

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Auditor, the public interests required that the Lake County Council, should be called to meet in special session at this time, for the purpose of considering the budgets for the Year 2013, a written notice was sent to each member of the Council, and proper advertisement made, and all other acts performed in accordance with the laws governing such matters.

And now in obedience to such call, come Jerome Prince, President, Michael Repay, Elsie Franklin, Daniel Dernulc, Christine Cid, Ted Bilski, and Rick Niemeyer County Councilpersons, together with Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorney.

In the Matter of Public Hearings for the Budget Year 2013.

The following Budgets were presented.

0900	ASSESSOR/FUNDS 710/237
2505	PTBOA/FUND 710
1000	CALUMET TWP.ASSR/FUNDS 710/237
1200	CENTER TWP ASSR/FUNDS 710/237
1500	HOBART TWP.ASSR/FUNDS 710/237
1700	ROSS TWP ASSR/FUNDS 710/237
1800	ST. JOHN TWP. ASSR/FUNDS 710/237
	NIRPC
0100	CLERK/ALL FUNDS
0200	AUDITOR/3911/ALL FUNDS
0300	TREASURER/ALL FUNDS
0400	RECORDER/ALL FUNDS
0600	SURVEYOR/ALL FUNDS
2600	DRAINAGE BD/FUND 790
0700	CORONER
2100	ELECTION/VOTERS/ALL FUNDS
2300	CO-OP EXTENSION/FUND 651
2400	PLAN COMMISSION/FUND 106
2650	SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION/FUND 651
2700	VETERANS SERVICE
2800	WEIGHTS & MEASURES/FUNDS 255-651
2900	COMMISSIONERS/ALL FUNDS
	HERMITS LAKE OPERATING/FUND 356
3000	COURTHOUSES-HAMMOND/GARY/E.C.
2920	FAIRGROUNDS/FUND 131
5011-13-17	HIGHWAY/ALL FUNDS
2950	PUBLIC WORKS/FUND 268
3030	GOVERNMENT CENTER/ALL FUNDS
3500/01	HOMELAND SECURITY/EMERGENCY MGT/ LEPC/ALL FUNDS
5280	REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SVCS/TRI-CITY
5300	REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SVCS/SOUTHLAKE
5290	EDGEWATER SYSTEMS
4100	JUVENILE COURT/ALL FUNDS
4150	JUVENILE COURT/C.A.S.A./ALL FUNDS
3950	IV-D COURT/ALL FUNDS
4200	JUVENILE DETENTION/ALL FUNDS
0800	PROSECUTOR/FUNDS 104-127
0850	PROSECUTOR IV-D/FUNDS 196-651
3800	CIRCUIT COURT/ALL FUNDS
3900	SUPERIOR COURT-CIVIL/ALL FUNDS
3910	COURT ADMINISTRATOR/ALL FUNDS
4000	SUPERIOR COURT-CRIMINAL/ALL FUNDS
4002	PUBLIC DEFENDER/FUND 405
4030	LAKE COUNTY COURT DIVISION I/ALL FUNDS
4040	LAKE COUNTY COURT DIVISION II/ALL FUNDS
4032	LADOS-DIVISION I/FUND 217
4042	LADOS DIVISION II/FUND 218
4050	LAKE COUNTY COURT DIV III/ALL FUNDS
4070	LAKE COUNTY COURT DIV IV/ALL FUNDS
5060	LOCAL ROADS/FUNDS 112-229-240
5020	CUMULATIVE BRIDGE/FUND 350
6100/6200	COMMUNITY DEV/EDC FUNDS 170-173

5130 HEALTH/ALL FUNDS
5101-5159 PARKS/PARKS BOND/FUNDS 107-310
LAKE RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
SOLID WASTE
3600 DATA/FUND 196-651
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
MERRILLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
3200 ANIMAL CONTROL/FUNDS 156-163
0500 SHERIFF/ALL FUNDS
3100 JAIL/ALL FUNDS
3150 WORK RELEASE
3700 COUNCIL/FUND 196-320-651
INSURANCE/FUNDS 514-541

OPEN: Public Comments, Council Discussions, and Actions.

Dante said as a word of caution, we are borrowing out of the new Reassessment Fund. We have about \$2.2 million dollar requests coming out of \$1.6 million dollar levy. He said they have to be very careful not to go over the levy.

There are going to have to be some reductions there, especially since it's so far in advance. We are trying to over-saturate a fund that can't handle it, so we need to either up that levy, or reduce our appetite in that fund.

Dante also mentioned that Fund 710 is also over-appropriated. He said that there is going to be a reduction of approximately \$85,000 dollars in that fund. We will have to bring it down to about \$50,000 dollars.

Dante said in the process of bringing it down to \$50,000 dollars, also said that he is going to have to discount all new requests for supplemental pays, bring everyone back to their current supplemental pays to protect those supplemental pays, then anyone who has a 400 series, and when they have to reduce across the board. He said to get to his \$50,000 dollar mark, he is going to have to protect the current supplemental pays, and go after the 400 series to get him to his \$50,000 dollar mark.

Dante said that Reassessment Fund 237 is going away, it no longer exists, it is now Fund 337.

Bilski suggested to the Treasurer to request some Cum Cap money this year, and address the rest in 2013.

Bilski said that those that are looking for 10 and 20% increases to their budget, in order to pay rent are going to have to, either move out, find the money in their budget, find a lower rent, or move into one of our office spaces here. Bilski said that he is of the opinion that if they can't negotiate with their landlord, and come in less, they need to find someplace else to go, or come back here.

He said, the same thing with the housekeeping. If the housekeeper is charging additional money, then we should take it to the Commissioners who can come up with one contractor who will bid all of them, which may bring some savings.

Dante mentioned that the Probation Officers, with their step increases, and there are 77 Probation Officers with a 3.5% increase overall. It is the increase by the State, salary plus step increases, so people are getting raises.

Dante said they let the furlough go through for the Juvenile, but were resistant to applying it universally across the board.

Dante said that folks constantly say that no one is getting increases, but there are spot increases, and this is an example of who gets increases.

Before Lake Ridge Fire Protection presented their budget, Dante said that they require binding recommendations from the Council. They are here because they require a binding presentation, binding review, and binding authority. He said they are on the 16-line statement, but they are not in the budget book. He also said they are all balanced.

Lowell Public Library is another budget that requires binding recommendations.

Dante said they have an obligation bond. They have a general fund, and a debt service, just like us. Dante said their budget is balanced.

Gene explained that the general operating budget for 2013 is exactly the same as 2012. He said they have a general obligation bond that they took out in 2010, which they are retiring this year and that general obligation bond was for \$450,000 dollars. He said they decided that they need to request permission to get a new bond for 2012. He said they are asking for an additional \$450,000 dollars, to stretch over a 4-year term.

Dante said all bond issues are outside the maximum levy, but the issue is what type of cap issues do they have, and then checked.

Dante said they have \$72,940.00 Bond levy for this year. They are asking for 128,000 increase of 50,000 Dante said that Lowell is in an under-cap area, it won't affect us at all. They are here because that \$50,000 dollar increase approximately, probably triggered the review because it's over the growth quotient.

Wayne Weitbrock said that Gene is doing a great job with the Lowell Public Library.

Mr. Petalas presented the budget for Solid Waste. He said that the budget is the same as it has been for the last six to eight years, with the exception of the fact that they reduced the 2013 budget by an additional \$300,000 dollars. He said the District, within the last 8 years, with this \$300,000 dollars, has voluntarily reduced their budget by \$750,000 dollars during that period, and Mr. Petalas added, that even when the State was allowing Lake County to have (inaudible) on levies on an annual basis, the District never took them.

Dante said that they are balanced financially.

The Fire Chief of the Merrillville Fire Department was present and said that they operate under the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory. He said that he doesn't have a budget for the Council because they are a Territory, and their budget is reviewed through the Town of Merrillville' budget process, which is documented by a letter that he gave to Councilman Prince, from their Attorney stating that they are not a Fire Protection District. He said they went through the same thing last year, and he thinks the whole issue was an error. He said that they came to the meeting to clarify this, and said that attached with this letter from their Attorney is all the documents that formed the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory.

Attorney Szarmach said he agrees with the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory.

Sheriff Buncich mentioned in reference to the Solid Waste that he found out that they had money and the balance is \$36,402.42. He said that his predecessor started an Environmental Task Force, and borrowed \$100 and some thousand dollars from Solid Waste. When he took over, he started looking at this. Equipment was purchased, and he wants to give this balance back to you, \$36,402.46. He said he wants nothing to do with that.

It was explained that the previous Sheriff had started for money to start an Environmental Crimes Task Force. He came before the Board, and the Board agreed to loan him about \$80,000. Then the previous Sheriff found out that they didn't have the statutory authority to do what they were doing, and a letter was sent, at the Board' request as to what was going on with that remaining money. The Sheriff has been kind enough to research to find out what the remaining balance is, and that's what this is.

It was also stated that during a recent State Board of Accounts audit for Lake County, that was listed as a dormant fund, and the State Board wants the County to do something with it, which in this case, would be to pay it back.

Sheriff Buncich said that, for the record, a lot of equipment that was purchased with these funds, they are unable to locate.

The next Budget Session will be held on September 4, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded that the Council does now adjourn to meet again, as required by law.

President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

Peggy Holinga Katona,
Lake County Auditor

