

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 5:30 PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton, Kay Gudeman, Howard Bailey, Don Binkley (Via Zoom), Todd Leinbach present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30 PM for the Starke County Council Regular Session.

President Pearman advised that there will be an addition to the agenda tonight. EMS will be present to discuss further efforts in pay raises.

**AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting with a slight correction. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**2022 BUDGET ADOPTION**

Commissioner Hazelton made a motion to approve the following:

Starke County 2022 Budget

County General

0001 Clerk	\$207,295.00
0002 Auditor	\$195,287.00
0003 Treasurer	\$104,794.00
0004 Recorder	\$82,264.00
0005 Sheriff	\$878,402.00
0006 Surveyor	\$84,567.00
0007 Coroner	\$53,416.00
0008 Prosecutor	\$103,667.00
0017 Annex II	\$12,763.00
0018 EMA	\$41,749.00
0019 Election	\$124,548.00
0020 EMS	\$1,387,927.00
0021 Purdue Extension	\$121,908.00
0022 Planning Commission	\$124,057.00
0023 Drainage Board	\$11,100.00
0024 Veterans Service	\$17,028.00
0025 Commissioners	\$2,424,899.00
0026 Annex Maintenance	\$83,024.00
0027 Jail	\$78,562.00
0028 Courthouse Maintenance	\$86,333.00
0029 Circuit Court	\$523,960.00
0030 BZA	\$20,959.00
0031 Soil & Water	\$35,959.00
0032 IV-D Prosecutor	\$175,745.00
0033 Council	\$40,140.00
0035 IT	\$302,571.00

Total County General \$7,322,924.00

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Hazelton made a motion to approve the following:

1112 CEDIT \$1,040,326.00  
1114 Jail CEDIT \$2,603,999.00  
1135 Cum Bridge \$230,408.00  
1138 Cum Cap \$250,000.00  
1140 Enhanced Access Fund \$15,000.00  
1156 Firearms Training \$30,000.00  
1159 Health \$169,298.00  
1168 Local Health Maintenance \$33,139.00  
1169 LRS \$398,000.00  
1175 County Corrections \$16,000.00  
1176 Highway \$2,984,936.00  
1188 Assessor \$403,692.00  
1217 Elected Official Training Fund \$5,000.00  
1222 911 Fund \$494,135.00  
2100 Supplemental Adult \$104,051.00  
2105 Supplemental Juvenile \$12,994.00  
4006 Drug Buy Money \$5,000.00  
4101 EMS Donations \$40,000.00  
4110 Farm Fund \$15,000.00  
4902 Auditor Transfer Fee \$11,750.00  
4907 PTD fund \$87,500.00  
4919 TC Program \$411,900.00  
4925 SCCC Project Income \$184,232.00  
4997 State Pay Public Defender \$62,200.00  
8500 DOC Probation Grant \$79,388.00  
9117 Victims's Assistance \$36,299.00  
9133 LHMF Tobacco Settlement \$17,496.00  
9141 SCCC Grant \$430,069.00  
9157 JDAI Coordinator \$17,911.00  
9700 WIC \$136,688.00  
9705 WIC Breastfeeding \$7,302.00  
Total \$17,656,637.00

Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

#### North Judson-San Pierre Schools 2022 Budget

Dalton Tunis with the North Judson-San Pierre Schools presented a budget summary to the Starke County Council as the amount on the printed Form 4 as presented the the Auditor were incorrect. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following for North Judson-San Pierre Schools:

Rainy Day \$468,814  
Debt Service \$1,348,161  
School Pension Debt \$65,376  
Education \$6,964,693  
Operations \$397,500  
Total \$12,822,044

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

#### Koontz Lake Conservancy 2022 Budget

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve a total budget of \$440,222 for Koontz Lake Conservancy. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

#### Starke County Airport 2022 Budget

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve a total budget of \$947,964 for the Starke County Airport. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## Starke County Solid Waste 2022 Budget

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the total budget of \$289,221 for the Starke County Solid Waste. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **PROSECUTOR-TRANSFER REQUEST/INVESTIGATOR**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation to 1000.10701.000.0032 \$7,434.74, 1000.30100.000.0032 \$500.00, 1000.30100.000.0008 \$500.00, 1000.20100.000.0008 \$6000.00, and 1000.30411.000.0008 \$4238.01. A Reduction will be made to 1000.10102.000.0008 \$10,672.75 and 1000.10105.000.0008 \$8,000.00.

Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Prosecutor Baker advised that Healthlink, through their mobile response grant, has money available to go toward opioid response. Healthlink has agreed to provide funding for an Investigator position for her office. They will be funding this position in full including benefits and they are also willing to supplement the Victims Advocate Position in the amount of \$1660 per month give or take some dollars and cents. The goal of the investigators position is to have the primary focus of this position to respond to overdose situations and treat those situations like a crime scene. One of the things that their overdose team has identified as a common theme is that the overdose victims do not have a high school diploma. Prosecutor Baker stated that with her current victims advocate, what would justify the pay raise, would be working on a truancy program and being able to do some after school programing and working with the school. The target for the truancy program would be middle schoolers and early high school age. She advised this grant funding is something that may not exist next year but Healthlink does not believe that because of direction of the opioid crisis as a country. She advised that the job descriptions for the investigator states it is based upon the funding being there and the increase to the victims advocate position would be based upon the funding.

Prosecutor Baker advised the total amount of money they will receive per month would be \$7367.67 per month. Councilman Pearman asked if this \$1660 would be going to someone who is already working a 40 hour week. Prosecutor Baker advised yes she works 35 hours per week. Councilman Pearman stated this would be basically a bonus for something they are already doing. Prosecutor Baker stated she would have new tasks to complete and added responsibilities. Councilman Pearman asked why she would not take the extra \$1660 and cover part of the existing salary for that employee. Prosecutor Baker stated the added things they would be doing are not a part of their current job description. She also advised that this particular position is already funded 80% through a grant. Councilman Pearman asked if this would affect the grant. Prosecutor Baker advised no it would not. Councilman Bailey asked if the expectations would be increased. Prosecutor Baker advised that they would and it would change how we look at the victims advocate program. Councilman Hazelton advised he did some research on this and it states that in IC 33-39-4-1 "In each judicial circuit the salary or other compensation to be paid to the investigator appointed under this section, shall be set by the county council or councils. County council or councils may not reduce the number of investigators or compensation of any investigator without approval of the prosecuting attorney". Councilman Hazelton stated that in two years if Prosecutor Baker is not the current Prosecutor and we lose the grant funding we are stuck with the investigator position.

Councilman Pearman asked Prosecutor Baker if she knew about the IC Code and she stated she did. Councilman Bailey stated if they did not agree to the cut if the grant was not available they could cut the budget in other areas. Attorney Lucas advised they may be able to make a contract that expires at the end of the term but he is not sure offhand if this would be enough to suffice. Councilman Hazelton asked how much was the amounts for the Investigator per year. Prosecutor Baker stated Healthlink would supply \$5700 per month for salary and benefits and it would be commissary to that of the salary of a police officer at the Sheriff's Department. After further discussion Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table the Prosecutor's Request until further investigation is done by Attorney Lucas regarding the IC Code. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **CEDIT - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the additional appropriation to CEDIT Fund 1112 in the amount of \$25,000. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**COUNCIL-ZOOM ORDINANCE**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the resolution of the electronic meetings policy of the Starke County Council. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Attorney Lucas will be researching the the topic of whether or not members who are on zoom are unable to participate in the entire meeting with budget items are discussed rather than just that particular topic.

**EMS-PAY RAISES**

Councilman Pearman stated he has to credit Councilman Hazelton in the research he has done regarding the EMS department and their costs in runs and bases. The cost per base for paramedics is \$450,000 and the cost per base for EMT’s is \$400,000. It ends up being about \$1.3 Million to run 3 bases. Councilman Pearman advised that in doing research they found that EMT pay is more around \$14 per hour and higher. Pearman also advised that the council will need to start having discussions about possibly implementing a public safety tax for future years to be used for EMS funding. A way to fix this short term is to close the gap with CEDIT for now. After further discussion regarding how to structure the 3 different phases being purposed Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve a part time and full time EMS wage policy as follows:

EMT:	Paramedic:
Phase 1- \$12.76 per hour	Phase 1- \$17.43 per hour
Phase 2- \$13.52 per hour	Phase 2 - \$18.20 per hour
Phase 3- \$14.28 per hour	Phase 3- \$19.00 per hour

Also, after completion of phase one an employee will be given a 60-day evaluation to deem if they have progressed as an employee to move to phase two. Employees at phase two will have an internal review after 60 days of receiving phase two pay to deem if they have progressed as an employee to move to phase three. Employees at phase three will then have an internal review every calendar year from that point forward. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion. Councilman Pearman asked Director Clary to type up a policy reflecting this motion. The motion was approved with all ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 PM. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2021  
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Pearman, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Gudeman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Absent  
Don White

\_\_\_\_\_  
Howard Bailey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Binkley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Leinbach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Dingman, Deputy Auditor