

## **NOVEMBER 16, 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 Freddie Baker, Bryan Cavender, Pam Stalbaum, Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton, Robert Sims and Jennifer Davis present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Councilman President Freddie Baker.

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19th meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cavender and passed with all ayes.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE 2015-1116**

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board in regard to the Public Hearing and request for approval of his presented Additional Appropriation request. Councilman Dave Pearman made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the public hearing was opened at 5:35PM. The Superintendent advised all the necessary steps were followed per the DLGF, and noted the request was based on the amount of extra revenue earned by his department throughout 2015. With there being no comments from the public in attendance, Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the public hearing was closed at 5:37PM. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the request for the additional appropriation in the total amount of \$31,758.00. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The resolution was signed by the Board. Auditor Chaffins noted it will now be sent on to the DLGF for their review/approval.

### **2016 SALARY ORDINANCE**

Councilman Pearman advised they had received four issues from Auditor Chaffins that need to be clarified prior to adopting the 2016 Salary Ordinance and they are: longevity—based on continual employment or cumulative employment; probation officers eligible for longevity; establishment of a pay range for the hiring of new Deputy/Clerks; and the establishment of a pay range for part time employees. In regard to the issue of eligibility of the longevity benefit Judge Kim Hall asked if he could address the Board. He asked the Board to consider, instead of the benefit being based on continual employment he inquired if longevity could be calculated on the number of cumulative years of employment. He advised he has two employees who worked for the Court previously for several years but had to leave employment and now have returned to the Court's employment. He would like to be able to compensate them for their previous work history because as it is now they don't currently have their five years of employment to qualify for the longevity benefit. After a lengthy discussion, the Council decided the longevity will remain based on continual, un-interrupted employment with the County. In regard to the County's Probation Officers being eligible for the longevity benefit the Council decided since their positions are set by the State and they would therefore be in the same class as elected officials who are not eligible for longevity. In regard to the creation of a pay range for new employees, in positions such as the Deputy of a Department, the Council approved the 20% decrease in the beginning pay of a new employee but noted the pay range does not apply for any elected position. In regard to the creation of a pay schedule for part time employees there was a lengthy discussion of that issue also. It was noted this issue would only be referring to clerical part time employees since other department's part time employees such as the Jail or EMS are on a different pay level. The part time issue was discussed due to the part time jail receptionist's 2016 pay will be \$11.91 hour, but other part time clerical employees will only be earning \$9.93 hour. Also discussed was there being a difference between a regular departmental part time employee versus a part time employee called in to work a day or two in a department when they are short on help due to illness or vacation time. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table the salary ordinance and those listed issues until the next meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion. The motion failed due to five nays. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the 2016 Salary Ordinance, 2015-1116C, and also approve the decisions made on longevity and establishment of a pay range for new employees, but to table the part time issue. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Board signed the 2016 Salary Ordinance. The Board asked Auditor Chaffins to prepare the calculation of the impact of the possible pay raise to the existing regular part time clerical employees.

### **EXTENSION OFFICE TRANSFER REQUEST**

Julia Miller Extension Director appeared before the Board. She introduced herself and advised her employment in that position began on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She presented a transfer request moving budget appropriations of \$700.00 into budget line item, repair and maintenance, 1000.20202.000.0021 from budget line item, travel, 1000.30204.000.0021. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Hazelton. The motion passed with all ayes.

### **PRESENTATION BY DLZ & SKILLMAN COMPANIES IN REGARD TO RENOVATIONS AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND OLD COUNTY JAIL BUILDING**

Scott Carnegie of DLZ gave a presentation on the proposed renovations to the County Courthouse and to the old jail building. (A copy of the presentation is on file in the Auditor's Office.) Dion Katsourous presented the estimated cost of the total projects, including the installation of an auger at the new jail. The total costs amounted to 4.5 million, with the cost of the auger alone amounting to \$500,000.00. Commissioner Norem stated since she

knows there are other requests for the use of the CEDIT funding (requests from the SCEDF of future projects, the request to purchase a new ambulance, the 2016 purchase of squad cars and any other capital project) she suggested they have a combine work session/meeting of both boards to prioritize the projects and proposed expenditures. Councilman Pearman inquired if during the renovations to the Courthouse security measures would be put in place. Commissioner Norem noted they have already had the discussion with the Judge and they have discussed the possibility of make the main entrance to the Courthouse on the west side and you would enter through a metal detector. She advised former Sheriff Oscar Cowen had already purchased such a detector that could be utilized.

**EMS DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO PURCHASE AN AMBULANCE; BUDGET TRANSFERS**

EMS Director Keith Emigh and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to discuss the price quotes Director Emigh had received in regard to the purchase of a new rig for their department. He advised he is proposing replacing their 2009 Ambulance with a 6.0 diesel engine, for a 2016 rig with a gas engine. President Baker inquired if the old box would fit on the new chassis. Director Emigh advised the box had already been transferred in 2005 from a wrecked rig, and in order to re-use the same box it would need to be refurbished. Commissioner Norem asked for his request to be placed on the list of items for the boards’ combined meeting when they will be discussing the future projects and their possible funding. She noted they will also need to purchase new squad cars in 2016. Councilman Hazelton inquired about purchasing a medium ambulance. Director Emigh stated that is an option however he stated he didn’t believe the bases are wide enough to house that style rig.

In regard to the EMS transfer request: Proposed was a reduction of budget line, part time staff, 1000-10704.000.0020 in the amount of \$20,000.00 and \$3,000.00 added to budget line item, building maintenance, 1000-20205.000.0020; \$3,000.00 added to budget line item, sanitation supplies, 1000-20601.000.0020; \$5,000.00 added to budget line item, ambulance supplies, 1000-20700.000.0020 and \$9,000.00 added to ambulance equipment, 1000-20800.000.0020. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

**IU HEALTH-STARKE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CAPITAL ASSET REPORT**

Craig Felty, CEO of IU Health-Starke appeared before the Council to discuss the status of the Capital Asset Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015. He advised from July 1 through September 30 the hospital purchased a mobile CT, \$34,500.00, a glidescope, \$13,795.99, paved the parking lot, \$22,910.00, and made Medical Office Building improvements, \$298,723.00 for a quarterly total of \$369,928.00. He advised as of September 30, 2015 the net capital assets total \$5,568,235.00 (net after depreciation).

President Baker inquired as to the status of the lease agreement renewal negotiation. CEO Felty advised they should know something definite in the next couple of weeks.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Kathy Norem introduced Christopher Lee to the Board. He is a representative of Congresswoman Jackie Walorski’s office who has office hours in the Commissioners’ Office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, from 2-4 Central Time. Mr. Lee advised he is a native of North Judson and takes an interest in Starke County and is happy to help out the residents of the County.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.

**NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

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Freddie Baker, President

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Dave Pearman

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Bryan Cavender

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Pam Stalbaum

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Jennifer Davis

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Robert Sims

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Brad Hazelton

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