

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 5:00 PM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Bryan Cavender and Mark Gourley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Vice-President Bryan Cavender directly at 5:00 PM.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Charles Chesak as Board President for 2022, Mark Gourley as Vice-President, and Bryan Cavender as Secretary. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Vice-President Gourley then took over the meeting.

MASK MANDATE – HEALTH NURSE

Health Nurse Frank Lynch came before the Board of Commissioners to request a mask mandate for the county offices. Commissioner Cavender advised he has spoken to Commissioner Chesak and he is in agreeance with this as well. He stated it could be put in place now and addressed every two weeks at the Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Gourley advised he thought the CDC modified things and they are only insisting on masks for those who are five days post being symptomatic. Health Nurse Lynch stated that is you test positive they changed the guidelines were you would isolate for five days and then you will need to wear a mask for an additional five days after that. When you have masking in place it is going to help limit the spread and he is all for any masking we can do. Anything to help try to help slow it down would be good. They had 578 cases for December of 2020 and they are at 518 for December of 2021. Commissioner Gourley advised he is not in favor of any mandate at all and he thinks we are past the point of mandates given the open availability of vaccines. He does not want to force individuals to wear a mask; that is a choice they should be making for themselves. Commissioner Cavender stated this mandate would only be for county offices. Health Nurse Lynch stated he is in favor of the mandate as it will help slow down the spread. Commissioner Gourley asked the opinion of other Department Heads in the room. After further discussion Commissioner Cavender made a motion to require the use of masks while in county buildings. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

2022 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Drainage Board

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Merlyn Lucas to the Starke County Drainage Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

KIRPC

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Rik Ritzler to the KIRPC Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Planning Commission

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve Denise Cultice and Bryan Cavender to the Planning Commission Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve Todd Jackson to the Planning Commission Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

BZA

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Jason Downs on the Board of Zoning. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Health Board

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Deborah Hansen and Angela Stacy-Flagg to the Health Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Aviation Board

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Leigh Smith to the Aviation Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Hospital Community Board

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Bruce Bennett to the Hospital Community Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Kathy Norem to the Hospital Community Board. Motion dies for lack of second.

Alcohol Board

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Kenny Johnson to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Other

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak to the LEPC Board, Emergency Management Board, and FEMA Board with the proxy being Commissioner Gourley. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Building Corporation

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Ted Hayes to the Building Corporation. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Internal Control Committee

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Carrie Block to the Internal Controls Committee. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Other

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak to the Safety Committee and the Records Committee. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to retain Commissioner Chesak over the Highway Department and Landfill, Commissioner Cavender over the Jail, and Commissioner Gourley over the Courthouse, Annex, and EMS. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Commissioner Cavender to the KIRPC Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to retain Commissioner Gourley to Arrowhead. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to retain Commissioner Chesak with Workforce Development. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to retain both Commissioner Chesak and Commissioner Gourley to the Economic Development Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes from December 20, 2021. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$261,498.45 including deductions in the amount of \$76,860.99 for pay period ending 12/25/2021 and payroll date of 12/30/2021. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$1,266,371.50. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Agreement for Services as presented by the Health Department for Dave Kesvornas. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Boz Williams, Starke County Building Commissioner came before the Board of Commissioners to request the purchase of a new vehicle. He advised his old vehicle will no longer run. After further discussion Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2021 Chevrolet Silverado from Auto Park GMC in the amount of \$37,977.23. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022

Absent

Charlie Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners