

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

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, Bryan Cavender, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Nancy Dembowski present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President, Dave Pearman. Absent from the meeting were Council President Freddie Baker and Councilman Robert Sims. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20th, 2017 meeting. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SETTING TAX RATES FOR CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND AND CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Public Hearing for the adoption of the ordinances establishing the tax rates for the Cumulative Bridge Fund and the Cumulative Capital Development Fund was held at the last Council meeting on 2-20-17. Since there has been no comments during the public hearing or no other comments Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adopt the tax rate to be established for both funds. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR GARY POPPINS IN OLD STELEREMA PROPERTY

Edward Volk & Anthony Novak of Newby, Lewis, Kaminski, & Jones appeared before the Board and advised they are representing Gary Poppins, LLC who is opening a business in Starke County at the old Stelerema Building, located at 4055 E CR250N, Knox. They advised they will be presenting a petition for the Declaration of the area as an Economic Revitalization Area and then they will be presenting the Statement of Benefits for the filing of a Personal Property Tax Abatement, and a Real Estate Improvements Tax Abatement. Mr. Novak stated the public hearing will be held at the April 17th Council meeting. He advised Gary Poppins was created in Evanston, IL, moved to Franklen Park and will now be moving to Knox. He stated they sell their popcorn merchandise to all fifty states. Mr. Novak advised they are asking for a personal property abatement on \$1.3 million worth of manufacturing equipment and \$400,000.00 worth of logistical equipment. They are asking for a real property abatement for the real estate improvements in the amount of \$800,000.00. Councilman Pearman asked about the situation if the company was to close early or doesn't fulfill the numbers as stated on their paperwork. Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver stated if the Company was to move away they would have to pay the tax credits they received. The manager of Gary Poppins spoke of the history of the business and noted they expect to be in business in Starke County by the end of this year. He advised they are planning on hiring 42 new employees. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the creation of the Economic Revitalization Area for the old Stelerema Property. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Board signed Resolution No. 2017-3C, Designation as Economic Revitalization Area, and Vice President Pearman signed the Notice of Resolution Designating Economic Revitalization Area Within Starke County, IN and a Hearing Thereon which stated the Public Hearing is scheduled for the April 17th meeting.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION DIRECTOR'S FIVE YEAR PLAN

SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver and Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present the SCEDF Five Year Plan. Director Weaver spoke of the EDA and spoke of their uncertain future in the event their federal funding is cut. He advised the 5 Year Plan is actually planning for bridge and major road projects. 2017 is the second year of the 5 year plan. Director Weaver stated the plan is based on the need to continue retention of 50% of CEDIT Funding for roads and bridges after deficient bridges are rehabilitated and also includes new additional sources of revenue. A listing of proposed bridge projects and major road projects were included in the report. Director Weaver stated the intersection at CR500N and US 35 needs to be relocated as it is a dangerous intersection, and also noted the intersection of CR500N & CR750E is an unsafe, narrow intersection.

EMA DIRECTOR'S REQUEST FOR SALARY INCREASE

EMA Director, Jacob Lippner appeared before the Board to ask for approval of the \$3,000.00 pay increase that was stated by the Board of Commissioners to be added to his pay at the completion of his Bachelor's Degree. He stated he received his diploma last June. The Board of Commissioners has endorsed his education requirement and agrees with the pay raise. Commissioner Binkley suggested the pay be retroactive to the first of the year. Councilwoman Demowski made a motion to approve the \$3,000.00 pay increase for the EMA Director, Jacob Lippner. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Board agreed it will be retroactive to January 1, 2017.

CLERK VICKIE COOLEY REQUESTS HOURLY PAY INCREASE FOR PART TIME EMPLOYEES

Clerk Vicki Cooley appeared before the Board to discuss her request to increase the amount of hourly pay for part time employees. The board was advised there are only 5 regular part time employees this would be pertaining to. There was a brief discussion on the Board about the two levels of part time employees, the skilled part time employees and the non-skilled employees. Councilwoman Demowski made a motion to allow \$12.15 for the regular, skilled part time employees and \$10.13 for non-skilled part time employees that work a day when they are called in. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with 4 ayes and one nay (Cavender).

A newly hired part time employee that will work on a regular basis will receive the \$10.13 for the first 90 days and then receive the \$12.15 pay increase. All the other regular part timers will receive \$12.15 in the current pay period to be paid March 31, 2017. It was noted that the pay increase does not pertain to the Highway Department. Clerk Cooley inquired about the longevity for the part time employees. She was informed part time employees do not earn longevity. Longevity applies only to the full time employees.

SHERIFF BILL DULIN’S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION OF THE JAIL CREDIT FUND AND THE THERAPUETIC COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUND

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request the establishing of the 2017 budget appropriations for Funds 1114, CEDIT Special Legislation and 4919, Therapeutic Community Program. He advised the Auditor had worked with Office Manager Chris Suprenaut and they were able to get a budget set up. He advised he was requesting a total of \$367,920.00 of Fund 4919: 10502 Jailers \$149,000.00; 30804 Prisoner Meals \$70,000.00; 20202 Repair & Maintenance \$13,700.00; 20208 Laundry & Cleaning \$2,000.00; 10140 Warden \$45,900.00 and 39900 Operational Costs \$87,320.00.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriations. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin then advised the appropriations for the 1114 Fund: 10310 Part Time Maintenance \$36,720.00; 10805 Kitchen Personnel \$50,892.00; 11062 Part Time Jailers \$180,000.00; 30600 Utilities \$200,000.00; 11500 Nurse/Quality Corrections \$160,000.00; 11400 Overtime \$14,000.00 and 10450 Courthouse Security Officers \$50,000.00 for a total of \$691,612.00. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriations. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

EMA Director Jacob Lippner appeared before the Board to advise his car, a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, was no longer drivable since it has a bad transmission and the condition of the car does not allow the transmission to be repaired. He was told he would be able to drive the Jeep that was retired by the Health Department but only for local traffic; not to be driven out of the county. Commissioner Binkley advised the Jeep would be available when the Highway Department gets the plates for the vehicle. He stated when the Sheriff purchases a new squad car he will get a vehicle from that department to drive.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:04PM.

MARCH 20, 2017

ABSENT

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

ABSENT

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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