

April 18, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 6:00pm in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana, with everyone being in attendance except Judy Benninghoff, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

A motion was made by Mitch Semans, to approve the minutes of the March 21st meeting . The motion was seconded by Dave Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes. The final minutes of the Feb. 21st meeting were then signed by the Council.

IN RE: FUNDING REQUESTS

Commissioner Dan Bridegroom and Kathy Norem submitted a request to spend funds from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. The request, in the amount of \$ 7,054.00 to pay Enviro-Dynamics of Hebron, In., to install gas monitoring probes at the Starke County Landfill located at SR10 & CR750E. Commissioner Bridegroom advised that it was not necessary to install concrete pillars at the site of the gas probe, thus reducing the original price quote from \$ 13,954.00 to \$ 7054.00. Councilman Semans inquired as to what the consequences are if the gas probes are not conducted. Bridegroom stated there would be IDEM penalties. Councilman Pearman inquired if the current landowner contributes anything toward this situation, and the Commissioners advised the landowner stated he was not aware of the problem. Commissioner Norem stated they had severed ties with the old company that was handling the landfill. Marvin McLaughlin made a motion to approve this expenditure, seconded by Mitch Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the Council to request the purchase of two new squad cars for the department, two Dodge Chargers. The Sheriff advised the base price quote of the vehicles is \$ 21,797.00 each, and does not include the radios and the installation of the red/blue emergency lights. He advised the department is currently a vehicle short. He also stated they try to replace vehicle every four years, but they currently still have 2005 models. Since this expenditure would need to use Cum. Cap. Dev. Funds, the Sheriff was advised there are other items pending from the same funding: the courthouse elevator repair project, the jail roof repair, and the repair of the heating/AC unit at the jail. The Sheriff stated the jail repair projects are a priority. He inquired as to using a pending check from the insurance company for damages to a squad car and if those proceeds could be used to purchase a used vehicle for his department. Councilman Smith advised him to check with the State Sheriff's Association if they can buy used vehicles and what the process is. It is difficult to bid on and compare two different used cars. Councilman Sims made a motion to table the Sheriff's request, seconded by Marvin McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

The Sheriff also requested a transfer of funds, within the 911 fund, # 1156. He proposed transferring \$ 1000.00 from 1156 000-1000.04 (overtime) to 1156 000-1000.06 (unemployment). He advised this was in reference to a part time 911 dispatcher who was laid off in 2009. She had only worked for a short time and the Sheriff was questioning the worker's eligibility to receive unemployment benefits. Mark Smith advised the Council could transfer the funding, while Marty Lucas reviews the case. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer from overtime to unemployment, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

The Council inquired if the county would be reimbursed for their expense in the chicken fighting arrests. The Sheriff responded that was the not the order from City Court. Councilman Pearman stated he was disappointed in the lack of support from Knox City Court. Councilman McLaughlin stated the decision could be appealed to the Circuit Court to get another ruling. The Sheriff should talk to the Prosecutor regarding that situation.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPT. REQUEST

Steve Siddall, Superintendent of the Highway Dept. appeared before the Council and requested the expenditure of monies from Fund # 0790, the Cumulative Bridge Fund. He advised every two years the sixty seven bridges in the county are inspected by the State at an expense of \$ 135,000.00. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the payment of this expense, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Also reviewed was an expenditure in the amount of \$ 265,000.00 from the same fund for engineering expenses that are involved in the Bridge # 156 project. He advised Bridge # 156, is located on Range Road north of Brems, crossing the Robbins Ditch. The county had received a federal grant to rebuild bridge # 156, in 2012. Mr. Siddall advised INDOT needs to see that the county has the funding. The expense are 80% reimbursable, as part of the grant, and the county's match of that grant is \$ 238,000.00. He also advised Lee Nagai is working on an additional proposal for the bridge construction, where the bridge could be repaired at a much earlier time frame, since the State recently closed the bridge after it failed the bridge inspection.

IN RE: COUNTY OPTION DOG TAX

Marty Lucas explained the County Option Dog Tax Ordinance that he had distributed to the Council is a proposal from the Commissioners. Currently the County does not have a dog tax in effect. Both Knox and North Judson do have ordinances in effect. Mr. Lucas advised of the tax collected by the county, per animal, 20% of the tax proceeds would go to Purdue University for canine research and education, and 80% is used by the county to fund animal care facilities, animal control, reimbursement to farmers for livestock kills, and reimbursement to people who have undergone rabies post exposure prophylaxis. Councilman Smith stated he is aware that the 2011 budget for animal control has already been exhausted for this year, and this dog tax would be a way for the county to recoup their expenses for animal control from the dog owners. Mr. Lucas stated the Council needs to decide what entity would collect the taxes, the amount of the tax, and the fine to the dog owner if he failed to pay the tax. He advised the Council

could designate a subcontractor to collect the taxes. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to table the dog tax ordinance for now to enable the Council time to review the situation, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY

Marty Lucas advised he would be distributing a draft of the proposed County Travel Policy. He advised the proposal is a little bit more involved than the State's policy. Councilman Semans made a motion to table the travel policy until the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: TREASURER'S REQUEST

The Treasurer, Linda Belork had submitted a written request to transfer funds to provide the funding to change her part time help into an additional full time deputy. Ms. Belork did not appear before the Board to answer questions regarding her request. A discussion followed regarding the fact that the printing of the 2011 tax statements still needed to come out of her budget and the budget figures had been corrected to show the outcome of the check that was voided as per orders from the SBOA that had prepaid for the printing of the 2011 tax statements. The check had been processed in December of 2010 and had been in the Treasurer's safe until the SBOA confiscated the check recently and ordered it be voided. Councilman Pearman inquired if the Treasurer has yet set the date for the fall tax sale, and he was told, she has not. Councilman Radkiewicz stated it is part of her job description to conduct the fall tax sale. At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Bridegroom and Commissioner Norem announced they were withdrawing their support for the additional full time deputy and will not be creating the new position, and also therefore, would not allow the transfer of \$ 5600.00 from the Commissioner's budget to the Treasurer's budget. It was also discussed even if the funding and position were approved for this year, they could not see how it would be funded in upcoming years. Councilman Radkiewicz then made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Commissioners, and not provide the funding for the additional full time deputy. The motion was seconded by Bob Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

There being no further business, Councilman Semans made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

April 18, 2011

Mark Smith, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

ABSENT
Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

Dave Pearman

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins, Starke Co. Auditor
Council Secretary