

**July 15, 2013**

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, Mitch Semans, Tony Radkiewicz, Marvin McLaughlin, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman.

**RE: MINUTES**

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the June 17th Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

**RE: STARKE COUNTY POLICY ON USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES AND FRINGE BENEFIT TAXATION**

President Pearman asked if there were any questions in reference to the County's policy in regard to County employees driving County vehicles to and from work, and it being a taxable fringe benefit to the employee. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the Starke County Policy on Use of County Vehicles and Fringe Benefit Taxation. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. (A copy of the Policy is on file in the Auditor's Office.)

**RE: IU HEALTH- STARKE 2nd QUARTER, 2013, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REPORT**

Rosie Heise, VP of Finance for IU Health-Starke, appeared before the Board to present the 2nd quarterly Capital Expenditures report. She advised the total 2013 Capital Budget is \$385,000.00 and the total amount of capital expenditures in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013 were \$57,494.00 and included such items as Arterial Doppler Wave Equipment, Nuclear Med Dual Head Camera, Apex Transmitter & License, and a Patient Transportation System. She advised the total asset valuation as of 6/30/13 is \$8,465,695.00. Ms. Heise also presented to the Board a listing of all equipment, along with the depreciation schedule and book value of each piece of equipment. (Copies of both reports are on file in the Auditor's Office.) There was a discussion in regard to the actual dollar figure the County is responsible for, and the concern that the equipment inventory listing also contains equipment that is at the LifePlex Center in Plymouth. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised he would work with Ms. Heise on the listings.

**RE: REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS**

County Commissioner President, Kathy Norem, appeared before the Board to request the appropriation of \$35,000.00 from the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund, and \$35,000.00 from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund, in order to pay for the expense of the installation and monitoring of the gas vents at the old County Landfill. She advised the cost of the project would be as follows: \$50,000.00 to the Company hired by Weaver & Boos to install the gas vents, and then \$20,000.00 to Weaver & Boos for their monitoring of the gas vents. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the appropriation request, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem also noted the County should consider the possibility of purchasing the property since they are responsible for the emitted gases.

IT Director, Joe Short, appeared before the Board to request the appropriation in the amount of \$29,628.63 from the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund, to purchase upgraded computers for the County. He advised he had received approval for the purchase from the Board of Commissioners and reminded the Council they had removed the purchase of computers from his 2013 budget. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the appropriation request, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

**RE: SHERIFF'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMISSARY FUND & FUTURE SHERIFF'S SALARY**

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the Board to present his semi-annual report on the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. He advised he believed the monthly financial report that is submitted to the Auditor's Office and to the State would be presented to the Council by the Auditor. The Sheriff presented a copy of the Commissary Cash Book. He advised a washer had been purchased out of the Commissary Fund. He also noted the receipts are open to the public and anyone could stop by and look at the receipts. The Board asked that a description of the purchase be listed by the check numbers on the report.

There was a discussion in regard to the creation of the Sheriff's salary beginning in the year 2015. The Sheriff advised he is currently receiving a portion of the tax warrant collection fees, but in the future that will be receipted into the County General Fund. President Pearman advised per IC 36-2-13-2.8, the County must pay their Sheriff 60% of the County Prosecutor's annual salary, which would be approximately \$75,000.00. He advised the reduction in the Sheriff's salary would not take place until the year 2015, when the newly elected Sheriff takes office, since the Council can not reduce the salary of an elected official. He noted he would like this reduction to be drafted prior to the January 2014 date for candidates to register for the 2014 election. He added, Attorney Lucas could draft an ordinance establishing the salary of the Sheriff effective January 1, 2015. He also noted the average Sheriff's salary previously was in the mid eighties. Councilman Sims made a motion to have Attorney Lucas draft an ordinance setting the Sheriff's salary as a percentage of the Prosecutor's salary. Prior to taking a vote, Councilman McLaughlin advised he disagreed with the motion, and stated a specific amount should be stated instead. After a brief discussion, Councilman Sims then amended the motion to state Attorney Lucas draft an ordinance setting the Sheriff's salary at \$87,500.00; and/or any increase in Prosecutor pay, per IC 36-2-13-2.8, effective on January 1, 2015. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed with four ayes, and two nays (Radkiewicz and Semans).

**RE: REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT ON COUNTY'S LIABILITY INSURANCE AND WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE**

County Commissioner President, Kathy Norem advised the County has been notified by 1<sup>st</sup> Source Insurance Company that the premium for the next year, which begins on July 17<sup>th</sup>, will be seeing an increase in premiums for both the liability insurance

and worker’s comp insurance. She advised the increase to the County was due to both the number of claims, and the dollar amount of the claims. She noted the insurance company is offering a \$50,000.00 deductible policy in the amount of \$153,000.00 annual premium, or a \$10,000.00 deductible policy with an annual premium of \$225,000.00, which is a substantial increase over the \$126,000.00 premium that was currently being paid. She also noted the insurance company does not want to quote on a self insured policy. She stated they are also requesting a price quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Insurance Co. but have not yet heard back from them. She noted 1<sup>st</sup> Source Insurance stated they had five different companies that declined to give a price quote, not wanting to cover the County. She stated she is asking for the Council’s input on this decision. After a discussion it was decided the County should go with the \$50,000.00 deductible policy but only in monthly intervals while the County looks for other coverage.

With there being no further business, Councilman Semans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

**July 15, 2013**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Mitch Semans, Vice President

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Bryan Cavender

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Marvin McLaughlin

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Tony Radkiewicz

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Robert Sims

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Freddie Baker

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Rachel Oesterreich, Deputy Auditor