

**April 20, 2009**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 5:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Chuck Estok moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009, meeting seconded by Bill Dulin with 7 ayes.

**IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Cameron Gilbert with Doctor's Hospital and Physician's Group and Nancy Godby with Lifepoint and current lessee, appeared before the council for approval of the sale of the hospital lease by Lifepoint to Doctor's Hospital. Jennifer Davis asked to be recused from any votes regarding the hospital as she works for the hospital. Judy Benninghoff moved to table the request until May 18 seconded by Chuck Estok with 6 ayes 1 abstaining (JD).

There was much discussion about the investigation between the council, commissioners, Dr. Gilbert, and Ms. Godby. Dr. Gilbert stated that no allegations have been made and no charges have been filed. They are merely doing an investigation due to some reports that were submitted to the authorities, and it would be their job to check it out.

Dr. Fritz stated for the record that they are discussing the sale of the final 6 years on the lease—the property and the equipment are still the property of Starke County.

The council and the commissioners are both concerned about the liability of the new medical building, and what it could mean to the county when the lease ends.

**IN RE: 2009 BUDGETS**

Mark Smith informed the public that the county general and highway budgets were unofficially approved by the state.

**IN RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #2009-07**

Evelyn Skronski, County Clerk, requested \$700 for a file cabinet out of the clerk's budget with a \$700 reduction in the election budget. Chuck Estok moved to approve seconded by Jennifer Davis with 7 ayes.

Linda Belork, County Treasurer, requested \$17,505 for an additional deputy. Dan Awald moved to approve. The motion died for lack of a second.

Bob Smith, I.T. Coordinator, requested \$90,000 out of the Cum. Cap. Development fund for a new phone system. Bob stated that he knows more modules will go out, he just doesn't know when. If this were done as a lease agreement, the reduction in the phone service costs would pay the lease. Chuck Estok moved to table this request seconded by Dan Awald with 7 ayes.

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, requested \$500 out of Cum. Reassessment for legal fees. Chuck Estok moved to approve seconded by Jennifer Davis with 7 ayes.

Chuck Estok moved to approve \$109,000 for clerk dispatcher salaries seconded by Dan Awald with 7 ayes.

Chuck Estok moved to approve the Cum. Bridge request of \$6500 for various projects seconded by Bruce Fingerhut with 7 ayes.

**IN RE: EDIT TAX USED FOR BRIDGES**

Judy Benninghoff asked what happened to the bridge plan that they increased the EDIT tax to pay for.

**IN RE: E-911 FEES**

State statute states that E-911 fees can be up to 10% of the average base phone rate in the county. The Auditor's Office called Embarq and found out that the average base phone rate in Starke County is \$30. Therefore, the county has the potential to increase the E-911 fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. Bruce Fingerhut moved to increase the fee to the statutory limit of \$3.00 seconded by Bill Dulin with 6 ayes 1 nay (JB).

**IN RE: PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Chuck Estok moved to appoint Judy Benninghoff as the council appointment to the Planning Commission seconded by Dan Awald with 7 ayes.

**IN RE: RESOLUTION TO ENLARGE P.E.R.F.**

A resolution electing to enlarge P.E.R.F. to allow for the Community Corrections employees to join was submitted to the council for approval. Judy Benninghoff moved to approve seconded by Chuck Estok with 7 ayes.

**IN RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACT**

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, brought the council up to date on the Reassessment Contracts that are ready for the Commissioners' signatures. She also informed the council about the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors for Phase II which is required by the D.L.G.F.

**IN RE: 2009 BUDGET CUTS**

Per the 1782 notice from the state, LR & S needs to be cut \$115,948. Chuck Estok moved to approve making this cut allowing the 2009 budget for LR & S to be \$284,052 seconded by Dan Awald with 7 ayes.

The health department budget needs to be cut \$15,124. Chuck Estok moved to defund the food sanitarian and benefits for same allowing a 2 week notice and whatever vacation she has coming seconded by Dan Awald with 6 ayes 1 nay (JD). \$14,878 was taken from the food sanitarian line item and \$246 was taken from the P.E.R.F. line item to make up the \$15,124.

Judy Benninghoff moved to recess the meeting until 2:00 pm the next day, Tuesday, April 21, 2009, seconded by Dan Awald with 7 ayes.

**April 21, 2009**

The council reconvened at 2:00 pm with Jennifer Davis, Bruce Fingerhut and Dan Awald absent.

Chuck Estok moved to lay off one patrolman out of the sheriff's budget, one jailer out of the jail budget and then take two dispatchers who get full insurance out of E-911 and do an additional to put them into the jail budget seconded by Judy Benninghoff with 4 ayes.

There being no further business to come before the board, Judy Benninghoff moved to adjourn seconded by Bill Dulin 4 ayes.

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Mark Smith, President

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Chuck Estok, Vice President

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Bill Dulin

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Jennifer Davis

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Judy Benninghoff

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Bruce Fingerhut

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Dan Awald

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners