

**February 28, 2014**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a special session at 5:45PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana, with Councilmen Bryan Cavender, Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Bob Sims, and Marvin McLaughlin present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President Dave Pearman.  
Absent from the meeting were Councilmen Freddie Baker and Mitch Semans.

County Highway Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, appeared before the Board to request the funding in order to create the position of Construction Inspector Project Supervisor. He advised the Inspector will replace the required bridge construction inspector which costs the County approximately \$20,000.00-\$25,000.00 per bridge construction. He noted they are expecting to replace four bridges in 2014. He also noted having the Inspector position the County will be able to considerably reduce the inspection costs of the CR300E SR8 project, noting the original projected costs for construction inspector was \$330,000.00. Superintendent Ritzler advised the annual salary for the County's Inspector will be \$41,000.00, and with the inclusion of the employment benefits he advised he projects the cost to the County for that position, for a two year time frame, to be approximately \$96,000.00.

He advised any applicants for the position would need to meet INDOT standards, and noted there are at least three possible candidates residing in Starke County, who are former INDOT Project Supervisors. He also noted the Department currently has two employees, Bill Crase and Andy Cornwall, who are participating in the INDOT Certified Tech Program, which consists of a series of six tests. He advised they will be completing their first test on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the funding for the Inspector position, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

President Pearman advised each Councilman was presented with a binder containing all the County budgets for the year 2014 which were prepared by the Auditor's Office. In the back of the book is a space for the Budget Status Report which will be presented at each Council meeting, so the Councilmen can follow along with the status of the budgets throughout the year.

President Pearman scheduled the first 911 Committee Meeting for Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00PM. He also advised the Council will be addressing, at their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the negative cash balance of the County General Fund, and discussing the solutions for improving the balance since the County will not be receiving their property tax settlement until at least the end of May. He advised one possibility to input cash into the fund would be a loan from the Rainy Day Fund, or possibly from the CEDIT Fund.

In regard to two pending appointments to various boards within the County, Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to appoint Carol Tripenfeldas to replace Jo Ellen Arndt to the North Judson-Wayne Twp. Library, since receiving Mrs. Arndt's resignation. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Sims made a motion to appoint Dan Pisarek to replace Tom Camire to the Koontz Lake Regional Sewer District Board due to the resignation of Board member Tom Camire. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

With there being no further business, Councilman Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

**February 28, 2014**

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Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Semans, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Cavender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin McLaughlin

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Freddie Baker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Radkiewicz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Chaffins,  
Starke Co. Auditor & Council Secretary