

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2011

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES)

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 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 Rich Mrozinski Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Auditor ,Craig Hinchman called the roll; all members except Mr. Garner were present.

The agenda was approved by all members present.

Approval of the November 22, 2010 Council minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Department Head Reports

Commissioner, Barb Houston reported on the Data Board meeting. She stated that the software and hardware for the e-mail archive system that is required by the State, will require funding of \$57,564.00. The Council will vote on this later in the meeting. She also requested consideration on the purchase of a generator for the 8th Street building and Michigan City Courthouse. She is inquiring about a matching grant for the purchase. She reported that Commissioner Milsap now has the use of Commissioner Ken Layton's County car and Bret Stoller, E-911 Director has the use of Past Commissioner Mike Bochack's car and Mr. Stoller's car has gone into the "car pool"

Commissioner, Ken Layton reported that the Jail Bond has now been paid in full ten years ahead of schedule saving the County approximately 3.7 million in interest. He praised the County for their scrimping and saving to make this possible. He asked Co-Council Attorney Don Baugher to write an ordinance to rescind the tax rate for 2011 pay 2012 for the jail bond.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Ford reported meeting with County Surveyor, Tony Hendricks. He stated that the Surveyor is working on the Kankakee River and the sand and sediment is going to be recycled and used in other areas. He also stated that the Intermodal project is waiting on appraisals.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the director of Community Corrections has resigned and the committee is actively working to find a replacement.

Mrs. Sosinski stated she will address her topics later in the meeting.

Mr. Yagelski stated that there is still a hiring freeze, there is no ending date.

Mr. Bernacchi met with Assessor, Mike Schultz. He stated he needs some new computers to meet software requirements. He also stated that Mr. Schultz is having his employees take classes to obtain their level two by the end of the year so that they may better serve the taxpayers. There was no report regarding the new re-assessment progress from Tyler Group. Mr. Bernacchi also met with the Treasurer's Office and the Auditor's office to help co-ordinate the tax situation.

Mr. Mrozinski reported that the LaPorte County Home returned \$436,253.13 to the general fund for 2010. He complimented Mrs. Felton. He reported that he attended the Economic Alliance meeting and the Commissioners Conference along with Mr. Cunningham. They also attended the grand opening of the Cancer Center in Westville and the Legislative Conference at PNC. Mr. Mrozinski also attended the Solid Waste meeting.

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 September 20, 2010 Council Meeting

Motion was made to take off the table

All members present voted in favor

Motion was made to approve the request to be paid from Win Tax (257)

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

COURT HOUSE SECURITY-LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested an additional appropriation into
Equipment #100-30012-000-182 for the purchase
Of two employee identification card printers
From either Win tax (257) or Riverboat Admissions (272) \$9,722.50
Tabled from the November 22, 2010 meeting
Motion was made to take off the table
All members present voted in favor
After a discussion, it was stated that the Sheriff has already bought and paid for the printer to
take care of his department
A motion was made to approve the request for \$2,722.50 to be paid from Win Tax (257)
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 September 20, 2010 Council Meeting
Motion was made to take off the table
All members present voted in favor
Motion was made to approve the request to be paid for from
Win tax (257)
All members present voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY CLERK

Requested allocation from Clerk's Record Perpetuation
Account to the document storage fund. (341-20200-000-341) \$20,000.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members present voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested an appropriation from Win Tax (257) or
Riverboat Admission tax (272) into the
Communicable Disease Non-Reverting fund
(526-20200-000-526) for the timely payment of claims \$20,000.00
Motion was made to approve the request to be paid from
Win Tax (257)
All members present voted in favor
Motion Approved

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Requested the transfer of funds deposited into the
Economic Development Fund #222-02061-000-222 to
Be transferred into the Economic Development Professional Fee
Fund #222-30135-000-222 to pay past due bills \$20,000.00
Motion was made to approve the request
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested funds from either Riverboat Admissions (272)
Or Win Tax (257)
Shortfall REMOVED \$264,161.45

Estimated Emergency snow removal costs (estimated at \$50,000.00)
Motion was made to approve the actual amount for the snow
Removal from the Win Tax (257) for \$42,171.15
All members present voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested the Environmental Health/Food Supervisor salary
Be frozen to the current level PAT IV.
After a lengthily discussion a motion was made to approve the request
All members present voted in favor
Motion approved

LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Requested to fill a probation officer position that was vacated
On November 8, 2010.
Motion was made to approve the request
All members present voted in favor
Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

Reading and Adoption of an emergency ordinance to make a short term loan
From the LaPorte County Emergency Reserve Fund (275) to the
LaPorte County General Fund \$9,000,000.00
Known as Ordinance No# 2011-01
Motion for first reading to be read by title only
All members present voted in favor of the ordinance
Motion was made for the second reading by title only and
The adoption of the ordinance
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

A motion was made to transfer into the emergency reserve fund \$42,927.13
To bring it back to one million dollar balance after the emergency loan. When the loan is paid
back, the balance will be back to ten million dollars.

All members voted in favor

Motion passed

(It was discovered later that when the tax bill for 2006 pay 07 is reconciled, it will
Automatically bring that fund up to one million)

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

The Department heads are reminded that there is still a hiring freeze in effect.

Mr. Yagelski stated that he is not pleased that the Commissioners settle law suits without
approval from the Council.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that there needs to be a liaison between the County Council and County
Commissioners for communication.

Mr. Ford thanked Mr. Young and the Highway department for good work during the snow
emergency.

ADJOURNMENT