voted against

Budget approved

##### **REVIEW OF TOWNSHIP BUDGETS/NON BINDING BUDGETS**

Since all budgets have not been received, the Council Attorney, Don

Baughner is to send letters requesting they be sent to the Auditor no later than

October 11, 2010.

##### **Council appointment to LaPorte County Regional Sewer District**

Motion was made to appoint Gene Jonas to the LaPorte Regional Sewer District

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to have Council Attorney, Don Baugher send a letter to Sheriff Mollenhauer to inform him that all hiring of non merit employees must go through the Human Resources Department or the Council will not fund the new employee.

Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Mr. Yagelski voted against.

Motion approved

Mr. Cunningham also made a motion to have the Council Attorney, Mr. Baugher to send a request to Sheriff Mollenhauer to furnish all credit card statements for all payments made from the Commissary Fund for the years 2007, 2008 and first ½ of 2009

Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Mr. Yagelski voted against

Motion approved

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.