

AUGUST 17, 2015

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, Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Jennifer Davis present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Councilman Sims was absent.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOLS 2016 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NJSP Superintendent Lynn Johnson and NJSP Treasurer Guy Richie appeared before the Board in regard to their proposed 2016 School Budget. Since the North Judson San Pierre School Board is an appointed board they are required to obtain a budget binding review from the County Council. Treasurer Richie stated there is a referendum issue (a request of .47) on the November election ballot in order to increase the operating expense budget for NJSP. Because of this, he noted he had to establish a Referendum Fund for 2016. He added, in the event the referendum does not pass, the Fund will be deleted from their 2016 budget. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to open the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The NJSP 2016 Budget Public Hearing began at 5:32PM. Auditor Chaffins inquired if they had the numbers in yet as to the enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year. Superintendent Johnson stated they are down an additional 40 students. They noted the enrollment has been on a steady decline for the last 14 years. Former Director of the Starke County Community Services, Joan Haugh, stated she hoped the referendum passes as she would like to see the quality of education be maintained at NJSP. Superintendent Johnson stated a PAC Committee has been formed and they held their first meeting the previous week. Councilwoman Davis inquired as to the school's plans in the event the referendum wouldn't pass. The Superintendent stated since the referendum would be supplementing the General Fund it would require a reduction in people and programs, so it would affect salaries, benefits and programs. With there being no further comments or questions, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:35PM.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW DIRECTOR OF STARKE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Joan Haugh, former Director of Starke County Community Services, appeared before the Board to introduce the new Director of SCCS, Becky Anspach, who has officially been on the job for two weeks. Director Anspach presented the Board with copies of their latest annual report.

IU HEALTH-STARKE 2ND QUARTER CAPITAL ASSET REPORT

Craig Felty CEO of IU Health-Starke appeared before the Board and presented the hospital's 2nd quarter Capital Asset Report for the period of April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. He advised the total amount of capital assets purchased during that time period was \$ 103,789.00. He noted the total gross amount of assets as of 6/30/15 were \$ 10,501,394, with a depreciated value of \$ 5,244,240. (A copy of the quarterly report and separate asset listing are on file in the Auditor's Office.) Councilwoman Davis inquired as to the status of the proposed construction project of a replacement hospital facility. She apologized for not being involved with the project as she was when she was a Commissioner but she had asked them to keep the communication open with Commissioner Kathy Norem. Commissioner Norem, who was in attendance, stated there has not been any communication from IU Health in regard to their construction plans and inquired as to where they planned on building the new facility. She also asked as to the status of the current lease they have with the County and if they plan on continuing the lease. Director Felty advised they plan to build on the same site as the present facility. Commissioner Norem inquired if the County was to take that as an official notification that IU Health plan's to continue the lease in its present form for another ten years. Director Felty advised the County will be receiving official notice within the next thirty to sixty days notifying them of IU Health's intentions, which will serve as their six month notice of their plans moving forward. Councilman Baker inquired as to the transfer practice of transferring patients to their LaPorte Facility for treatment. Director Felty stated they only transfer patients out of Starke when physician services are not available at Starke.

APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER REQUESTS

Auditor Chaffins presented to the Board a request for appropriations of the County Auditor's Ineligible Deduction Fund, # 1216, in the amount of \$ 396.00 to purchase four new office desk chairs for the employees in the Auditor's Department. She advised she also attached a picture of the ergonomic chair from the sales flyer, and also a copy of the information on Fund 1216 as to what the Fund can be used for per IC 6-1.1.1-36-17 and the requirement of County Council appropriation. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriation request, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins presented to the Board a transfer request, transferring \$ 1,000.00 from budget line item, 1000.20100.000.0002, office supplies, into budget line item 1000.30100.000.0002, postage. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Hazelton. The motion passed with all ayes.

Veterans Service Officer Mark Gourley appeared before the Board to request appropriation of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund # 1110 in the amount of \$ 331.80 to cover the hotel expense while attending a Service Officers' School in Indianapolis and \$ 199.20 for mileage to and from Indianapolis to attend the training. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriations request, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes.

OTHER COUNTY AUDITOR BUSINESS

County Auditor Chaffins advised she had distributed out an assortment of reports to the Board for their review. She advised the first report was for their information only, noting it was a report of the History of the County's Net Assessed Value for the years 2007 through 2015. She stated it appears the County's assessed value was stagnant and is not consistent with the growth rate as is reported annually from the State as being the average State growth rate. She noted the NAV for the year 2015 pay 2016 has actually decreased by .86%. She also pointed out to the Board that the recent report from the State stating Starke County was showing a growth rate of 2.5% was actually referring to the increase in the amount of income tax of the County and not in regard to property taxes and has no effect on the tax levy.

Auditor Chaffins stated at the conclusion of the Council's Budget workshop she was asked by the Board to prepare a financial spreadsheet showing the cost of a 1%, 2% and a 3% pay increase and the corresponding affect it would have on FICA & PERF. She noted she was also asked to prepare a spreadsheet showing a range of pay per position by Department, a 20% range of pay. There was a considerable amount of discussion in regard to the implementation of such a salary range. It was noted the 2016 budget figures were based on the maximum amounts of the range, and if a department were hiring a new employee and could start their pay at the lower end of the range that department would be showing a savings in their 2016 budget. Commissioner Norem advised they would like to see a more fair and equitable distribution of pay. It was also discussed as to the Department Head needing to establish the criteria for a new hire's pay to increase during their first year of employment and the need for that criteria to be incorporated into the listing of the ranges on the 2016 Salary Ordinance. Commissioner Norem stated some of the criteria for a pay increase, in addition to their performance evaluations would be such items as training and education. There was also a discussion in regard to the establishment of a pay range not pertaining to the Elected Officials. Attorney Lucas noted the Council could not change the pay of an Elected Official throughout the year, and didn't believe the Council could lower the beginning pay of a newly elected official. Auditor Chaffins advised she will check with the SBOA in regard to the questions and concerns the Council had. Councilman Pearman stated he felt the Council had erred during their budget workshop and should have looked more closely at the base pay of the County Auditor and suggested the base pay be increased to \$ 42,500 to be in range with some of the other increases given during the workshop. Councilman Pearman made a motion to proceed with the establishment of salary ranges in the 2016 Salary Ordinance with each Department establishing the necessary criteria, and to increase the base pay of the Auditor's position to \$42,500. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins advised the last item she had to address was the recent change in the State's mileage rate, noting the State had recently reduced their mileage rate from 44 cents to 40 cents. The Auditor noted the County Council would need to make it official if they would want to see the County rate decrease to 40 cents also. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to decrease the County's mileage rate to 40 cents. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Superintendent Ritzler appeared before the Board and advised it was brought to his attention following the Council Budget Workshop that he had presented the incorrect amount in his budget for the pay of the Highway Department Clerk. He noted his original amount was based on an incorrect hourly rate and not on the rate she was currently earning. He advised the correct amount that should be in his 2016 budget for that position is \$ 32,926 and not as it was previously stated, \$ 31,177. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the amended budget figure of \$ 32,926, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY'S REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC)

Commissioner Norem advised the Council has two appointments to the County's Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and noted the Auditor has received two letters from interested individuals, Lee Nagai, and William Sonnemaker. She noted she had received a telephone call from former Councilman Marvin McLaughlin expressing his interest in serving on the Commission also. Commissioner Norem stated no political affiliation is required; it is for a one year term, and the Council could also appoint one of their board members to serve on the RDC. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Hazelton expressed his interest in serving on the Board. Councilman Pearman made a motion to appoint Councilman Hazelton to serve on the County's RDC Commission. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Stalbaum then made a motion to appoint Marvin McLaughlin to serve on the RDC Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem noted the RDC Commission is different than the EDC Commission and appointments to the EDC are to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners but they are willing to accept nominations from the Council. She noted the EDC is a three member board.

Auditor Chaffins asked the Board to clarify as to the minutes that they had approved earlier in the meeting as there were two different sets of minutes: the July 20th meeting, and the August 3rd budget workshop. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Councilman Hazelton. The motion passed with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

AUGUST 17, 2015

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Jennifer Davis

ABSENT
Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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