

**January 19, 2016**

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, 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 Dave Pearman was absent.

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21st regular meeting and the December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 21st special sessions. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to appoint Councilman Freddie Baker as President of the Council. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Cavender made a motion to appoint Councilman Dave Pearman as the Vice President of the Council. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to appoint Attorney Marty Lucas as the Council Attorney. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to appoint Councilman Freddie Baker as the Council Representative on the Starke County Economic Development Foundation. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Sims made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Pam Stalbaum as the Council Representative on the KIRPC Board. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to reappoint Kenny Wallace to the Alcoholic Beverage Board for a one year term. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to appoint Councilman Baker as the Council Representative on the Solid Waste Board. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to reappoint Rebecca Ferch to a one year term on the PTABOA Board. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to reappoint Councilman Dave Pearman to the Marshall Starke Board. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **TRANSFER REQUEST**

Auditor Chaffins advised she had submitted a transfer request in the Coroner's 2016 budget since the Coroner has a vehicle and won't need the mileage budget line. She requested the \$500.00 appropriation of the mileage budget line be transferred to the fuel, lube and tires budget line. Auditor Chaffins advised the request was for a transfer of \$500.00 from 1000.30200.000.0007 to 1000.20400.000.0007. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all yes.

#### **CLARIFICATION OF THE CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND INSPECTION POSITIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDING**

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to clarify the positions created and appropriated from the Cumulative Bridge Fund. He advised the positions created were: Construction Inspection Administration; Construction Inspection Clerical; Construction Inspection Backup & support in the field; and Construction Inspection backup and support in the field. The Superintendent explained the process that took place in the creation of those positions. He explained the pay is not tied to a particular position but only to those individuals who are certified and who completed the work. Auditor Chaffins explained the reason for clarification was it was not documented as to which employees would be receiving the additional compensation in 2016 but was included in the first pay voucher in 2016 for the Clerk to receive \$2,500.00 and the Superintendent to receive \$5,000.00. The Superintendent advised he will add this item to the monthly departmental report he submits to the Board of Commissioners. Attorney Lucas noted a concern of a non-salaried employee receiving a set amount of compensation.

#### **APPROPRIATION OF THE 2016 CREDIT FUND**

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board to request appropriation on the 2016 CREDIT Funding that has not been earmarked for the proposed Courthouse Renovations. He requested the following appropriations:

1112.30207 SCEDF Consulting Contract \$180,000.00  
1112.30306 SCILL Center \$ 80,000.00  
1112.30506 County Commissioners Funding \$ 50,000.00  
1112.30712 Hamlet Firewell \$ 15,000.00  
Repave of Arlington Ave. in the North Judson Industrial Park \$ 35,000.00  
1112.30610 2015 CREDIT Balance for County Bridges \$ 238,777.65  
1112.30610 2016 CREDIT County Bridges \$ 633,358.00  
A total of \$ 1,232,135.65.

Council President Baker inquired as to the amount for the paving of the road leading into the North Judson Industrial Park. Commissioner Danford stated he didn't see why the County should pay for the paving when there was only one Company using that roadway and that was American Oak. Director Weaver stated American Oak wasn't the only company at that location. Johnny on the Spot and Metro Recycling are both also located in that

Industrial Park. Director Weaver noted the road needs to be repaved prior to it being placed in the County's road inventory.

Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the 2016 CEDIT Appropriations in the total amount of \$1,232,135.65. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

**TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE JAIL WARDEN POSITION**

Auditor Chaffins advised at the last meeting when the position of Warden was approved the motion also stated it was to be paid from the County's CAGIT, Certified Shares Fund. She inquired is the appropriation for that position be instead paid out of the Jail CEDIT Fund since at the time of the budget cuts to the County General Fund \$45,000.00 in health insurance appropriations was moved from County General to the CAGIT Fund thus setting the total budget for 2016 at \$495,000.00 and the 2016 CAGIT revenue estimated to be \$494,000.00. She suggested the position of the Warden Position be paid out of the Jail CEDIT Fund as there already are other jail budget appropriations being paid out of that additional jail funding, transferred out of the Jail County General budget due to the budget cuts. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the paying of the Warden Position out of the Jail CEDIT Fund instead of out of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it was approved with all ayes.

**STATUS OF THE EMS DISABLED RIG**

EMS Director Keith Emigh inquired as to which direction they wanted him to proceed with in regard to repairing the rig which has been out of service for the last few months. There was a discussion in regard to what had taken place and it was determined some price quotes for a replacement engine were obtained but no action was taken on following up. Director Emigh advised he also would need to know the source of the funding for the repair expense since his repair budget line was cut in his 2016 budget. Councilman Sims made a motion to have the EMS Department take the rig to Dobson Ford in Winamac (Dobson Ford had submitted the lowest price quote for a replacement engine); have Dobson Ford thoroughly check out the rig and itemize all the repairs; and submit a price quote of all the costs. Councilwoman Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas suggested after the price quote is received the Council could meet in a Special Meeting to review/approve the funding for the repairs. Commissioner Norem stated the funding would need to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Sims inquired as to the status of the case involving Robert Gray. Attorney Lucas advised Robert Gray had filed an appeal of the decision as a result of the Merit Board Hearing. Attorney Lucas stated the discussion of the case should not take place at a public meeting as it is an ongoing case.

Auditor Chaffins advised she had passed out a report listing the 2016 property tax rates, compared to the 2015 property tax rates; a report on Fund Balances as of 1/19/16; and a copy of the Sheriff's Commissary Fund for the time period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 6:24PM.

**January 19, 2016**

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Freddie Baker, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
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