

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 27, 2011

The LaPorte County Council Meeting was held on Monday, June 27, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Auditor Craig Hinchman called the roll: all Council members were present along with Chief Deputy Mary Ray and Co-council attorneys Don Baugher and Doug Biege.

All members approved the revised agenda. The Sewer District was moved to the first topic on the agenda and GIS was removed.

All members approved the May 23, 2011 Council minutes.

Department Head Reports

Judge Tom Alevizos reported a new state statute creating a new fund regarding Juveniles and the DOC and detention costs.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Garner reported that the maintenance department needed a locked maintenance room and the Sheriff had to hire outside labor for some of his department's needed repairs. He met with the Auditor's office who stated that more part time help is needed for the extra work required for the additional tax billings.

Mr. Ford reported that Surveyor, Tony Hendricks is making progress on the Kankakee River project.

Mr. Cunningham had nothing to report.

Mr. Bernacchi met with the Assessor who stated that his request for additional equipment is being funded with money from his sales disclosure fund. He also stated that the reassessment is progressing well.

Mr. Yagelski had nothing to report.

Mrs. Sosinski met with the 911 advisory board. She wished to thank Kay Felton for a great open house at the LaPorte County Home. She also reported that the personnel committee has evaluated a position requested by the GIS department.

Mr. Mrozinski said he didn't need his report on the County home since Mrs. Sosinski had already commented on it, but reported that the Redevelopment & Economic resolution with KID has been signed.

Public Comments:

The following persons had views on the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project:

Jim Jessup spoke out in favor. He stated that other areas of the County will be needing the same thing so it's good to get started quickly.

Gene Jonas gave a presentation and stated that approximately 100 persons will support the project and hook up if more information is given and if it is affordable.

Engineer John Lynn reported that the sewer should support approximately 300 homes.

Dan Adams spoke against the project until the master plan is followed.

A Representative from LaPorte Savings Bank Branch stated they have had to pump their existing tank twice in the last three months.

Tim Gropp and John Regets both support the project.

Mike Sites from the LaPorte Chamber of Commerce supports the project.

Brian Reinhold supports the project.

Courtney Barker was opposed until she attended an informational meeting, now they support it also.

Pastor Ranson Ebersal supports the project.

Kathy Chroback and Jerry Jackson also stated the importance of the project and that the City of LaPorte will be able to handle sewage with no problem.

Rolling Prairie Library supports the project. Their septic needs to be pumped every quarter and water tested monthly.

Kim Sauers also supports the project.

The Resolution was then discussed by the Council:

Mr. Ford supported the project.

Mrs. Sosinski wanted to see the estimates before making a decision on the project but was in favor allowing the \$200,000.00 for the engineering study. She has concerns that the 1.9 million won't be enough and the user fees would be too high for people to afford.

Mr. Carl Sender, CPA said that the \$200,000.00 would cover the design and estimated costs. After bids were received, an accurate cost could be determined.

Mrs. Sosinski asked if an existing septic system would fail, would the homeowner be required to hook up to the sewer system. Mr. Tony Mancuso, from the LaPorte County Health Department, stated yes.

Mr. Bernacchi stated that without the engineer's study, which will give an accurate estimate of the project costs and bids, it is impossible to determine the cost to the property owners and the payback to the County. He stated that he is looking out for the property owners and the tax payers.

Mr. Yagelski stated that the last time this came up for a vote it was too early and not enough information was presented. He is for the approval of the \$200,000.00 to fund the study.

A budget hearing for this year was discussed.

A motion to hold hearings on August 11th & 12th proposed starting time of 8:00 am.

All members voted in favor

Motion approved.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS

LAPORTE REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT/ OAK TREE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Requested funds from the Major Moves Fund (223)

For the sewer project from LaPorte to Rolling Prairie \$1,900,000.00

After discussion a motion was made to adopt (read by title only) resolution 2011-04 to

Advance the LaPorte County Regional Sewer District \$200,000.00 for

Pre-constructions costs of a sewer collection system as part of

Phase 1 of the Rolling Prairie Sewer Project.

All members voted in favor of the Resolution

Motion passed

Resolution to be known as 2011-04

911-CENTER

Requested approval to purchase equipment from the

598 (surcharge) Account. \$27,649.00

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Another motion was made to allow up to \$5,000.00 to be spent from the same

Account for additional cameras and equipment

All members voted in favor/ Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HOME

Requested an additional appropriation into 100-10130-000-146

and an additional Part time employee \$15,000.00

Motion was made to approve both requests

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

CLERK OF LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT

Requested the approval to fill a recent vacancy in the

Michigan City Court House. No additional funding needed

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested allocation from the Clerk's Record Perpetuation
Account into the Document Storage Fund #341-20200-000-341 \$20,000.00

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested an additional appropriation into the Jail Food Account
#100-20039-000-145 \$200,000.00

After discussion a motion was made to allow only \$25,000.00 be appropriated

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Ford voted in favor

Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Garner voted against

Motion failed

Another motion was made to approve the \$200,000.00

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted in favor

Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Ford voted against

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

Requested the annual appropriation for repair and maintenance
on the fencing and gates. #260-41029-000-260 \$3,000.00

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested approval to pay a late submitted bill for the Bridge #34
Construction project. (Cumulative bridge fund #210) \$19,722.68

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requesting permission to purchase the following from the
Sales disclosure fund #340-20200-000-340

4 digital cameras (County & Mich. Twp) \$1,400.00

Kemps—maintenance kit for printer \$ 300.00

Panasonic Hard Drive for scanner/printer \$ 850.00

Loopnet—commercial sales verification \$1,200.00

TOTAL -----
\$3,750.00

Motion was made to approve

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Requesting the development of the County Offender Transportation Fund as a result of a new law starting July 1, 2011, known as law SEA34
Motion was made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

Requested changes in employee positions due to the Consolidation of the probation departments.
Elevate Barb Amms, Michigan City to a COMOT 4
Elevate Rebecca Netzer from part-time to full time at a COMOT 4 Position.
Since this has not gone before the personnel committee
This will be resubmitted at a later date

DOROTHY S. CROWLEY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTR

Requested an additional appropriation into the Juvenile Services Center Food Account (100-20039-000-176) \$35,000.00
Motion made to approve
All members voted in favor
Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Cunningham gave a presentation along with displaying a poster regarding improper spending of the Sheriff's Commissary fund. After a much heated discussion, Mr. Cunningham Made a "motion to have our attorney approach the Commissioners for the purpose of suing the Sheriff to recover funds and to determine if they want us to include their commissioner's commissary phone account they set up last year by ordinance"
Mr. Sosinski, Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted against
Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford and Mr. Garner voted in favor
Motion approved

There was a discussion regarding the promoter of the RPM Fest. Former Prosecutor Beckman would not prosecute. Now the County has expended funds so a motion was made to have the Commissioner's Attorney to go after the Promoter for fraud and to recover funds.

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mr. Yagelski is hopeful of giving the county employees a 3% raise this year. He also thanked Commissioner Barb Huston for stepping in and helping to run the 911 Center since the Director and Assistant Director were no longer employed.

Mr. Bernacchi is saddened about the vote to sue the Sheriff. There has to be an alternative way to handle the situation.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he doesn't want to go after the department, just the sheriff individually.

Mr. Gardner stated that it is not fair to penalize the Sheriff's department over this.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at approximately 8:40 p.m.