

December 15, 2014

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Marvin McLaughlin, Bryan Cavender, Robert Sims and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Pearman. Councilman Mitch Semans was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17th regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes.

DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER REQUESTS

EMS Director Keith Emigh appeared before the Board to request the following transfer into the County General EMS Department 020 Budget: transfer \$10,000.00 into 30650, ALS Equipment, to be taken out of County General, Auditor's Budget line item 10200, Deputy Auditor. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

The second transfer request was to pay for the repairs to the Simplex Fire Alarm System in the Annex Building as was discussed and approved for payment at the last Commissioner Meeting. The Commissioners had suggested a portion of the total expense of \$2,780.00 be paid out of the unexpended portion of the Annex Building Maintenance, Department 028 of the County General Budget, and the remainder to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Auditor Chaffins suggested to instead utilizing the balance of the CAGIT Certified Shares appropriation the Council had approved earlier in the year, the \$10,000.00 appropriation of Fund 1110 which was to cover the expense of the public records shredding. As the shredding expense was only \$2,222.76, the unexpended portion of that budget line item was \$7,777.24. Council Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2,780.00 from the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund budget line item 30850, shredding, and place into budget line item 31004, equipment repairs to pay for those Simplex repairs. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

President Pearman advised of a couple of changes to the posted agenda: Craig Felte of IU Health-Starke will appear at the December 29th meeting of the Council to address questions and concerns in his 3rd Quarter Capital Assets Management Report. Also, Elaine Beaty of Morgan Stanley will be presenting information to the Board on the DROP Retirement Program. President Pearman advised Auditor Chaffins and himself have been in contact with Morgan Stanley in regard to the County's yearly contribution to the Sheriff's Department Retirement Fund and was happy to report the County has met their annual funding obligation for 2014.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT: DROP PROGRAM

Elaine Beaty of Morgan Stanley appeared before the Board to discuss the DROP Program. She explained DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) would be an addition to the existing Sheriff's Department Retirement Fund. She stated in order for an Officer to be eligible for this program the Officer would need to be either at least 55 years of age, or have worked 32 years on the Department. She advised in order for the Officer to participate in the Program the Officer would be required to select his retirement date which would be within three years of entering the DROP Program. Ms. Beaty stated the Officer's Retirement Amount would then be set and instead of the Officer retiring he would continue his employment on the Department but would not be continuing their 3% payroll deduction into his retirement. She noted, their monthly retirement amount would be placed into a trust for the period of up to the three years until his retirement date. At the time of his actual retirement the Officer would then receive the three years accumulation of his monthly pension pay, which if the Officer had been paid an average of \$41,000.00 yearly, their monthly pension benefit calculated at the time they enter the DROP Program would be \$2,070.00 and their DROP accumulation (36 monthly payments of \$2,070.00 with 0% interest) would be \$74,520.00. She noted there is no expense to the County for an Officer's participation in this program but there is a one-time fee of \$1,000.00 to cover the cost of the preparation of the Plan Amendment documents. Ed Troike, President of the Sheriff's Merit Board, was present at the meeting and advised that Elaine Beaty had presented this program to the Merit Board at their last meeting. He noted the \$1,000.00 fee would be the Sheriff's fee payable from the Sheriff's budget. He noted the Merit Board only discussed the DROP Program they did not vote on its approval. Ms. Beaty advised in order for the DROP Program to be implemented by the County, all three would need to approve the program: the Sheriff, the Merit Board, and the County Council. Mr. Troike advised the Merit Board's next meeting is scheduled for Mid-January. Ms. Beaty further explained that the decision by an Officer to participate in the DROP Program is an "irrevocable decision", noting an Officer of the eligible age to retire can sign up for the program and work for three more years but they are not committed to participating. She stated the Officer can decide to leave that Program at any time and retire earlier if wanting to. Attorney Marty Lucas inquired as to the percentage of eligible employees who have participated in this program. Ms. Beaty advised it averages to be about 10% participation rate. Ms. Beaty gave Attorney Lucas a copy of the proposed amendment for his review.

REPORT FROM CORONER-ELECT

Adam Gray, the County Coroner-Elect, appeared before the Board to discuss the funding of the storage of bodies since for the first time in several years a Funeral Home Director will no longer be serving as the County Coroner. He advised he is meeting with Bill Clevenger, the Marshall County Coroner, in regard to establishing an agreement with Marshall County to store bodies in Marshall County. He noted any decomposed bodies would either be taken to Akron or picked up by them for a small fee. He stated in that case, if the body has no family then that would be the County's expense. Otherwise, he noted, it is handled by the family through the funeral home. Coroner-Elect Gray noted he has money in his 2015 Proposed Budget for Autopsy Fees and also for Morgue Rental. He noted the autopsy fees budget line increased by \$5,000.00 for 2015 over 2014. He advised the average cost of an autopsy performed in St. Joseph County is between \$3,200-\$3,500.00 but the cost of an autopsy performed in Fort Wayne ranges from \$1,200.00 and \$1,800.00. He also noted he has been doing some research into constructing a new facility for the Coroner's use, but advised the Board, the construction should not be called a "morgue" as there are a lot of State guidelines in regard to a morgue, instead the structure will be "the Coroner's Office with Cold Storage". Coroner Elect Gray also wanted to point out that he is an Officer of the Sheriff's Department and if he were

to receive a Coroner call while on duty he would assign that call to one of his Deputy Coroners. He stated he would not leave his position on the police department to answer a call while he was on police duty. He also noted, in the event there was ever a murder investigation in the County, he would call in either the Marshall County Coroner, or the Jasper County Coroner to work that case. He advised he is meeting with both Counties to establish such a Mutual Aid Agreement. He stated right now he is talking to the existing Deputy Coroners asking them to continue in that role for now until he can get others in place.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman McLaughlin advised he is retiring from the Council at the end of this year and he would like to introduce his replacement, Pam Stalbaum, who was in attendance. She was recently elected into that Office.

Councilman Sims inquired the status of the delinquent tax money that was paid recently by the Stelerema Company. Auditor Chaffins advised it was handled in the same manner as all other property tax payments. It goes through the property tax settlement process and each taxing unit listed on that particular tax rate receives a portion of the tax payment at settlement time. She noted they had just disbursed the fall settlement proceeds. All that tax money stayed with tax units in the County.

Auditor Chaffins had distributed a report of the Fund Balances. Councilman Baker inquired if the Sheriff's Department K-9 was purchased using the DARE Donations Fund. She advised it had not been purchased using those funds. He inquired as to why the Fund Balance of the DARE Donations Fund has decreased from the balance it was a few months back. Auditor Chaffins advised she will look into the situation as it was the Sheriff's Department who had submitted claims for payment from that Fund. She invited Councilman Baker to stop into the Auditor's Office in the morning to review the Fund information. Councilman Baker, who was the County's DARE Officer, stated the Fund was only to be used for expenses of the DARE Program and there was no longer a DARE Program in the County. He noted he would have liked the remaining balance to have been distributed to the three schools in the County.

Attorney Lucas advised he had received a Non-Disclosure Statement from the Indiana Department of Revenue in regard to the County Innkeepers' Tax that required a signature from the County's Fiscal Agent. He had Treasurer Kasey Clark sign the form and he returned it to the State. He is still waiting on the list of the County taxpayers of the CIT tax.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Mix inquired as to the status of the Innkeepers in the County submitting their innkeeper's tax directly to the County instead of to the State. Attorney Lucas advised that was what he was referring to. The CIT is the County's Innkeepers' Tax.

President Pearman reminded the Board of the December 29th meeting which they decided would be held at 4:30PM.

With there being no further business, Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

December 15, 2014

Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT _____
Mitch Semans, Vice President

Bryan Cavender

Marvin McLaughlin

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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