



*LaPorte County Auditor
Joie Winski
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350-3490*

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 8, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Special Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on May 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. (local time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex located at 809 State Street, La Porte, Indiana, 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

La Porte County Council President Randy Novak called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Novak asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. President Novak asked that everyone, except emergency personnel, to please turn off their cell phones at this time. He also asked for a moment of silence for Councilman Santana's sister.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Joie Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Mollenhauer, Novak, Rosenbaum, Sullivan, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing or seeing no one, President Novak closed Public Comment.

SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

Consider Approval to Transfer \$3,975,993.61 (50% of Riverboat Funds from 2018 and 1st Quarter Distribution of 2019) to the Emergency Reserve Fund (1186) pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-15

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Councilman Yagelski asked Auditor JoEileen Winski if this approval would have to come with every distribution or on a yearly basis. Auditor Winski replied it could be accommodated to the Council's wishes. The motion was amended to approve 50% of the Riverboat funds to go back into the Reserve fund on a quarterly basis. Motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Santana voting Nay.

Consider Revised Reconstruction/Remodeling plan for Michigan City Courthouse/Consider Authorizing Bond Financing Plan for Reconstruction/Remodeling – Structure Point/Tonn & Blank/Baker Tilly

A motion to approve authorization of the bond financing plan with the stipulations that anyone with said interest in Courthouse with funds available will work out transactions prior to the signature of any documents, up to and including the Commissioners regarding the 8th Street property being vacated and put up for sale up within the reasonable amount of time of three months. Motion was seconded by Councilman Santana.

Councilman Rosenbaum expressed concern about selling the property within a three-month period; he's not sure it is in the best interest of the County. Councilman Santana stated that the County would reap the benefits of the sale, but Councilman Rosenbaum said keeping the property may be useful in the future instead of possibly buying a property at market value. He added that he is unsure whether this action would be the correct action, but is uncomfortable with it being in the motion. Auditor Winski suggested that Building Maintenance Director Larry Levendowski give the Council a brief description of the current condition of the 8th Street building. Mr. Levendowski said he toured the building and said it is dilapidated and continued that there would have to be an investment of approximately \$500,000.00 for it to be usable. He added that there are structural and mold issues. Councilman Rosenbaum said he had no questions for Mr. Levendowski, and said he made a tour of the Courthouse. However, he did not tour the 8th Street building because he had no prior knowledge that item was being addressed at this meeting. Therefore, he reiterated that he is uncomfortable with this item being included in the motion.

Motion carried 4-2, with Councilmen Rosenbaum and Santana voting Nay.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

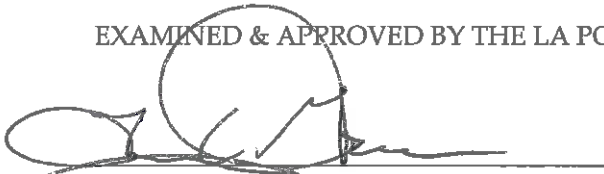
Councilman Rosenbaum said that after touring the Michigan City Courthouse, it is his hope that there will be preservation of as much of the woodwork and brass furnishings, etc. as possible. He also asked that the contractors retain as much of the beauty as possible. He added it has been previously discussed that the elegance of these courtrooms will be the shining light for the future, so he hopes for as much preservation as possible.

President Novak extended gratitude to the Judges, Probation, the Prosecutor, and especially Auditor Winski for the time and effort they have put into this project.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Motion carried 6-0.

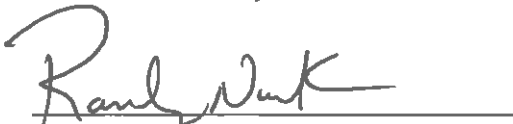
EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28th of May 2019.



Councilman Terry Garner



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



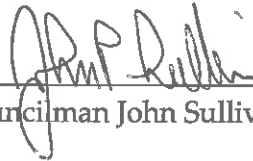
Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Jeff Santana



Councilman John Sullivan



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: 

Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor