

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a joint session with the Starke County Board of Commissioners at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Howard Bailey, Charles Chesak, and Bryan Cavender present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, December 16, 2019 Starke County Council Joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, December 16, 2019 Starke County Council Joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

2020 COUNCIL REORGANIZATION AND 2020 APPOINTMENTS

Councilman Bailey made a motion to keep the organization of the board the same as the previous year with Councilman Pearman as President and Councilman Hazelton as Vice-President. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to retain Attorney Lucas as their attorney. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

K.I.R.P.C. Appointment

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to retain Councilwoman Gudeman to the KIRPC Board. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Planning Commission Appointment

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to retain Councilman Bailey on the Planning Commission Board. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Alcoholic Beverage Board

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to retain Kenny Wallace on the Alcoholic Beverage Board, Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Solid Waste Board

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to retain Councilman Baker to the Solid Waste Board. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

P.T.A.B.O.A. Board

President Pearman explained that there is such a thing as renting a member for this board as it calls for certain qualifications and we have not have any interest in this position. Auditor Oesterreich advised that Assessor Schouten will be at the next council meeting with information. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table the PTABOA appointment. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

REFINANCING OF JAIL BONDS

Andrew Mouser came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to give an update of the refinancing process of the jail bonds. He advised they had a conference call with Attorney Lucas discussing the time table they will be preparing. Once the time table is prepared they will get it circulated and they will most likely be coming back to the February meeting with the formal approvals to proceed with. He presented the boards with an "underwriting request for proposals letter". After explaining what the "underwriting request for proposals letter" outlines, President Pearman advised that

his feeling is the council needs to do something because any option they choose they will be saving money. Mr. Mouser explained the board does not need to decide on the options given tonight, they will be presenting the board with the formal rates in a couple weeks for the board to make a final decision. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the solicitation letter as presented. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the solicitation letter as presented. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

VOTE CENTER UPDATES

Clerk Manuel came before the Starke County Council and the Board of Commissioners with a vote center update. President Pearman advised there was a 96% approval rating in feedback they had received from the public and only 4% against vote centers. Clerk Manuel advised that one of the negatives came in and spoke to both her and election board President Marsha Bedrock. In turn, they are now in favor of vote centers. The biggest change on the plan that was done was adding the position of the facilitator to the vote center locations. President Pearman added that there were two major concerns that were raised by Mr. Fields one being: with the current configuration why can't we buy e-poll books now, he advised the county does not have the funds to buy e-poll books for 21 precincts which would be 42 e-poll books total instead of 16 that would be needed for vote centers. President Pearman then advised that Mr. Fields had questioned the foods for the poll workers. President Pearman explained that they had been told that poll workers rely more on the money so they had come up with the idea that poll workers could bring their own lunch for the day if they would rather have a stipend of \$35. He explained that if they went to vote centers he has told the election board that meals is something that can be completely worked out.

However, how the budget is currently written if we do not go to vote centers meals will be available to the poll workers. He also added that with the vote center plan there is an expansion of available absentee voting hours. Clerk Manuel stated, for the record, if we do not go to vote centers, poll workers will not be supplied the three meals per day as they used to be supplied with. She also advised that if we stay as prescient based voting the public has 151.5 hours of voting available to them. If we go to vote centers the hours of available voting goes up to 215.5 hours. Councilman Bailey advised he has been in contact with Mr. Fields several times, from this he knows that the meals are an important item for him and he told him he would bring this up at tonight's meeting. He clarified with Clerk Manuel that if we do go to voting center, meals will be provided to the workers. She agreed, but this is the only way. If we stay with the prescient voting meals will not be provided. President Pearman asked if the election board could consider adding that meals would be provided in their vote center plan if the vote center plan went through. Clerk Manuel stated she was not sure how to do that. Attorney Lucas explained they could add an appendix to the vote center plan in response to a members concern. He explained that this is a part of the process and it is a living document until the document is approved. Councilman Bailey stated he will relay this information to Mr. Fields.

EMS-FULL TIME POSITIONS REQUEST/2019 TRANSFER REQUEST

Director Travis Clary and Clerk MaryLynn Ritchie came before the Starke County Council to request two additional full time positions and a transfer request. Director Clary explained that they never added additional staffing when they brought in the transfer unit. They are looking for approval for one full time paramedic and one full time EMT. President Pearman asked if there has been a calculation of absorbing the cost of this within their current budget. Clerk Ritchie explained that already have the money in their budget and the costs are about the same when compared to an existing paramedic and EMT picking up one extra shift per week. Clerk Ritchie stated they are not asking for any additional funds and these positions will save them money in the long run. Councilman Hazelton asked if they are going to move the money from part time to full time. Clerk Ritchie stated yes they will be transferring money from the part time account to the full time account. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the request for one full time paramedic position and one full time EMT position. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Councilman Hazelton then made a motion to approve the following transfer: Additional Appropriation to be added to 1000.20601.000.0020 Sanitation in the amount of \$215.27 and 1000.30600.000.0020 Utilities in the amount of \$880.42. A reduction will then be made in 1000.10217.000.0035 Assistant in the amount of \$1095.69. Councilwoman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SCEDF 2020 CREDIT APPROPRIATION REQUEST & MONTHLY REPORT

President Pearman advised he has been doing some review of the current commitments that have been outlined in the SCILL contract. He advised that under section III: Number 4 it discusses a study analyzing what benefits to the county SCILL has done. He also explained to Director Wickert that they did not contact him before about this to remind him about this study, so he believes that it would be best to table the request for the SCILL appropriation until Director Wickert can get this submitted to the Board of Commissioners and then the Board of Commissioners could draw up a new Grant Agreement for Support of SCILL Center Training Programs. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table the SCILL appropriation request until the contract agreement is fulfilled. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Director Wickert asked if President Pearman could explain what he is talking about. President Pearman read Section III, Number 4. Produce a study analyzing the needs, costs and projected benefits of various potential programs of workforce skill training in Starke County to help determine the skills that are most needed in the County and select the most cost effective training programs. Analysis shall include relevant metrics including the numbers of employment positions available, the availability of prospective workers motivated to fill the positions, and the current availability and costs associated with existing training programs. In additions the analysis shall attempt to identify and prioritize workforce skills most likely to be retained and accumulated in the Starke County community.

Director Wickert asked what specifically is the issue that the council feels they are not providing to Starke County's workforce development. President Pearman stated he does not believe there is a specific issues but it is in the contract that this study of analysis is done. Commissioner Chesak agreed that it is in the contract and the board would like a study as stated. Director Wickert stated that will take some time and it will pull his department off some other projects at the moment but they can get this completed. After further discussion regarding the requested study it was determined the request will remain tabled until Director Wickert provides the study of analysis as requested and as stated in the contract. President Pearman then asked if it is intended that the Hamlet Fire Well is going to be \$15,000 every year. He asked Director Wickert what that covers. Director Wickert explained out of that line item CenturyLink is \$1,354.18, Johnson Controls (security system) is \$1,448.68, KVREMC Electric is \$10,726.26, and Ortman Drilling is \$750.00. Councilman Hazelton asked Director Wickert how the electric is \$10,000 when it only runs three times a year and it takes 1.5 minutes to fill the truck. Director Wickert has the same question because sometimes the bill is only \$300 per month and sometimes it is over \$1,000. Councilman Hazelton asked if we were paying some of Norton's electric. President Pearman suggested to table the appropriation request for Hamlet Fire Wall until they get a report from REMC. Director Wickert advised this may have something to do with the construction going on at Norton. Councilman Hazelton advised that the county should not be paying for Norton's construction costs and the use of the well. Councilman White made a motion to table the Hamlet Fire Well appropriation until more information is received. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Starke County Economic Development Contract in the amount of \$159,480.00, Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the appropriation request for the Starke County Economic Development Contract in the amount of \$159,480.00. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY CEDIT APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Stephen Ritzler, Superintendent of Starke County Highway Department came before the Starke County Council to request his CEDIT appropriation in the amount of \$750,000. Superintendent Ritzler explained that this years the funds will go toward the replacement of Bridge 140, new Bridge 158, as well as the matching funds for CR50S. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriation request in the amount of \$750,000 to fund 1112.30610.000.0000. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SHERIFF PART TIME WAGE POLICY/TRANSFER REQUEST/SECURITY APPROPRIATION

Pam McDonald, Matron of the Starke County Sheriff came before the Starke County Council to request approval for the fazing of part time wages, transfer request, and security appropriation. President Pearman advised the part time wage policy has already been approved by the Board of Commissioners. He explained there is three phases to the policy:

1. \$12.76
2. \$13.52

3. \$14.28

Matron McDonald advised the salary ordinance was approved with the phase three amount but they do not want to bump all employees up at once without going through the different phases. President Pearman asked what the budget impact will be with this change. Matron McDonald explained there will be no impact as they have already budgeted for this possible change. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the part time wage policy as presented. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve a reduction in 1114.11500.000.0027 and transfer to 1114.30600.000.0027 in the amount of \$8,500. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Matron McDonald presented the security appropriation request. President Pearman suggested that each department will need to start budgeting for security within their departmental budget within the department's 2021 fiscal year budget. He also asked Auditor Oesterreich to look through the current year budget to see where we could take this money from for the 2020 fiscal year. Matron McDonald advised that security will be needing an additional \$28,000 for the 2020 fiscal year. President Pearman stated they will be looking at moving around money in the county general Sheriff's Department budget for this year.

EMA GRANT UPDATE & TRANSFER REQUEST

J. Nier, EMA Director came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioner to give a grant update as well as presenting a transfer request. Director Nier presented both boards a spreadsheet of what grants have been awarded since 2018. President Pearman asked Director Nier what is on the breadboard for 2020 in grants. She explained they will be having grants coming up this spring, she explained she has a few grants that she has already applied for. One being the JAG grant for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$153,531.42. She has also applied for an IDHS Foundation Grant, for PPE, in the amount of \$2,905.84 as well as a HMEP Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness grant in the amount of \$399.00. President Pearman requested for Director Nier to come back in the spring with an additional update. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to make a reduction in 1000.20100.000.0018 in the amount of \$31.98 and transfer that to 1000.10803.000.0018. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PROSECUTOR- NEW PART TIME POSITION REQUEST

Leslie Baker, Prosecutor of Starke County came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to request an added part time position in her department. She explained that the position would be a Pre-Trial Diversion Officer and this position would supervise and oversee the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. She explained they already have the grant money for this. This is a federal grant and they received about \$60,000, half of it is already funding a re-entry coordinator for the jail. She advised she is looking to use the other half of this money to fund this position. She explained the county will not have to supplement any of the part time salary. She explained that this is only for two years and it is not guaranteed they will be getting this again. She stated her ultimate goal is to seek out an additional source of funding for this position. Auditor Oesterreich advised the current \$60,000 grant is from the time period of December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. Councilman Bailey made a motion to approve the new part time position as requested. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the new part time position as requested. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

COMMISSIONER TRANSFER REQUEST

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to make a reduction in 1000.10804.000.0025 in the amount of \$19,078.81 and transfer this to 1000.31203.000.0025 \$6,540.17 and 1000.31501.000.0025 \$12,538.64. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

2020 SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Amended 2020 Salary Ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the 2020 encumbrances as follows:

Fund 1000 - \$16,551.03
Fund 1114 - \$10752.50
Fund 4919 - \$7,392.83
Fund 2100 - \$3,886.52
Fund 1222 - \$2,235.28
Fund 1168 - \$3,008.00
Fund 1138 - \$28,044.04

Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

The North Judson Town Council came before the Starke County Council to ask that the council to forgive the amount that was billed for their election in the amount of \$10,917.95. Clerk Manuel explained that there is an IC Code that stated the Clerk must bill municipalities for their elections. The Town Council then stated they did not budget for this but they would have if they knew this was going to happen. After further discussion regarding the bill the Town of North Judson received for their election Councilman Hazelton made a motion to forgive the bill for the 2019 election, that was given to the Town of North Judson, but going forward we will try to forecast what it is going to cost so that the Town Council can put that amount in their budget. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

After having no public comments made Councilman White made a motion to adjourn at 7:08PM. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**JANUARY 21, 2020
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and
Secretary to the County Council

**JANUARY 21, 2020
STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ABSENT

Charlie Chesak, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

