

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 9:30AM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with, Bryan Cavender, and Mark Gourley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Vice-President Bryan Cavender directly at 9:30AM.

PARK BOARD/SPACE TREE

Kathy Norem came before the Board of Commissioners to request permission from the Commissioners to put a commemorative stone on our space tree on behalf of the Knox Main Street United Organization. She advised that they have been awarded grant money to revitalize the downtown area of Knox. While they were working on their planning process to think of ways to get people to come into the downtown area, in their discussions they discovered there is a space tree that is planted on the courthouse lawn. She presented an article to the Board of Commissioners that was in The Leader when the Space Tree was initially planted. Commissioner Gourley asked if the stone would be close to the ground or higher above the ground. Mrs. Norem indicated she believes it will be slightly elevated above ground. She advised that the stone has been donated and they will be placing the stone this Saturday. They will be having a Space Race and the downtown merchant will be selling space items. She advised that registration for the Space Race will begin at 9:00AM and then at 9:30AM the historical society will give a dedication speech and unveil the stone and then the Space Race will commence. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the request to place a marker on the space tree. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

KADA appeared before the Board of Commissioners to request the month of April being deemed as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Attorney Lucas read allow the proclamation that was presented as follows:

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

Whereas, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situation, without community resources, and don't know how to cope;

Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situation and conditions that are totally preventable in an engaged and supportive community;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but also increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems, such as heart disease and obesity, and risky behavior such as smoking;

Whereas, all citizens should become involved in supporting families in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Therefore, we do hereby proclaim;

April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Starke County, Indiana, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participations efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live. We sign and affix our seal on April 19, 2021.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$354,788.68. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$252,942.34, including deductions in the amount of \$77,246.96 for the pay period ending on 04/03/2021 and pay date of 04/09/2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes from April 5th, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the change order for the 3rd Floor Courthouse Renovations. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve keys issued to Boz Williams. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Abby White Columbia to the Starke County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the EMA Board's recommendation to advertise for an EMA Director position part time with the potential of becoming full time. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Surveyor Crase and Bob Lorenz came before the Board of Commissioners to present an update on the highway department. They presented a report with a current breakdown of their current operations. Surveyor Crase indicated that the paver tracks needs to be replaced and explained the quote for parts and installation come to a total of \$21,000. After some discussion the Board of Commissioners agreed that these need to be replaced and agreed to the purchase.

Surveyor Crase then presented Dan Gumz who is coming before the Board of Commissioners to give an update about the Kankakee River Basin progress. Mr. Gumz presented the Board of Commissioners photos with what the river looked like in 2018, the levy break, and what it looks like now. He explained one of the projects include log jam management. They started this project at English Lake and have done about 7 miles almost to US30. Surveyor Crase explained the sediment loss problems they have had with the Kankakee River. He explained all the funding is coming from the new assessment from the Kankakee River Basin Development but they had received a jump start from the State. He advised this is going to be a couple million dollars project before this is all done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

Charlie Chesak, President

Bryan Cavender, Vice-President

Mark Gourley

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the