

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 23, 2008

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on the 23rd of March, 2009 at the Rolling Prairie VFW Post 9423, 4202 N 400 E, (Bryon Road), Rolling Prairie, IN 46371.

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Yagelski at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Auditor Craig Hinchman had roll call and the following Council persons were present: Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Yagelski. Council Attorney Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray was also present. Auditor Hinchman declared a quorum.

After amending the agenda to include addressing the payment of dh2w, Inc., the agenda was approved by all Council members.

The Council approved the February 23, 2009 minutes.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Walt Sell, Director of the LaPorte County Cooperative Extension-4-H reported that LaPorte County Master Gardner Club received 2nd place in a National Competition for their entry "its My First Yard-What do I Do". He also stated that there were several seminars scheduled in the near future. Contact him for more information.

President Mark Yagelski stated that there will be a workshop at 6:00 p.m. prior to the April 27th, 2009 Council Meeting to Discuss the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the Great Lakes Fisheries Ecosystem Restoration Project Grant the the Park Department is working on for Red Mill County Park.

President Mark Yagelski also stated that there will be a workshop at 5:30 p.m. prior to the May 18th, 2009 Council Meeting to discuss various issues regarding the LaPorte County Cooperative Extension-4-H programs.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Mrozinski reported he had been put on two committees at N.I.R.P.C. he also met with representative from the County Home.

Mr. Garner met with Walt Sell, Director of Purdue Extension Office 4-H.

Mr. Bernacchi met with G.I.S , Park and Recreation Department and the Assessor.

Mrs. Sosinski met with Human Resources Department and also John Sullivan, Coroner.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS

Motion to pay dh2w, Inc. \$20,494.72 from River Boat Admissions Fund 272-71009-143-272 Regarding the building at the LaPorte County Fair Grounds.

All members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Assessor Carol McDaniel requested \$24,000.00 to be paid to the Nexus Group to defend three of the very large appeals that are expected to be heard. Commissioner Mike Bohacek stated that in the past, the Commissioners have paid from litigation from their budget. Council Attorney Don Baugher suggested that he meet with the County Attorney to analyze the Contract the County has with Nexus. Motion was made to table this issue until the April Council Meeting. All members voted in favor to table.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT

Requested \$33,096.00 from the General Fund 100-10211-000-146 to correct a 2009 budget error Re: Director of Juvenile Court Services salary.

All members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY HOME

Requested \$13,500.00 from the General Fund, 100-10130-000-146 for additional part time employee.

All members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Requested \$4,500.00 from the General Fund, 100-10168-000-145 for payment of unused sick leave accrued by retiree Dick Reed.

All members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

SUPERIOR COURT 4

Requested \$13,214.10 from the Road Crew Fund, 348-30135-000-348 to pay supervisors and Road Crew Supplies throughout the year. (Left off February Council agenda in error)

All members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Requested \$45,000.00 from the River Boar Win Tax, 257-30070-133-257 for the 4-H Funding Proposal.

All Members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requested \$20,000.00 from the Bio-Terrorism Grant Fund 293, -- 293-20200-000-293 for Emergency Preparedness Planning Program.

All Members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

Requested \$25,000.00 from the Communicable Disease Fund, 526-20200-000-526 for Immunizations and Blood Profiles.

All Members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Requesting \$74,000.00 from the Highway Department Fund 200-10155-000-201 for the salary to hire a County Highway Engineer.

Mrs. Sosinski moved to table this until the next Council Meeting due to the bid not properly being advertised. Motion failed for lack of 2nd.

Vote was taken to approve this request to fund; Roll Call vote was taken with Mrs. Sosinski voting against. Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner all voting in favor.

Motion approved.

Request for \$9,400.00 to pave the parking lot at 555 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, and IN.46350.

Roll Call vote was taken, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Ford voted in favor, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Bernacchi and Mr. Garner voted against.

Motion denied.

Request to remove delinquent property taxes (\$39,375.74) not resolved at the closing on three parcels purchased by the County in May of 2007. After much discussion on the issue of who was to blame for this, Roll Call was taken and Mr. Ford, Mr. Cunningham Mr. Bernacchi voted in favor of removing this tax, Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski, Mr. Garner voted against.
Motion denied.

LAPORTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requested \$39,075.71 from the Riverboat Admissions fund 272-30135-200-272 for the continuation of the clean up and monitoring the Rolling Prairie LUST site.

All members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

Requested \$40,000.00 from the County Cumulative Capital Development Fund, 216-71001-000-216 to pay the balance of contract to Beam, Longest and Neff Engineering for the Sanitary main and Water Main Extension on C.R. 950 West & 300 North, south of I 94, Michigan City, IN 46360.

All members voting in favor.

Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE

Motion was mad to have Council Attorney Don Baugher revise the ordinance to read \$2.00 for the first page of recording, \$.50 for each additional page and place a cap of \$5.00 on the total fee.

All members voting in favor.

Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

LAPORTE COUNTY CORONER

Coroner John Sullivan requested funding for a 4 wheel vehicle for the Coroner's office. The State rules for Autopsies have changed so he will be traveling many more miles in the future.

Motion to table until April Council Meeting when he is going to submit estimates.

All members voted to table.

CORNER TO CORNERSTONE

Requested a grant for \$25,000.00 for mentoring and technical training program. Sheriff Mollenhauer and Jim Stemmler spoke in favor. Stated that the program helped the youths not to re-offend.

Motion was made to approve the grant from the Riverboat Win Tax 257-71001-000-257

All members voted in favor.

Motion approved.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APROXIMATELY 8:00 P.M.