

## **OCTOBER 15, 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 at 5:43PM. Absent from the meeting were Councilmen Mark Smith, Mitch Semans, and Councilwoman Benninghoff.

### **RE: CVC BOARD**

Jim Shilling, of the Starke County Historical Society, gave a brief DVD presentation of the history of Starke County and the role of the promoting of tourism for Starke County. Knox City Mayor, Rick Chambers, appeared before the Board to discuss the innkeepers' tax, and the present status of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He advised he is presently the President of the CVC Board. He noted that the monies received from the State for the innkeepers tax that was collected, have been held in the County Auditor's Office. He advised he would like to see this continue, and any bills needing to be paid could be submitted to the Auditor's Office and paid through the normal county claims process. Auditor Chaffins advised the present balance of the Innkeeper's Tax Fund is \$5,303.76. Mayor Chambers also requested the Board consider passing an ordinance allowing the County to collect the tax instead of the State. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, noted that issue is defined in IC 6-9-29-3. Debbie Mix, of the Starke County Tourism Board, stated she believed the revenue would increase if the County collected the tax instead of the State. She also noted she is holding a bill that needs to be paid, and was advised to submit it to the Auditor's Office, and it will be processed through the vendor claims process.

### **RE: MINUTES**

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

### **RE: NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE 2013 BUDGET**

Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to adopt the 2013 budget of the NJSP School System, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes, and the budget ordinance, Form 4, was signed.

### **RE: 2013 LEVY FREEZE**

President Pearman advised he had received a notice from the State of Indiana in regard to the Council deciding which of three options in regard to the 2013 funding for counties adopting LOIT levy freeze rates. He noted Option 1 is to adopt the Department certified income tax rate and keep the levy frozen; Option 2 is to keep the income tax rate the same and keep the levy frozen; and Option 3 is to keep the income tax rate the same and allow the levy growth to come from property taxes. The levy growth factor on operating funds would be 2.8%, which is the percentage of growth, set by the State. President Pearman advised the State is requesting all councils indicate in writing which of the three options the council selects and notify the DLGF prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised the Council could approve a resolution at tonight's meeting, and then sign the resolution at the next meeting. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve Option 3 for the 2013 budget, which will keep the income tax rate the same and allow the levy growth (at 2.8%), to come from property tax. Councilman Sims seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

### **RE: TRANSFER REQUESTS**

Chris Smith, Starke County Police Department's Office Manager, appeared before the Board to request a transfer of budget appropriations: in Fund 0101, Department 027, \$20,000.00 from account number 11500, Jail Health Professionals, to account number 30804, prisoner meals. She advised there is a need to increase the 2012 budget amount for prisoners' meals due to the rising cost of food; and there is a surplus in the jail nursing account due to implementing stop loss controls on inmate medical insurance, and also establishing a catastrophic insurance coverage. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

Ms. Smith then presented a request to transfer a total of \$6,292.11 from the 0101 Sheriff Department, 005, account number 30500—telephone, and increase the 2012 budget appropriations in the account garage and motor—20600 in the amount of \$1,000.00 and \$5,292.11 into gas and oil—21100. Councilman McLaughlin inquired why they haven't been utilizing the County Corrections Fund, which they had approved for the Sheriff's Department use at a previous meeting. Ms. Smith advised she will look into that. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

In regard to the transfer request submitted by the County Coroner, since the Coroner, Kris Rannells was not present Councilman Sims made a motion to table the request until the next meeting. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the transfer request submitted by the County Highway Department, since no one from the Highway Department was in attendance, Councilman Sims made a motion to table this request also, until the next meeting. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

President Pearman advised if a department is going to request a change to their budget appropriations, someone from that department should be present to answer any questions in regard to their request.

County Clerk, Evelyn Skronski, appeared before the Board with her request to transfer \$ 4,667.50 of appropriations from 0101, Department 025, County Commissioners, account 10804—health insurance, to 0101 Department 019, Election Board, account 10604—precinct board. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

County Building Commissioner, Bruce Williams appeared before the Board to request \$750.00 be transferred to his 2012 Planning Commission budget, account number 20400, fuel. President Pearman advised the transfer request shows a transfer

from the 0101, 2012 Auditor's budget, account number, 30100, postage. Auditor Chaffins advised she has not needed any of the \$1,000.00 budget appropriation for postage, since they still have postage that was previously purchased by the past Auditor. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Both President Pearman and Mr. Williams thanked the Auditor for the transfer from her budget. Auditor Chaffins and Commissioner Kathy Norem gave a brief presentation in regard to the system of pay that has been established in Owen County, noting that the pay would be based on such items as training, education, longevity, etc. Commissioner Norem requested a committee would be formed to look into this equal system of pay, and she volunteered to chair the committee. She noted she would like to see this system go into effect for the 2014 budget. She suggested besides herself she would like to see the committee be consisted of the Auditor, two member of the Council, a representative from the Sheriff's Department, the Highway Department, the Health Department, and a couple of clerks/deputies. Councilmen McLaughlin and Pearman volunteered to be on the committee. President Pearman inquired if there were any comments from the public. There being none, and there being no further business, Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47PM.

**October 15, 2012**

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Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Semans, Vice President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Benninghoff

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Marvin McLaughlin

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Radkiewicz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

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Katherine Chaffins,  
Starke Co. Auditor & Council Secretary