



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

**MEETING MINUTES  
LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2013**

The Reorganization Meeting of the La Porte County Council was called to order Monday, January 14, 2013 at 6:05 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex.

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL.**

The Meeting was Called to Order by Chief Deputy Auditor, Andrea Smith who began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and proceeded with the Roll Call. Council Members present included: Councilwoman Lois Sosinski, Councilmen Rich Mrozinski, Matt Bernacchi, Mark Yagelski, Earl Cunningham, and Jeff Santana. Absent: Councilman Terry Garner (excused). A quorum was present for the Meeting to proceed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

A Motion was made by Councilman Mrozinski and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to approve the Agenda. Motion carries 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

Election of Officers

Chief Deputy Auditor, Andrea Smith opened up the floor for nominations for President. There was a nomination on the floor made by Councilman Mrozinski and seconded by Councilman Cunningham to nominate Mark Yagelski for President. Seeing or hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed and the vote was taken. The Motion carries 6-0. Congratulations to President Yagelski.

President Yagelski opened up the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Councilman Santana made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Sosinski for Vice President which was seconded by Councilman Bernacchi.

Councilman Cunningham made a motion to nominate Councilman Mrozinski for Vice President which was seconded by Councilman Mrozinski.

President Yagelski asked Chief Deputy Auditor Smith to take the individual roll call vote for Councilwoman Sosinski for Vice President. Yes votes: Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Bernacchi, and Santana. No votes: Yagelski, Cunningham, and Mrozinski. The vote for Councilwoman Sosinski for Vice President ends in a tie 3-3.

President Yagelski asked Chief Deputy Auditor Smith to take the individual roll call vote for Councilman Mrozinski for Vice President. Yes votes: Councilmen Yagelski, Cunningham, and Mrozinski. No votes: Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Bernacchi and Santana. The vote for Councilman Mrozinski for Vice President ends in a tie 3-3.

With there being a tie of both nominees and the absence of Councilman Garner to speak for himself, election of Vice President will be held over until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2013. Mr. Mrozinski will continue to act as Vice President.

#### County Council Liaisons and Committees.

President Yagelski stated that all Council Members will continue to hold their current liaison positions with the exception of Councilman Mrozinski who will serve as the NIRPC Liaison and Councilman Bernacchi who will serve as the Solid Waste Liaison.

Councilman Santana questioned if he can hold dual positions on EMS since he will now be the Council Liaison and was also appointed by the La Porte County Commissioners as a Board Member through the Michigan City Fire Department last year.

Councilman Cunningham questions Attorney Biege if there is a difference between a liaison and board appointee. Attorney Biege says he will look at the board rules and state statute and advise the Council as some boards have different requirements in regards to voting positions. Councilwoman Sosinski clarifies that the EMS Council Liaison position is a voting position. Attorney Biege states that the Commissioners will therefore have to appoint another Board Member to EMS as they now have a Board vacancy. A Motion was made by Councilman Bernacchi and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to approve Council Liaison positions. Motion carries 6-0.

#### County Council Attorney.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cunningham and seconded by Councilman Santana to nominate Craig Biege as Council Attorney. Seeing or hearing no other nominations for Attorney, President Yagelski closes nominations and calls for the vote. Motion carries 6-0.

#### County Council Appointed Board Members.

President Yagelski and Councilwoman Sosinski state they believe there is some type of book in regards to Board Member appointments and terms for Council appointees. Councilwoman Sosinski will try and locate her book for the next regular meeting and asks the Auditor's Office to do the same.

#### *Alcohol Beverage Commission*

The State of Indiana mandates that the Alcohol Beverage and Property Tax Boards are one-year terms. The Alcohol Beverage Board will need a Republican appointee as the Commissioners already appointed a Democrat.

Requests will be advertised by the Auditor for the Republican member for the Alcohol Beverage Board. Councilwoman Sosinski states she may have a candidate for the Alcohol Beverage Board.

#### *Property Tax Assessment Board*

The Property Tax Assessment Board has two openings. *Indiana Code 6-1.1-28* requirements state that one member must be a Republican and the other a Democrat. Councilwoman Sosinski nominates Councilman Bernacchi as the Democratic appointee who is a Level 2 assessor and Grace Goers as the

Republican nominee who is a realtor. Assessor Mike Schultz confirms that the Property Tax Board has enough Level 1 and 2 Assessors so the Republican nomination will be acceptable.

President Yagelski asks if there are any other nominations for the Property Tax Assessment Board.

Councilman Cunningham nominates Pam Kieft who is a Democrat to the Property Tax Board and the nomination is seconded by Councilman Mrozinski.

Seeing or hearing no other nominations for either the Democratic or Republican representative, President Yagelski closes nominations and calls for the vote for Property Tax Assessment Republican Nominee and the Democratic Nominees.

Republican Nominee Grace Goers – yes votes Councilwoman Sosinski, Councilmen Mrozinski, Yagelski, Cunningham, Bernacchi and Santana (6). Grace Goers will serve as the Republican Representative on the Property Tax Board.

Democratic Nominee Matt Bernacchi – yes votes Councilmen Yagelski, Bernacchi, Santana and Councilwoman Sosinski (4). Democratic Nominee Pam Kieft – yes votes Councilmen Mrozinski and Cunningham (2). Councilman Bernacchi will serve as the Democratic Representative on the Property Tax Assessment Board.

*County Park Board*

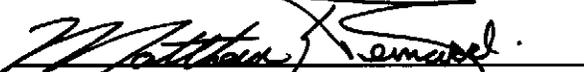
A Motion was made by Councilman Mrozinski and seconded by Councilman Cunningham to retain Ronald Knickrehm as the County Council's Park Board appointment. Motion carries 6-0.

*Library Board*

A Motion was made by Councilman Cunningham and seconded by Councilwoman Sosinski to request conditional reappointment of all existing Board Members for the Lacrosse, Wanatah and Westville Library Boards. Motion carries 6-0.

A Motion made by Councilwoman Sosinski and seconded by Councilman Bernacchi to close the Reorganizational Meeting. Motion carries 6-0. The Reorganizational Meeting closes at 6:35 p.m.

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL, dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

  
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Councilman Matt Bernacchi

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Councilman Earl Cunningham

  
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Councilman Terry Garner

  
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Councilman Rich Mrozinski

  
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Councilman Jeff Santana

  
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Councilwoman Councilwoman Sosinski

  
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Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
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Julie Winski, Auditor La Porte County