

MAY 21, 2018

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 Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Nancy Dembowski and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Brad Hazelton at 5:30PM. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16th meeting. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

NJSP BOND ISSUE AND APPROPRIATION REQUEST

North Judson-San Pierre Superintendent Annette Zupin and Treasurer Guy Richie appeared before the Board. Ms. Zupin advised NJSP is asking for the approval of a bond issuance and additional appropriations. She noted the bond issue was advertised on May 2, 3, 9, and 10th and the public hearing and adoption were completed at the NJSP School Board meeting on May 15, 2018. She stated the purpose of the \$1,100,000.00 General Obligation Bond is to finance technology, increase security, for building improvement, and for renovations within the NJSP School Buildings. She noted the increase in security would be security cameras in the Elementary School where right now they have none, and to implement the use of key fobs for entrance into the building. Treasurer Richie advised the Elementary Building was built in 1952 and the addition was added in 1966. Superintendent Zupin advised the Bond would be paid off in three years. She noted since the NJSP School Board is appointed they are required to also receive the County Council's approval. Thomas Fletcher, of Umbaugh, stated the NJSP present debt decreased in the 2019 budget and the bond payments will remain the same as the other debt payments; would utilize the same amount of cash. Councilman Hazelton inquired if there was any opposition to the Public Hearing and was advised there wasn't any. Councilman Pearman inquired as to the status now of the School as in the recent past they had to cut their budget due to the loss of students over a series of years. The Superintendent noted the enrollment has stabilized but it is constantly watched. Councilman Pearman stated he was not comfortable approving the bond if it had no purpose. He asked the Board of Commissioners what they felt about the Bond. Commissioner Norem stated the Council should give the NJSP School the money. Councilman Baker stated the NJSP School came out of the crisis in good financial shape and he made the motion to approve the Bond and to approve the request for additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,100,000.00. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it was passed with all ayes.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board with a request for appropriations. He requested the appropriation of ½ of the CEDIT funding, Fund 1112, in the amount of \$688,545.48 and the appropriation of \$35,857.00 for the paving of CR300E north of the Industrial Park. He advised the amount requested for CR300E was less than the request for appropriations he received last fall as the price has decreased. Councilwoman Dembowski asked how that happens. Superintendent Ritzler advised if a company is working on a different project in the area it is cheaper for them to do an additional job in that same area. The appropriation request went from \$50,000.00 in 2017 to the amount requested now of \$35,857.00. Councilwoman Dembowski made a motion to approve the appropriations requested. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler provided a listing of the Bridges that had been completed in the last few years; the Bridges that are either being worked on now, or the ones that will be started in 2018 and 2019. He advised Bridge 137 will be the last bridge that will be using county funds. He stated they will be able to complete other road projects with the left over CEDIT money.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION

Commissioner Norem advised they were requesting appropriations of the CEDIT Fund, # 1112, a total of \$142,565.00. She noted they needed a total of \$58,565.00 for RestoreWorks for tuck pointing behind the down spouts at the Courthouse which will cost \$32,200.00; additional tuck pointing of the Courthouse for the cost of \$13,525.00 and entrance stone work of the Courthouse for \$12,840.00. She also noted they are asking for appropriation of \$50,000.00 to be placed in the Courthouse Fund to be used as the 10% match to the Courthouse Elevator Project Grant. She also asked for the appropriation of \$34,000.00 in order to purchase a new Sheriff's Department squad car. Sheriff Dulin advised they would be purchasing a car and not a SUV and he inquired if they were able to get the vehicle cheaper than \$34,000.00 if he could use the difference for radio wiring. He was advised he could do that. Commissioner Norem advised the County Council is also needing a new ambulance; to replace the CAD System at the Jail; an IT Server; and the replacement of the IT Telephone System. She noted the telephone system is not a land line; it is an internet, computerized system. Councilman Pearman made a

motion to approve the request for appropriations of the CEDIT Fund in the amount of \$58,565.00, \$50,000.00 and \$34,000.00. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present the monthly report. He advised they have listed the old B & H Building for sale after installing a new roof on the building which cost approximately \$67,000.00. He stated they have listed it for \$250,000.00. He noted it there is no interest in the building they will be looking at possibly moving its offices into that building. He also noted beside the Sysco Property that is listed for sale also in Hamlet the Materna Property has been listed with is a 7 acre piece with a total of five buildings and a house. He also noted the Hamlet water tower is not a big danger. He stated Sysco has listed the property at \$22,500.00 an acre but that the number was not out of hand since he has seen property in Wanatah along US30 at \$25,000.00 per acre.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the appointment of Jaime Estok for the Starke County Library Board if she submits a letter of interest for the Board. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Baker advised he would be talking to Ms. Estok.

Councilman Pearman stated he had recently gone by the Bass Lake Beach and is concerned about the shape of the Beach. He stated he would like an update report from the Park Board. County Attorney Marty Lucas gave a brief report about the Beach and the Starke County Forest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:19PM.

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Brad Hazelton, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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