

FEBRUARY 18, 2013

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, Tony Radkiewicz, Mitch Semans, Marvin McLaughlin, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman.

RE: MINUTES

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the January 7th Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: COMMUNITY SERVICES OF STARKE COUNTY

Joan Haugh, Director of Community Services of Starke County, and Frank Skronski, appeared before the Board to discuss the cut in their 2013 funding, and asking for some financial assistance from the County. Director Haugh stated a total of \$30,622.00 in State and Federal funding, was cut in 2013. She also noted an additional \$42,682.00 could possibly be cut from their grant funding in 2013. She advised she will have word on that possible reduction sometime in March. There was a discussion as to how she might be able to decrease their 2013 budget or the possible increase in transportation fees to help increase their revenue. President Pearman advised them it is an issue that should have been addressed at last year's County budget hearings. Director Haugh advised they had not received the word of the cut in their funding until after the county budgets had already been approved. Since Director Haugh advised the cut in funding will not affect them for a few months, President Pearman suggested they return in front of the Council at their May meeting. In the meantime, Councilman Sims volunteered to attend the Community Services monthly meetings. Councilman Baker also stated he would attend the meetings, if his schedule allows.

RE: 2013 CEDIT APPROPRIATIONS

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director, Charlie Weaver, appeared before the Board to get approval on the appropriation of the 2013 CEDIT revenue, and also the carryover balance from 2012. Director Weaver requested a total of \$1,177,686.44 of the 2013 CEDIT revenue be appropriated, and a total of \$1,268,450.90, the balance of the CEDIT Fund, as of December 31, 2012, also be appropriated. Councilman Semans stated so moved. Councilman McLaughlin requested the motion be clearly stated. Councilman Semans then made a motion to approve the appropriation request of the CEDIT Fund as presented by Director Weaver. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cavender and passed with all ayes. A copy of the appropriation listing, by account number, is on file in the Auditor's Office. For a breakdown of how the funds are distributed within the CEDIT Fund, reference the Starke County Council minutes of the Feb. 21, 2011 meeting.

Director Weaver also advised the Stelerema property is scheduled for an online auction to be held in the month of March. He noted the County has a lien on the property due to the outstanding real property taxes, but not from their outstanding personal property taxes. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised a claim has been submitted against their bankruptcy filing. They noted a total of approximately \$800,000.00 is outstanding between their real property taxes, and their personal property taxes.

RE: IU HEALTH 4TH QUARTER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REPORT

Dave Hyatt, CEO of IU Health-Knox, and the VP of Finance Director, Rosie Heise, appeared before Council to present their 2012 Capital Expenditure report. Ms. Heise advised of the total of \$476,967.00 that was budgeted in 2012 for Building Improvements, a total of \$331,849.00 was spent. Of the total of \$1,141,748.00 budgeted in 2012 for Equipment, a total of \$888,541.00 was spent. Also, of the \$248,224.00 budgeted for 2012 Contingencies, a total of \$242,355.00 was spent. A total of \$785,479.00 of the approved 2012 Budget was not expended. Ms. Heise also presented a report showing the 2012 Undepreciated Fixed Assets. Attorney Lucas inquired if a report could be prepared showing the total gross asset amount, and the total amount of accumulated depreciation. Ms. Heise advised it could be prepared. She then presented their 2013 budget in the total amount of \$385,000.00, \$235,000.00 in contingency expenses, and \$150,000.00 in life safety expenditures. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve their 2013 budget, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: HOSPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Jennifer Davis appeared before the Board to present a report on the Hospital Committee. She advised the Committee met on January 16th. She noted, in regard to the termination of the Lease the County has with the hospital on October 1, 2016, they are looking at three different solutions: Look for potential buyers, a possible sale to the hospital, or renegotiate the present lease. She advised The Coker Company has been contracted to provide consultation services in assisting the County on their decision. CEO Hyatt stated they appreciate the increased communication with the County, and are looking at a possible solution, sometime in June.

RE: APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

The President of the County Board of Commissioners, Kathy Norem, requested an appropriation, in the amount of \$100,000.00 of the CAGIT Certified Shares, Fund 1110, to pay for the expense of the housing of Starke County inmates in the Pulaski County Jail. She advised in July, 2012 a total of \$42,000.00 had been appropriated of the Rainy Day Fund, but now that amount has been expended. She noted the estimated expense for the year 2013 for the housing of inmates was \$100,000.00. Attorney Lucas noted that arrangement has been very helpful in terms of the litigation of the Federal lawsuit against the County, *Haut v Starke County*. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the appropriation request of the CAGIT Fund, Certified Shares. The motion was seconded by Councilman McLaughlin, and passed with all ayes. Les Jensen who was in the audience inquired if the County is paid by the State for housing prisoners. Commissioner Norem advised the County is only paid from the State for State prisoners that have been sentenced and are awaiting transfer to a State facility.

RE: REQUEST FROM OREGON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, MARK ALLEN, RADIO ISSUES

Oregon Township, Mark Allen, and Oregon Township Advisory Board member, Talia Reed, appeared before the Board to discuss the issues the Koontz Lake Fire Department is experiencing with radio communications. Trustee Allen advised the dispatched calls are not being heard or, if received, are very statically. He advised he is concerned a missed call could cost someone their life. He noted the problems began when the County experienced the damage to their radio tower. The Koontz Lake Fire Chief stated the problem is the County won't step up and fix their tower. President Pearman recapped what the issues are, and advised the County, headed by EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti, held a meeting on August 27 with the County's seven area fire departments, to set the policy for handling communications with the damaged tower. He advised the County will be utilizing the 800mzh system, with the VHS system and text messaging as a back-up. If no one responds to the dispatcher, a second tone is dispatched, and if there still is no respond, the mutual aid fire department for that area, is notified. President Pearman noted no one from the Koontz Lake Fire Department attended that meeting. Director Bombagetti noted the County has a policy in place, that was established in 2008 by the Board of Commissioners, any complaints in regard to radio communications, should be submitted in writing, so they are properly documented. He advised, thus far, he has not received any written complaints from any department. He also noted each of the seven fire departments received a total of eight 800mzh radios. Advisory Board Member Reed was adamant the County receives the 911 State funding, but is not providing adequate radio communication, and stated the County is responsible for all calls. There was a discussion in regard to the difficulties the County is facing in attempting to repair the damaged tower: the City will not allow a taller tower to be installed at the existing location because of changes in their policies since the present jail was originally built, the present weather conditions does not allow a tower base to be poured, even if the tower was repaired at the present jail the tower could not be transported to the construction site of the new jail, and a tower can't be installed at the site of the proposed new County jail since the property has not yet been determined. President Pearman inquired as to exactly what Trustee Allen was proposing. Trustee Allen advised he has price quotes to purchase a system to be installed at the Koontz Lake Fire Department that would allow the dispatched call to be recorded and then re-dispatched out to the KLFD, a record and repeat system. Councilman McLaughlin inquired as to how that system would work if the calls are not now being received. Councilman Baker suggested the township purchase the system, and then if they could prove it works, the County would reimburse the township for the cost of the system. After a heated discussion, Councilman Baker made a motion to allow Trustee Allen to purchase the system, and if it works, the County will reimburse the Township. Councilman Sims seconded the motion, but it did not pass only, receiving three ayes (Sims, Baker, and Cavender). Councilman Semans made a motion to table this issue until they could ascertain if any other fire departments were having similar issues with their radio communications. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed.

Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

February 18, 2013

Dave Pearman, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Bryan Cavender

Marvin McLaughlin

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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