

December 19, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 6:00pm in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Smith.

IN RE: MINUTES

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21st meeting; seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes; and the final minutes of the October 17th meeting were also signed.

IN RE: TRANSFER REQUESTS

A request was made by the Auditor Chaffins to transfer \$825.44 from her budget line item, 002-1000.04, meetings, into line item, 002-4000.01, computer to purchase an updated computer for the Auditor's office. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

A request was made by Sheriff Oscar Cowen to transfer \$5000.00 within the sheriff's budget, from line item, telephone, 005-3000.05, into line item, gas and oil, 005-2000.02. A motion was made by Councilman Semans to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

A request was made by Surveyor, Dennis Estok, to transfer \$200.00 from his budget's line item, 006-2000.04, fuel, lube & tires, into line item, 006-3000.01, postage. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes.

A request was made by EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, to transfer \$5700.00 within the EMS budget, \$2000.00 from line item, 020-3000.04, radio equipment, and \$3700.00 from line item, 020-3000.06, utilities, and transfer into line item, 020-2000.03, ambulance repairs. He advised he was expecting some major repairs to the ambulances, and could not predict what the total expense will be. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes. A request was then made by Director Mathewson to transfer \$130,000.00 from the Commissioner's budget, line item 025-1000.08, health insurance, to the EMS line item, 020-4000.01, ambulance. He advised the Commissioners had approved this transfer and they would be opening bids at the Commissioner's meeting, to be held following the Council meeting, for the purchase of an ambulance. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

A request was made by IT Director, Joe Short, to transfer \$1803.65 within the IT budget, from line item, 035-3000.11 Microvote contracts, into line item, 035-1000.01, IT Director. The Auditor advised the shortage in the budget's line item was due to the time when the past Director and Director Short worked together, and also due to the vacation time due the former Director. Councilwoman Benninghoff inquired as to when Director Smith had hired in—what the anniversary date was. President Smith advised it was unknown. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the motion, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with six ayes, and one nay, Councilwoman Benninghoff. A request was then made by Director Short to transfer \$6016.78 within his budget, from line item, 035-3000.11, Microvote contract, to line item, 035-035-2000.02, maintenance supplies. He advised that amount was to replace the air conditioner unit in the server/equipment room at the jail, which housed the county's computer server. He stated the existing unit is not adequate, and is not working properly. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

A request for an appropriation approval was submitted by the Sheriff, Oscar Cowen to purchase a new squad car out of the Cumulative Capital Fund. He advised the Commissioners had approved the request, to purchase a new squad car, at their last meeting. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: COUNTY POLICE PENSION

Councilman Pearman inquired as to the status of the committee that had been previously formed to look into the issue of the county's police pension. Councilwoman Benninghoff advised they have never met. She stated Councilman Sims, herself, and either Councilman Smith or Pearman were on the committee. Councilman Pearman stated Merit Board member, Ken Arnett, requested to be on the committee also. He also stated he is concerned with the police pension issue. A discussion followed as to how the problem with the police pension had developed. Councilman Pearman stated he would like to see the committee have a meeting, and suggested a Commissioner also be on the committee.

IN RE: NEGATIVE BALANCES

President Smith stated he wasn't pleased with seeing the county attorney line item within the Council's budget has a negative balance. He stated there should never be a negative balance in a budgeted line item; and the pay claims should never have been approved that would allow a line item to become negative. He stated the Council's budget only has \$500.00 that could be transferred into that line item, and therefore would need to finish the year with a negative balance. President Smith stated he no longer wants to see a department head appear before the Council who has a negative balance in one of their line items, and then asks for a transfer to cover that negative amount. He stated the department head needs to ask for the transfer before the claim is submitted for payment, and once again stressed the claims should not be approved if that will leave a negative balance. Councilman Seams made a motion to approve the transfer of \$500.00 from line item, 033-1000.02, meetings, into county attorney line item, 033-3000.04. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

President Smith stressed once more that department heads need to follow their budget, and only submit claims that are within the budgeted amount.

Council McLaughlin stated he had spoken with various department heads in regard to not spending completely their 2011 budgets. President Smith advised 10% of the unexpended budget balance could be transferred into the Rainy Day Fund. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised it actually is 10% of the total county general budget, that could be transferred into the Rainy Day Fund.

President Smith advised the next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012, at 6:00PM, to reorganize the Board, and to make the 2012 county board appointments.

Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

DECEMBER 19, 2011

Mark Smith, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

Dave Pearman

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins, Starke Co. Auditor &
Council Secretary