

JULY 16, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Council President, Dave Pearman, called the meeting to order. Absent from the meeting were Councilmen Mark Smith, Robert Sims and Mitch Semans. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18th meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: KNOX FERTILIZER ERA RESOLUTION

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director, Charlie Weaver, appeared before the Council to request their approval in regard to Knox Fertilizer Preliminary Resolution to designate their land as an Economic Revitalization Area. He advised that was the beginning step in the process in which Knox Fertilizer could be awarded a tax phase-in (a tax abatement) on their addition. He noted that the additional building would be located in the county, not in the city limits. Todd Wallsmith, the attorney representing Knox Fertilizer, advised the project would result in 20 new jobs in the county: 17 created due to the real property, and 3 created due to the personal property from the company leasing the building. He also advised the total project would bring a projected 6,000,000 in assessed value to the county. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised he had reviewed the paperwork and it seemed to be in line with past procedures. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the Preliminary Resolution designating the land, belonging to Knox Fertilizer, as an Economic Revitalization Area. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff, and passed with all ayes. Mr. Weaver advised the next step in the process was to notify all the taxing units that would be affected by the tax abatement, via certified mail. The public hearing has been scheduled for the August 20th Council meeting.

RE: RAINY DAY APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Commissioner Kathy Norem presented a request to appropriate \$50,000.00 of the Rainy Day Fund in order to fund the expense of the excess Starke County inmates being housed in the Pulaski County Jail. The cost, per inmate, per day, is \$20.00, and she advised there were currently 15 inmates being housed there. She noted the \$50,000.00 was estimated to be the annual expense. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve an appropriation of the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$42,000.00, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the Board and presented copies of a price quote he had received from Country Auto of Plymouth for the possible purchase of a Dodge squad car. President Pearman advised he had also spoken to Cambe Chevrolet in regard to giving the County a price quote, noting he would like to see a quote on a Chevy also. Commissioner Norem advised they had agreed to allow the Sheriff to purchase one vehicle at this time. Sheriff Cowen advised he would like to have the Department keep the spare vehicle, to be used in department training. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the purchase of one squad car, not to exceed \$25,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz, and was approved with all ayes. Sheriff Cowen then presented the Council the quarterly report on the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. He responded to the various questions the Board had. A copy of the Commissary Fund report is on file in the Auditor's Office.

RE: TRAVEL POLICY AMENDMENT

Attorney Lucas advised he had made a slight change to the county's travel policy. The amendment was to address the situation when meals are included in the registration fee/ or not included in the registration fee of a conference an employee is attending. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the new updated travel policy, second by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas advised he will send an electronic file to the Auditor's Office so the amended policy could be posted on the county's website.

RE: 2013 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Dates were set for the 2013 budget procedures. On Wednesday, August 8th, beginning at 8:00AM the Council will hold its budget work session. They advised they would like the department heads from the Jail/Sheriff's dept.; the EMS Department, and the county highway department be present for the work session. They also would like the other department heads to be "on call" that day in the event the Council would have any questions for them. NJ-SP Schools' 2013 budget hearing will be conducted Monday, August 6, at 5:30PM. The Starke County's 2013 budget public hearing will be held on Monday, August 20th and the budget adoption is scheduled for September 17, 2012. Auditor Chaffins advised she will forward information in regard to the NJ-SP school budget to the Council members prior to that meeting, and also she will forward copies of the proposed budgets submitted by the various department heads, prior to the Aug. 8th work session.

RE: MISDEMEANANT FUND (COUNTY CORRECTIONS FUND)

The Sheriff had submitted a request to appropriate the remaining balance of the Misdemeanant Fund for use by the Sheriff's Department. Presently the unexpended portion of that Fund was appropriated for the Starke County Community Corrections. There was a brief discussion in regard to the Community Corrections not having a need for that funding. Councilman McLaughlin noted he would like to see that in writing that SCCC is not in need of that funding before the appropriations of that funding is changed. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to table the request until SCCC has been contacted, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: IU-STARKE HOSPITAL 2ND QUARTER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REPORT

David Hyatt, of IU-Starke, appeared before the Board and presented the Hospital's 2nd Quarterly Capital Expenditures Report. A brief discussion followed. President Pearman inquired, if for the next quarterly report, there could be two separate columns in the report, the first showing that quarters purchases, and the second would be the year to date totals. Commissioner Bridegroom gave a brief update of the hospital committee advising that three companies had responded to their RFQ and a meeting will be scheduled for the committee to discuss the three proposals.

RE: TRANSFER/APPROPRIATE REQUESTS

Superintendent Siddall appeared before the Board to request: 1. the transfer of \$4,000.00 to line item 0702 531-2000.18 road signs, from 0702 533-1000.08 health insurance. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes. 2. The transfer of \$15,000.00 to line item 0702 533-3000.14 equipment repair from line item 0702 533-1000.08 health insurance. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff. The motion passed with all ayes. 3. To transfer \$2,000.00 to line item 0702 530-3000.20 safety supplies, from line item 0702 530-3000.25 utilities. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the motion, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Treasurer, Kasey Clark, appeared the Board to request \$500.00 from line item 0101 003-1000.03, extra help, be transferred to the IT Department, line item 0101 035-3000.07, server license fee. The Treasurer advised she will only be using her line item extra help, for only three weeks at the Nov. 10 tax due date. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. The Council requested \$5,000.00 be transferred out of the Prosecutor's budget line item, 0101 032-1000.05 health insurance, to the Council's line item 0101 033-3000.04 attorney fees. President Pearman noted the Prosecutor had agreed to the transfer from his department's budget. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Oscar Cowen, and Jail Office Manger, Chris Smith, appeared before the Council to request approval on the additional appropriation of the overtime line item of the 911 budget. They advised if the municipalities in the county were billed for their portion of the 911 dispatching services, the county could create more revenue for the 911 Fund. Attorney Lucas requested to see a report that would show the breakdown by percentage of the total calls coming into the 911 dispatch center, as to their location and whose jurisdiction. Office Manger Smith also advised she will receive more information in regard to this subject from surrounding counties. President Pearman asked the Auditor to add this topic to the next meeting's agenda. After a brief discussion, Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,000.00 instead of the original \$11,000.00 request. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The Sheriff also requested the approval of the purchase of financial software to enable the department to computerize the Sheriff's cash book. He advised one half of the expense of the financial software could be paid out of the Sheriff's Commissary Fund, if the county could pay the other half. The total cost of the software is \$8,000.00. Commissioner Norem advised the other \$4,000.00 could be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the purchase of the software, seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff. The motion passed with all ayes.

President Pearman advised the Board that officials of Owen County have offered to come to Starke County and give a presentation as to how they were able to restructure their pay schedule based on a variety of factors including longevity, education, etc. The restructuring of the pay scales created a fairer balance of equal position by department to department. He asked the Auditor to see if they would be available to meet with Starke County officials either on Aug. 6 or Aug. 8.

There being no further business, Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13PM.

July 16, 2012

Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT _____
Mitch Semans, Vice President

Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

ABSENT _____
Mark Smith

Tony Radkiewicz

ABSENT _____
Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins,
Starke Co. Auditor & Council Secretary