

**January 19, 2015**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Jennifer Davis and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup> special sessions. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman inquired about the recreation of the 911 Committee. He advised that a 911 Committee had been formed in 2014 and they were at the point of addressing with the cities and towns in the County a fee to be paid to cover the cost of one of the County's dispatchers. He stated he would like to see the Committee recreated to move forward with talking to those entities beginning with the City of Knox. He advised the cost could be divided as one half to the City of Knox, and one quarter to both the Town of North Judson and the Town of Hamlet. The following agreed to be on the 911 Committee in 2015: Councilman Baker (replacing Councilman Pearman), Councilman Sims, Councilman Cavender, IT Director Joe Short, EMA Director Ted Bombagetti, Sheriff Bill Dulin, Chief Dispatcher Dawn Bau, and Auditor Chaffins. It was decided to hold their first meeting on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 in the Annex Building Meeting Room. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised to post a notice of the meeting as it would be considered a public meeting.

Auditor Chaffins distributed copies of the following financial reports to the Board and advised it was for the new Council members to make themselves familiar with the reading of the reports: Report of Fund Balances, Estimated Revenue Report, 2015 County General Budget, 2015 County Highway Budget, and a copy of a Budget Status Report.

Auditor Chaffins presented a Request for Appropriations of Fund 4902, the Auditor's Transfer Fee Fund, in the total amount of \$2,200.00 in order to purchase 5 GIS licenses for the Auditor's Department. Councilwoman Jennifer Davis made a motion to approve the appropriation request, seconded by Councilman Hazelton. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman gave a report of the State's Bi-Centennial Celebration. He spoke of the different projects the State has established and advised the torch will be spending the night in Starke County. He stated the County should begin planning on how to participate in this State Celebration.

Auditor Chaffins advised the board of the House Bill HB1309 in regard to elimination of the Township government and how it would be a major impact to the County.

**Public Comments**

Debbie Mix inquired if a list has been received from the State in regard to the local businesses who are currently paying the Innkeeper's Tax and asked if a letter has been sent out yet to those businesses that should be paying the tax but are not currently. Attorney Lucas advised he has received the listing from the State and he will be working on the letter. He did advise though that the Indiana Department of Revenue (IDOR) treats that information as confidential as to who is paying that tax. Commissioner Norem stated she recently had a conversation with Fred Boyer who is a member of the CVC (Convention & Visitor's Commission) Board and he stated the Commissioners were not actively collecting that tax from local businesses that are required to pay. She advised that would not be a responsibility of the Commissioners but it is the Council's responsibility. She advised the Board of Commissioners approve vendor claims and noted they do approve the claims for payment out of the Innkeeper's Tax Fund which cover the expense of the local Tourism Office for such things as office rent, utilities and payroll.

Councilman Pearman asked the Commissioners present for the meeting if there is any interest in the creation of a County UTV Ordinance. Commissioner President Kent Danford stated no.

With there being no further business, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

**January 19, 2015**

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Freddie Baker, President

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Dave Pearman

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Bryan Cavender

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Pam Stalbaum

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Jennifer Davis

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Robert Sims

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Brad Hazelton

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Katherine Chaffins, Starke County Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Council