

**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET HEARING CONTINUED**

**AGENDA**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

The LaPorte County Council Budget hearing resumed on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 5:30 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

Auditor, Craig Hinchman called the roll: All Council members were present with the exception of Mr. Bernacchi. Also present was Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Discussion on the budget followed:

Damon Tsouklis of Cender & Company gave a report of estimated calculations of property taxes due regarding the estimated financial position of the County. Numerous questions were asked of him. Commissioner Ken Layton also spoke regarding the financial position of the County; he stated that after reading the Cender & Cender report he felt more confident of financial security. He stated that it isn't good but not as bad as predicted.

The Health Department requested a full time billing clerk. The position was evaluated at a COMOT IV. A motion was made to approve the request with it scheduled to be reviewed at the end of 2012. The part time budget must be reduced by \$20,000.00. The motion also included the approval of the balance of the 100 accounts.

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Clerk Lynne Spevak reported that she has cross trained her entire staff and the positions have been evaluated at all COMOT IV. She requested to adjust the pay.

A motion was made to approve the request and also to move voter's registration personnel into the Clerk's office.

Motion died for a lack of a second.

Purdue Extension requested that the 4-H program budget be brought back to the original \$40,000.00. It was pointed out that this is not a budget item but a donation.

A motion was made to donate \$40,000.00 to the 4-H program

Mrs. Sosinski voted against

Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Motion approved.

Mrs. Pease, director of EMS reported that her four billing clerks have been re-evaluated by the personnel committee and their classification has changed to COMOT IV.

A motion was made to allow this change in classification with the salary difference for this to be approved

Mr. Yagelski & Mr. Garner voted against.

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Ford voted in favor

Motion approved.

GIS requested moving her part time employee to full time. The personnel committee evaluated this position as a COMOT III. After discussion, a motion was made to allow this if Mrs. Mischke can obtain additional funds from other departments and eliminate her part time budget.

Mrs. Sosinski voted against,

Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Motion approved

The Sheriff's salary contracts from 2009, 2010 & 2011 were discussed. There seems to be a difference in the contracts that were signed and the Council Minutes approving the contracts. A motion was made to send this issue to the County Council Attorney and the County Attorney for further review.

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

There was a lengthy discussion on whether the County could afford raises or a bonus for the County Employees. No motion was made.

County Detective, Brian Piergalski discussed the reasons for the Council to consider larger raises for the County Sheriff's Employees. He gave three different plans to be considered. No action was taken on this issue.

Continued budget discussions will follow at the October 24, 2011 Council meeting.

Adjournment at approximately 7:10 p.m.