

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a joint session with the Starke County Board of Commissioners at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Howard Bailey, Robert Sims, Charles Chesak, Kathryn Norem, and Bryan Cavender present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, September 16, 2019 Starke County Council Meeting. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the September 30, 2019 Budget Adoption minutes. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

LOCAL DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES FUND

Wendy Elam from the local Drug Free Communities came before the Starke County Council and Starke County Board of Commissioners to request a release of funds to be able to cover their annual grants. She stated they are requesting the amount of \$12,629.35. President Pearman explained to newer members of the council that this is something they have done annually in order to fund the Local Drug Free Communities. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the amount of \$12,629.35. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion. The motion was then opened for discussion. Councilman Sims asked what department has money to fund this request. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Local Drug Free Communities has their own fund that is supported by fines and grants, she advised she did check the fund balance and they do have enough in their fund balance to support this payout request. Wendy Elam advised that the Sheriff's Department nor any of the local police departments put any money into this fund this year. She explains the money comes from fines. She stated they then apply for grants. She stated the Sheriff's Department usually applies for grants for this fund as well but this year they have not. She advised they did keep calling them but had no response. She advised the Sheriff's Department had applied for grants for this program every year up until this year. President Pearman asked if they do not grant the money does it just stay and encumber. Wendy explained that it would but they do use every penny in that calendar year. After further discussion regarding funding involving the K-9 units and fundraisers. The motion then passed with all ayes.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT

Ron Gifford from the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to present their monthly report. He advised he went by the Norton Packaging building this morning and the addition seems to be coming along. He stated they should be in within a couple more months. He advised they have submitted the final application for Stellar Communities and the executive team will be working on a presentation they will need to make to the group that makes the decision sometime in November. A decision will then be made on December 5, 2019. He advised they had a good manufacturer's day, there were many students there as well as about 10-12 manufactures. November 12th is reality store, this is for 8th graders. This is when student learn about money needed for buying a house, car, furniture, and food. President Pearman advised he had been looking into the Sysco property as far as how much of it is wet, tillable, and etc. He stated after speaking with SCEDF it would be better if they had waited for a little bit before pursuing this property any further. They would like to see if REMC is going to get involved in any way and also wondered if the solar farms could be placed on that property as well. President Pearman advised Director Wickert would be checking into the solar farms.

SERVER AND BROADBAND UPGRADES

IT Director Richard Franks came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to discuss server and broadband upgrades. He explained he has presented them with three quotes. The first is for licenses through Microsoft, this particular quote will not be changing throughout any of this process and is in regards to server licenses. The next two quotes are for infrastructure, he explained we currently have a Dell infrastructure, this infrastructure has proven to be very reliable. Director Franks explained that to be able to add the extra storage we need we would have to add an additional appliance.

Along with this we would want to upgrade the switches for the servers and an additional host to host our servers on it. The quote for the upgrade itself came out to being \$68,179.23. He further explained the third quote is for an infrastructure replacement, in which everything is replaced with new equipment, this quote is a total of \$121,625.16. His concern with completely replacing everything with new equipment and in going to a new vendor such as Lenovo or HP, he is not sure what it would cost for the data migration process from moving from one SAN to another SAN. He believes we have a good infrastructure and would not need to completely replace everything just upgrade our storage space. President Pearman stated this seems like this requires a lot of funding and would like to know the downside to not doing this. Director Franks stated the servers we have including the exchange server and mainstream support may become obsolete according to Microsoft in January of 2020. President Pearman asked if the Board of Commissioners have discussed how they are going to pay for this. Commissioner Norem stated they have not as this is the first time they have seen the quote for the upgrades to the infrastructure.

Commissioner Norem advised that the board did not realize it was going to be this much money for the upgrades and she believes it may be a good idea to employ the services of a consultant to evaluate our current infrastructure. President Pearman asked Director Franks what the downside is to mismatching the infrastructure if we did not move forward with Dell. Director Franks stated it is how it is all plays together, that is why it is called an infrastructure. Councilman Hazelton asked if Director Franks was in favor of the full replacement. He stated he was not as he knows what hardware we have now and how we are using it. Councilman Bailey asked how long Director Franks believed the upgrade would last. Director Franks stated that when the infrastructure was implemented they did not add upgradable storage. The network storage that we have now is not upgradable and not expandable. You would either have to buy a separate unit that is the same as we have now or you would have to upgrade to a unit that is expandable. He explained the unit we are currently using is not expandable and the unit that is presented in the quote is expandable. President Pearman agrees with Commissioner Norem in contracting with an IT consultant for this project. After further discussion regarding the current infrastructure and the quotes presented, Councilman Baker made a motion to table this discussion, hire a consultant as needed to assess our current infrastructure, and to get 2 more quotes on upgrading/replacing the current infrastructure. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Director Franks also advised that he has been speaking with our Mediacom vendor due to seeing promotions for upgrading broadband. He would like to get the county to another 100 Mbps, this would cost an additional \$100 per month. President Pearman asked what the total speed would be for the county with the upgrade. Director Franks stated we would be at 200 Mbps. He advised on a weekly basis the county uses about 75 Mbps. President Pearman stated we still have 25% room to be used. Director Franks advised he wants to be able to upgrade to the faster speeds as more departments are utilizing online communications. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see this issue as a part of the consultant's report in what we would actually need in broadband. After further discussion it was decided not to upgrade the broadband unless we are getting closer to what we are using now and/or the recommendations presented by the consultant.

OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Oesterreich presented the council with the negative funds that need to be reconciled upon the recommendations by the State Board of Accounts during their audit this year. Those funds include:

| <u>Fund Number</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Negative Carry Since</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 9111 2009 Polling Place Grant | \$89.07 | Before 2012 |
| 9113 Victims Assistance #2 | \$931.83 | 2014 |
| 9116 Juvenile Account Blk. Grant | \$25.76 | Before 2012 |
| 9131 Rural Demonstration Project | \$596.48 | Before 2012 |
| 9135 Victim's Assistant Grant | \$3.98 | Before 2012 |
| 9155 Effective Public Policy Grant | \$10,000 | 2014 |
| | Total | \$11,647.12 |

After some discussion regarding the different grants that are listed and the repayment terms concerning grant funds, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to transfer a total of \$11,647.12 from the Rainey Day Fund to Fund 9111,9113,9116,9131,9135, and 9155 to reconcile with the negative balances in those accounts. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

President Pearman asked his fellow council members if they could meet at 4:00PM for their November 18, 2019. The Council and Board of Commissioners agreed to the time change for the November meeting.

Auditor Oesterreich presented a transfer request for Jim Coad Director of Maintenance for the purchase of a plow blade. Auditor Oesterreich advised the Board of Commissioners had approved to purchase a piece of equipment for the maintenance department that they will be using for the maintenance of the sidewalks and parking lot for the Courthouse, Annex 1, Annex 2, and possibly the Knox EMS base. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,834.40 from 100.10218.000.0028 Part Time Worker to 1000.40102.000.0028 Equipment. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised that the council does not currently have any mechanism established in reviewing the abatements that are given to companies. One that comes to mind off the top of her head is Gary Poppins. She advised that a mechanism of review need to be in place. Councilman Hazelton advised that Director Wickert would be willing to do the follow up if the council granted him permission to do so. After further discussion regarding the abatements that are given to companies, it has been decided to have Assessor Schouten and Director Wickert attend the next joint session of Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to review the abatement process.

Councilman Hazelton inquired about the piece of equipment that was purchased for maintenance and if other departments will be able to use it. Commissioner Norem stated Jim is in charge of it so they would have to get Jim's permission. Councilman Hazelton stated the department of the surveyor has been trying to get a 4-wheeler for years and has never been able to get anything. He stated there are times where the surveyor would have to walk a few miles to get back to a ditch area that he has to investigate. Commissioner Norem advised that the surveyor receives additional compensation for walking the ditches above his salary amount according to Indiana Code. Councilman Hazelton then stated why he wouldn't get to use it just because he gets paid more. Commissioner Norem advised the extra pay is for walking the ditches. President Pearman asked if the extra pay would be enough to purchase a piece of equipment. Auditor Oesterreich advised the reason a piece of equipment had to be purchased is because the Starke County Highway Department can no longer plow the parking lots of the Annex 1, Annex 2, and the Knox EMS base. She explained that highway funds which are excises funds are required to be spent on roadways and right-of-ways pf roadways only. The new MVH-MVH Restricted reporting requirements that began at the beginning of the year are much stricter. Attorney Lucas advised that the MVH funds are gas tax money and gas tax money do not support work being done off roadways and right-a-ways. Councilman Sims stated if the surveyor is getting paid to walk the ditches then he needs to walk the ditches. President Pearman agreed. Commissioner Norem stated if the surveyor would want a piece of equipment they could look into putting that pay toward that piece of equipment rather than paid to him directly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

After having no public comments made Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn at 6:23PM. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**OCTOBER 21, 2019
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and
Secretary to the County Council

OCTOBER 21, 2019
STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charlie Chesak, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners