

May 18th, 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 Mark Smith absent, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Judy Benninghoff moved to approve the minutes of the April 20th, 2009, meeting seconded by Dan Awald with 6 ayes.

IN RE: STARKE CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN

Jennifer Davis moved to approve the Starke County Public Library's Capital Projects Plan. Bill Dulin seconded the motion, and it passed with 6 ayes.

IN RE: UNEMPLOYMENT

The Council discussed whether to approve unemployment funds monthly, or once a year. Bruce Fingerhut thought they should only approve enough for six weeks at a time.

IN RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #2009-09

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve \$7,500 for the County General Unemployment, and to table the remaining \$52,500. Bill Dulin seconded the motion and it passed with 6 ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve the Surveyor's request for \$3,500 for Section Corners, seconded by Dan Awald, with 6 ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve \$1,800 for the Health Dept.'s Unemployment, and to table the remaining \$13,200. Bill Dulin seconded the motion and it passed with 6 ayes.

Bill Dulin moved to approve the request for \$282 out of the Cumulative Capital Development fund to repair a cable between the courthouse and jail. Judy Benninghoff seconded the motion and it passed with 6 ayes.

Jennifer Davis moved to table the EMS request for \$6,000 for building maintenance, seconded by Dan Awald, with 6 ayes.

Jennifer Davis moved to table the Courthouse requests from the Cumulative Capital Development fund, seconded by Dan Awald, with 6 ayes.

After some discussion, the Council remembered that the Cumulative Capital Development Fund did not have a budget beginning 2009, and they just needed to approve the budget as additional.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve the EMS request for \$6,000 for building maintenance, seconded by Bill Dulin, with 6 ayes.

Bill Dulin moved to approve the Courthouse request for \$8,263 out of Cum. Cap., seconded by Bruce Fingerhut, with 6 ayes.

Bob Smith, IT Coordinator, said that he can get a better deal on the Off-site Backup and he may not need the full amount he had originally requested. Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve \$150 for Off-site Backup, and table the remaining \$9,850, seconded by Judy Benninghoff, with 6 ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to table the \$60,000 request for the New Phone System, seconded by Bill Dulin, with 6 ayes.

Bill Dulin moved to approve 7 new lines out of the Cumulative Bridge Fund, seconded by Bruce Fingerhut, with 6 ayes. The lines are as follows:

0790-000-3000.29 (CR 625 S; West of CR 750 E)
0790-000-3000.30 (CR 100 W; South of CR 700 S)
0790-000-3000.31 (CR 200 E; South of CR 700 S)
0790-000-3000.32 (CR 850 W & SR 10)
0790-000-3000.33 (CR 550 S; West of CR 1100 W)
0790-000-3000.34 (San Pierre Rd. & US 421)
0790-000-3000.35 (CR 500 S; West of SR 10)

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve the Highway Dept's requests for \$2,010 from Cumulative Bridge, seconded by Bill Dulin, with 6 ayes.

Judy Benninghoff moved to approve only \$2,000 of the Highway Dept's request for unemployment, seconded by Bruce Fingerhut with 2 ayes and 4 nays (CE, JD, DA, & BD).

Jennifer Davis moved to approve \$3,000 of the highway's request for unemployment and table the remainder, seconded by Bruce Fingerhut, with six ayes.

Dan Awald moved to approve the Highway Dept's request for \$22,287 for Gas, Oil & Lube, seconded by Bill Dulin, with six ayes.

Bill Dulin moved to approve the Highway Dept's request for \$45,670 for Truck Repairs, seconded by Dan Awald, with six ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve the Highway Dept's request for \$20,000 for Road Equipment Repair, seconded by Bill Dulin, with six ayes.

IN RE: TRANSFER RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE # 2009-10

Bill Dulin moved to approve the Highway Dept's request to transfer \$90 within the Cumulative Bridge Fund, seconded by Bruce Fingerhut, with six ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to approve the Highway Dept's request to transfer \$2,073.77 within the Cumulative Bridge Fund, seconded by Dan Awald, with six ayes.

IN RE: JAG GRANT

Bill Dulin spoke for Oscar Cowen regarding the Jag Grant they are receiving for \$11,822. He said Oscar is planning to use the money to get bullet proof vests and new weapons. Kathy Norem said it is stimulus money, and she feels Oscar has planned to use the money wisely.

IN RE: FOOD SANITARIAN AND BUDGETS

Chuck Estok asked Bob Smith, IT Coordinator, if it is true that information is missing or altered on the food sanitarian’s computer. Bob confirmed that some of the documents have been removed. He is unable to tell exactly what documents were removed or who removed them.

Tom Warren spoke regarding the “defunding” of the Food Sanitarian position. He feels that the council has done a disservice to the county. He asked the council to reinstate Judy Jelinek until the council has a plan in place for food inspections. Chuck assured Mr. Warren that the council does have a plan in place, and Frank Lynch, David Singleton, and Dr. Fritz have taken over the inspections.

Kathy Norem talked briefly about budgets and said things will get worse concerning funding. She would like to get the public’s input on where to make cuts. She would like the IT Department to set up some kind of survey on the county’s website.

Martin Lucas, County Attorney, spoke briefly about a letter the state sent to the health department asking them to reinstate Judy Jelinek. Martin then read the letter Mark Smith wrote back to the state, explaining the council’s reasoning for their decision.

IN RE: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Terry Turner voiced his concerns that the Veterans Service Office is undermanned and overworked. Chuck told Terry to have Gordon make his requests at budget time.

Judy Benninghoff moved to adjourn.

Mark Smith, President

Chuck Estok, Vice President

Bill Dulin

Jennifer Davis

Judy Benninghoff

Bruce Fingerhut

Dan Awald

Melinda McCarty, Auditor Pro Tem