

DECEMBER 21, 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. President Baker advised before the regular meeting began it was brought to his attention a correction needed to be addressed in the budget cuts of the EMS Department, that an additional \$10,000.00 in budget cuts was needed. Councilman Cavender made a motion to increase the budget cuts of the budget line part time staff in the EMS Department of the County General Fund from \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2015 minutes. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY STATE SENATOR JIM ARNOLD

State Senator Jim Arnold appeared before the Boards to give an update of the possible legislative issues that will be addressed in the 2016 State Legislation Session. He advised the main focus will be on getting more funding to repairing the roadways in the State both on a state and on a local level. He noted there is a good chance the public will be seeing an increase in gas taxes to fund the road repairs. Other issues he expects to see addressed are: major changes to the ISTEP testing in schools; a change in how products containing pseudoephedrine are sold—possibly by prescription only; and a proposed increase in cigarette taxes. He stated the 2016 Legislative Session will be a short session and will end by March 14th. He also congratulated Starke County for being chosen by the State to host the Pilot Program of the Therapeutic Drug Community in the Starke County Jail, noting the great work of Judge Kim Hall, Sheriff Bill Dulin and Commissioner Kathy Norem in getting it accomplished.

STARKE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2015-1221; SETTING THE CONVICTED INMATE REIMBURSEMENT PER DIEM RATE

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting had adopted County Ordinance 2015-1207 creating the policy that certain Starke County Jail inmates or former inmates may be required to reimburse the County for certain costs associated with their incarceration. He noted that ordinance spells out the specifics of determining if an inmate would qualify for the per diem fee. Attorney Lucas stated it was up to the County Council to set the rate of the per diem fee but advised per State Statute the maximum daily per diem is \$30.00. Attorney Lucas read into record the complete proposed Ordinance 2015-1221 setting the per diem at \$30.00 a day. He suggested if the Board approves the motion to suspend the rules on having a second reading of the ordinance they could possibly adopt the ordinance at this time. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to suspend the rules and to pass on the second reading of the proposed ordinance. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adopt County Ordinance 2015-1221 establishing a per diem rate of \$30.00 on qualifying convicted County jail inmates. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

In order to clean up some Departmental budgets prior to the end of the year the following transfer requests were addressed:

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,927.90 from 1000.30609.000.0026 Annex Utilities into 1000.30601.000.0028 Courthouse Utilities. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the transfer of \$65,322.54 from 1000.10804.000.0025 health insurance into the following: \$9,878.93 into 1000.30101.000.0025 tax sale costs; \$7,062.94 1000.31203.000.0025 liability insurance; and \$48,380.67 into 1000.31500.000.0025 legal fees. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the transfer of \$61.22 from 1176.30100.000.0530 postage into 1176.20200.000.0530 official records. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the transfer of \$42,720.81 from 1176.22110.000.0533 gas, oil, lube; \$2,900.00 from 1176.12500.000.0533 social security; and \$786.38 from 1176.10701.000.0553 PERF and transfer to: \$6,418.96 into 1176.10218.000.0531 Part time mower; \$7,953.26 into 1176.21201.000.0531 Calcium Chloride; and \$32,034.97 into 1176.21600.000.0531 Bituminous. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer request to transfer \$42,019.67 from 1176.40104.000.0533 trucks into 1176.11003.000.0533 Workman's Compensation. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Council to address his Jail Budget, Department 0027 out of the County General Fund. He advised at that time the budget was over-expended due to extra amounts he has paid in the overtime budget line (\$12,631.00) and part time jailer budget line (\$59,011.00). He requested those amounts be expended out of the Jail CEDIT budget instead of out of the regular Jail budget. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the transfer of those two expenses out of the regular Jail budget and to be taken out of the Jail CEDIT budget. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis stated she is concerned though that the Sheriff has not appropriated enough for part time jailers in his 2016 Jail Budget. Auditor Chaffins reminded the Council that it was difficult to predict what the Sheriff's expenses were going to be when he moved into the new County Jail. Sheriff Dulin noted he has gone through twenty one different jailers throughout this year and he noted they have to provide security when an inmate is placed in the hospital. Councilman Pearman brought up the issue of the decrease in the amount of revenue received this year for housing DOC prisoners and he understood it was due to lack of billing in a timely manner. He inquired why the Jail Commander could not be held accountable as he believed that was a form of misfeasance. Attorney Lucas advised he would look into the DOC billings and receipts to see how many months have not been billed and will work with the DOC about those billings before he advises on any further action. Sheriff Dulin stated he now has controls in place and has someone else completing the DOC billings. The Sheriff advised he will compile the information for Attorney Lucas. Councilwoman Davis reminded the Sheriff in regard to the lack of DOC billings that the buck stops with him.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Chaffins distributed out to the Board a revised statement of funding that will be available for the proposed renovation projects to be paid out of the Jail CEDIT Fund, # 1113. She noted the revision was due to the Bond Bank submitted a corrected invoice for the amount of the lease rental payments due in 2016.

Councilwoman Davis inquired as to the issue with the Coroner's office located in the garage of the old jail. President Baker stated it is not yet been decided as to where the Coroner's office will be moved to but it will be a Commissioner decision. He noted they are even looking at the option of having local contractors build a small building for the Coroner's Office. Councilman Pearman inquired if that building could be located on the property by the new County Jail. Commissioner Norem stated it certainly could be an option as there is additional acreage at that location, but nothing yet had been decided.

Commissioner Norem stated what the Board of Commissioners are needing from the Council was their approval for the County to move forward with the proposed renovations to the County Courthouse and the old jail building with funding to be paid out of the regular CEDIT fund and the Jail CEDIT fund. She stated the old jail garage would be turned into a meeting room. She also noted the cost of the proposed auger at the new jail should be removed from the project costs, which was \$500,000.00. She stated the proposed project would not include any proposed space for the Coroner as that issue will be handled separately. Councilman Pearman made a motion to move ahead with the proposed renovation projects to the courthouse and the old jail building. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis stated the SCCC should be contacted to collect their \$100,000.00 pledged amount for the project.

There was a brief discussion in regard to increasing the pay of part time clerical employees from the \$9.93/hour amount in the 2016 to be increased to match the pay of the part time jail receptionist who will be earning \$11.91/hour. Auditor Chaffins advised since the part time pay line in the 2016 budgets have been established increasing the hourly pay of the part time employees it would cause a reduction in the number of total hours they would be able to work during that year. Clerk Cooley expressed her concern in taking a cut in the number of hours for her part time election workers in 2016 as it will be a presidential election year. The Board decided the part time clerical pay rate will remain at \$9.93 in 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:48PM.

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Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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

