

JULY 16, 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, 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 Freddie Baker was absent from the meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18th meeting. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PRESENTATION BY THE KID'S CLOSET

The Kid's Closet Director Linda Lewandowski appeared before the Board to present the company. She advised they began the business in 2013 and work with children from birth to age 17. She stated at the beginning they serviced 108 children but now they handle 400 to 450 children. They handle any students who attend school in Starke County so they do handle some children from surrounding counties. Director Lewandowski advised they would be having a Fish Fry at the NJSP Cafetorium on August 11th and the fish will be made by the San Pierre Fish Fryers. She did note though that they need volunteers; they just don't have enough. She advised they are also looking for items such as clothing, beds and bedding. She stated they do a simple screening of the children and they deliver the items to their houses. The children try on the clothing and they make sure it is a proper fit and the children are happy with what they are receiving.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT

The Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present his monthly report. He passed out a written copy of the report that he had earlier submitted via email. He advised he had met with JW Hicks in regard to their expansion and attended an open house celebration at Otes in North Judson. He advised EZ Blockchain is moving in but are awaiting the State approval of their septic system. He noted they are also looking for office space. He stated there will be a meeting at 5:30PM on August 15th in regard to Starke County joining the Regional Stellar Communities.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT ON 2018 AND 2019 PROPOSED REVENUE

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to explain the changes in his remaining 2018 revenue and the proposed 2019 revenue. He advised the State was calling for a decrease in the remaining 2018 revenue due to a decrease in the amount of fuel tax that was expected for this year. He advised the State Auditor has estimated a lower amount now for the 2018 revenue which is now 3.1 million and calling for 3.11 million for 2019. He advised due to this decrease, which will be approximately \$370,000.00 for this year he will be postponing the purchase of the new tandem and the new paver until next year. He will purchase the chipper this year that he had proposed to purchase in 2019. He noted that will be a savings of \$75,000.00 in moving those two purchases. He advised he has purchased three used trucks from a Municipality which saved money. He also advised in 2018 the Local Road and Street Fund paid for paving but in 2019 that Fund will pay for equipment to meet the state requirements.

Superintendent Ritzler advised the County Auction will be Thursday, July 19th at the Highway Department. Councilman Pearman advised he likes the work the Highway Department had completed at the Starke County Forest. Supt. Ritzler also advised the Bridge on CR25N is almost finished; noting it will be completed before the school buses begin to run.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

President Hazelton advised the 2019 Budget Workshop will be held on August 6th at 8:00AM. Councilman Sims advised he would not be in attendance. Commissioner Norem asked if the Candidate for Auditor, Rachel Oesterreich could attend to watch the budget workshop. President Hazelton said it wouldn't be an issue. He also asked for all 2019 budgets to remain the same as their 2018 budget.

Sheriff Dulin appeared before the Board to ask if the position of Sergeant Jailer could be placed on the 2018 Salary Ordinance. The position will earn .45 an hour more than the position of Jailer. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the position to the Salary Ordinance. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Sheriff advised the position will work on both the day shift and the night shift. Councilman Pearman asked the Sheriff to prepare a Job Description on the new position.

Auditor Chaffins advised she had received a letter from Jamie Estok which would make her the proper appointee to the Starke County Library Board, as stated in the last Council meeting.

Commissioner Kathy Norem stated she had received rumors while she was at the County 4-H Fair and she wanted to address this with the Council. She stated the rumor had to do with the EMS Director and the different car he was driving. She noted the car he has now is not a new car but is a retired police department squad car, a 2011 Dodge Charger. She also advised there was nothing wrong with the old car other than it had a lot of mileage on it and it will be sold at the County Auction. She noted there is nothing wrong with that vehicle. She stated the EMS Director had continually gotten regular oil changes and other maintenance which is all documented in the service records. The 2011 Charger has been repainted since only the Police Department can have the two toned tan/brown vehicles.

Commissioner Norem stated they did ask the EMS Director, Travis Clary, to obtain price quotes on a new Ambulance as the Board of Commissioners are in favor of buying a new ambulance. She stated they would like to see the ambulances get on a regular rotation schedule. She stated they just didn't know at this time as to which Fund the new ambulance would be paid from but they will keep the Council informed.

Councilman Pearman stated he did not think the vehicle that was purchased from Fire Services should be replaced. He stated even though the vehicle is having some issues he thinks an actual mechanic should work on it.

Councilman Pearman also stated he had recently attended a Homeland Security meeting with Marshall County. He was told that Starke County had worked well during the spring flooding in regard to FEMA. He also stated that they received good work from the County Coroner also.

Councilman Pearman advised he needs to get more HAZMAT Certifications in the County. He stated he will have a meeting to address the training. He noted he will teach the HAZMAT classes and the only pay for the class would be the cost of the books. The training will take either 3 weekends or 6 days.

President Hazelton stated it was brought to his attention that there is too much moisture in the basement of the Annex 2 Building. He stated even the copy paper was too damp to run it through the copier. Commissioner Norem advised a couple of dehumidifiers should be ordered and placed in the Extension Office. She advised the invoice should be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. She advised she will speak to Director Jim Coad about the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Pearman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.

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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
& Secretary to the County Council