

April 20, 2015

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, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Jennifer Davis and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker.

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REPORT FROM MARSHALL-STARKE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Michael Lintner, CEO of Marshall-Starke Development Center appeared before the Board to present the Center's annual reporting. He advised there are currently 260 adults enrolled in the adult programs; 182 children enrolled in Headstart, and 40 children enrolled in Early Headstart, and of those programs a total of 164 participants are from Starke County. He noted that Starke County is at full capacity for the Headstart Program and there is currently a waiting list for enrollment. He stated both the Knox Schools and the North Judson-San Pierre Schools hold the Headstart classes. Councilman Pearman advised he is currently on the Board for Marshall-Starke, and Councilwoman Jennifer Davis' appointment to the Board is pending. CEO Lintner advised he is planning to retire next year as that will be his 29th year of employment with Marshall-Starke. He noted their current management staff has an average of twenty plus years of experience with their agency. Councilwoman Davis advised it was an honor to be asked to serve of the board.

REPORT FROM THE STARKE COUNTY YOUTH CLUB

Starke County Youth Club Executive Director, Irene Szakonyi, appeared before the Board to present an update of their program. She advised she has been involved with the Starke County Youth Club since 2003, and the Youth Club began in 2001. Director Szakonyi spoke of their after school program, their achievements, their individual tutoring, and the benefits they provide for not only the students but also the parents of the students by providing that after school program. Director Szakonyi thanked the County for their support, and advised of the Youth Club's annual major fundraiser, the WKVI radiothon which will take place on Friday, May 1st.

QUARTERLY CAPITAL ASSET REPORT FROM IU HEALTH-STARKE

Craig Felty, President of IU Health-Starke, appeared before the Board to present the 4th Quarter of 2014 and 1st Quarter of 2015 Capital Asset Report. He stated during the 4th quarter they purchased a total of \$449,127.88 in capital assets; and during the 1st quarter of 2015 they purchased a total of \$46,013.98 in additional capital assets. He advised as of March 31, 2015 the net value of the capital assets (after depreciation) is \$5,934,604.58. He also submitted a chart of the pattern of the net value of the capital assets over a period of one year. Councilwoman Davis inquired if their goal was to maintain a 5-6 million dollar balance. President Felty stated no, not their goal, just what it comes out to be. He advised he also provided a report listing their capital assets, including the asset code, capital project number, date acquired, depreciation, and book value. (The Capital Asset report is on file in the Auditor's Office.) President Felty stated IU-Health has entered into a purchase agreement with Community Health Services (CHS), and they were currently in the due-diligence period. He stated he was predicting the closing come happen in the 3rd or 4th quarter of this year. He advised CHS was not the Porter County Hospital, but that hospital is one of the several facilities owned by the CHS Group.

Councilwoman Davis she had been asked by President Felty as to the use of the County's Save the Hospital Fund. She noted, as the fund was first created for the possibility of the County once again owning the county hospital, she now feels, with this sale pending to CHS, that the County looks at what the current goal should be for that funding. She noted from being a former Commissioner she knows that Board of Commissioners had many discussions in regard to that funding, and stated one of the possible uses for the funds could be for health care or wellness programs for the community. Councilman Davis stated a discussion will take place between the Board of Commissioners, the Hospital Board and the Council to review the overall goal of the Save the Hospital Funding.

APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER REQUESTS

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request appropriation of Fund 1113, the Jail CEDIT Fund, for the cost of the Part Time Maintenance Person. He noted he has a budget appropriation line in his County General Jail Budget for Cook/Custodian in the total amount of \$24,000.00. But, he stated, he would like to see the accounting for the two part time cooks be kept separate from the pay of the maintenance worker, so he would like the maintenance employee to be paid out of the Jail CEDIT Fund. He stated he was requesting a total appropriation of \$20,000.00. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request for appropriation, seconded by Councilwoman Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. The Sheriff advised he had received price quotes for the purchase of a lawnmower. (The quotes had been distributed to the Board via email prior to the meeting.) Councilman Pearman stated he would like to see the County purchase the mower locally. Sheriff Dulin advised he had attempted to receive price quotes from both Smith Farm Store, and Mike's Mower Mart but note neither one handled that type of mower. He noted it would be a special order for Mike's Mower Mart. He advised the only local quote was for the John Deere mower. Councilman Hazelton stated he felt John Deere is known for making tractors, not for their mowers. The Sheriff was asked which one he would like to see purchased and he advised he liked the price quote from Heinold Feller for a Huskavarne ZT3400 lawn mower with a 61" mowing deck, for a price of \$5,999.00. He noted the price quote also included a blower, a string trimmer, an edger, and a pole saw for a total cost of \$1,679.80 but they were given a rebate of \$1,535.76 making the net cost of the extra equipment only \$144.04. Auditor Chaffins stated the funding of the mower shouldn't be from the Jail Building Project, equipment budget and requested the Board consider the appropriation of the Jail CEDIT Fund 1113. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the purchase of the Huskavarne ZT3400 mower along with the extra equipment as listed in the price quote, and appropriate the Jail CEDIT Fund, totaling \$6,143.04. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REQUEST TO AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE

Auditor Chaffins advised the Board of Commissioners was requesting the pay of the Annex Maintenance/Custodian to be increased by \$2,000.00 and the pay of the Courthouse Maintenance/Custodian to decrease by \$2,000.00, to go into effect in

June following the retirement of Carl Goodrich, Courthouse Maintenance/Custodian. Auditor Chaffins explained the Commissioners have asked the Annex Maintenance/Custodian Jim Coad to be the backup maintenance person for the new jail and he has begun attending all the maintenance training sessions on the new jail equipment. Commissioner Binkley noted Jim will also become the supervisor of the new Courthouse Maintenance/Custodian who has yet to be hired. Following a brief discussion by the Board, and a request for a new job description for Maintenance Director by Councilwoman Davis it was decided to postpone this request until the May Council meeting. Auditor Chaffins noted another issue is if the Courthouse's new hire would begin receiving their full pay, or if there will be a ninety day probation period and if approved they will then receive their full pay.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Pearman advised MJ Bendt, correspondent for The Leader newspaper, has volunteered to be the Secretary for the County's Bi-Centennial Committee. He advised the next Bi-Centennial Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21st, at 4PM.

Councilman Pearman then discussed the issue of the Circuit Breakers and the effect on all the taxing units in the County, following the 2015 Circuit Breaker report distributed via email by Auditor Chaffins. He noted the two taxing units who have the largest amount of circuit breakers credits is the City of Knox and the Knox Schools. He stated, as the County's Fiscal Body, they might need to provide some guidance to those taxing units as to how to effectively deal with those credits. He asked the Auditor to do some research into this matter prior to the next meeting. Councilman Pearman stated he would not be attendance for the next Council meeting but would be available to participate via telephone. Attorney Lucas stated he could participate with discussions during the meeting but would not be able to vote on any motions.

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised he had drafted a letter to current taxpayers of the County's Innkeeper's Tax and another letter to businesses that should be collecting and paying County Innkeeper's Tax. He advised the board, in his research of this tax, he discovered campgrounds should not have been collecting tax on their campsite rentals. He noted campgrounds should only be collecting tax on their cabins, not on campers. He stated he was concerned with refunding the innkeepers' tax to those who paid the tax on camper rental as they could be owed a refund. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Sims made a motion to remove from the current tax submitters' letter the portion of the letter referring to the issuance of refunds to campers, as the County will not be refunding the CIT tax to campers. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Attorney Lucas advised he will send Auditor Chaffins the current listing of the businesses in the County who are submitting the tax. He noted the difficulty is in determining who should be collecting the tax but have not been.

Fred Boyer of the CVC Board advised the US Postal Service has a program which allows letters to be sent to everyone at a specific location such as the residents of Bass Lake and Koontz Lake. He noted he was aware of the program as it has been done by his church. He advised it would be a good way to contact any place at either lake that are renting rooms. He stated one of the biggest concerns of the CVC Board is identifying the businesses that provide short term rentals at both lakes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a gentleman at the meeting who voiced a complaint in regard to a dam that was created across the Anderson Ditch in the area of the Starke County Forest, at 1065 E. Division Road. Commissioner Danford, who was in attendance for the meeting, advised the gentleman he would speak with him after the meeting since it was a Drainage Board question and he was on the Drainage Board.

With there being no further business, Councilman Sims made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

April 20, 2015

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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