

December 30, 2013

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

President Pearman called the meeting to order. He advised the purpose of the meeting was to take care of the year end transactions.

Prosecutor Nick Bourff appeared before the Board, along with Clerk Jenna Sites to discuss the budget of the Deputy Prosecutor. He advised they had met with Auditor Chaffins and have worked out the salary budget of the Deputy Prosecutor. He noted the Clerk in her submission of the pay claim vouchers had not documented the expense to the portion of the Pre-Trial Fund that had been appropriated in 2013. In reviewing the 2014 budget of the Pre-Trial Diversion Fund it was discovered the budget line item for Deputy Prosecutor had been overlooked when he submitted the budget proposal, and he is now requesting a transfer within that fund of \$9381.92 from misc. disbursements to the Deputy Prosecutor budget line. He advised that amount and the budget of Departments 8 and 32 from County General will be the amount of the Deputy Prosecutor's 2014 pay, consisting of a 1 ½% increase over the amount the County paid in that position's salary in 2013. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes. Prosecutor Bourff also verified that the \$6,000.00 that had been appropriated by the Council in the Pre-Trial Diversion Fund was the supplemental pay for the Clerk in the Prosecutor's Office since that position's budget in County General had been cut from the amount paid in 2013. President Pearman advised that was correct. Prosecutor Bourff advised his department will have the IT Director set up their office with the authority and ability to request their own financial reports so they review them on a routine basis. He noted they had not requested their financial reports in 2013, and had not been reviewing their budget status, but that will change in 2014.

President Pearman advised Auditor Chaffins had presented the Amended 2014 Salary Ordinance noting that once the State cut the County budgets the Council could no longer approve the 3% pay raise that had already been approved and adopted on September 16th and this salary ordinance is replacing that original ordinance. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve and adopt the Amended 2014 Salary Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Joan Haugh, Director of Community Services, and Ben Warren, Volunteer, appeared before the Council to once again ask for funding from the County. She presented the Board with a copy of their yearend profit and loss statement which shows a loss of \$30,015.86. There was a lengthy discussion as to how they could cut their expenses, in transportation costs, salary, or possibly health insurance. One of the questions they were asked pertained to their listing of revenue which included \$2,861.66 in interest revenue. They were asked what investment was generating interest. Director Haugh advised they have a cash reserve of \$250,000. Councilman McLaughlin inquired how they were able to operate with a such a large loss and where did the money come from to cover that loss. Director Haugh stated it would be taken out of the cash reserve. The Board decided to table the discussion of their request of county funding for now and would like to receive timely reports from Community Service along with a copy of their budget before any additional funding is awarded to them.

President Pearman reviewed the County Board positions that will require Council appointments. Councilman Baker advised he no longer was interested in serving on the Planning Commission but noted Councilman Cavender was interested in the position. Councilman Cavender advised he would accept the appointment. Councilman Semans made a motion to schedule the January meeting for Tuesday, January 7th, instead of the normal third Monday of the month, January 20th, in order to fill the Board appointments for 2014, and reorganize the Board for 2014. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

President Pearman advised he was interested in forming a committee to look into establishing a 911 dispatch fee for the incorporated areas of Starke County, the cities and towns to possibly go into effect in 2015. He advised the fee would be for the dispatch of the city and town police calls. He noted he would like the Committee to consist of one Commissioner, two to three Councilmen, the IT and EMA Directors, the Sheriff and the Matron. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to form such a committee, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilmen Pearman, Cavender and Baker volunteered to serve on the Committee. Commissioner Norem advised which Commissioner will serve on the Committee will be decided at their January 6th meeting along with their other board appointments.

President Pearman advised there were still a couple of transfer requests that needed to be reviewed. The first request was to transfer \$5,500.00 from the Deputy Auditor's budget line item to the Coroner's autopsy fees budget line item in order to pay for the unusually high number of autopsies this year. President Pearman advised just in the last week there was a need for two autopsies. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with five ayes, and one nay (Radkiewicz). Councilman Radkiewicz stated he felt the Board would be setting a precedent allowing a transfer request to be approved without the Department Head being present at the meeting.

The second transfer request was from the Auditor's Office, requesting \$856.03 transferred from the Deputy Auditor's budget line of the Auditor's Department budget into the Treasurer's budget line of the Treasurer's Department budget. She advised the current Treasurer was not paid the full amount stated in the salary ordinance, but was paid the balance in the budget for that line item. The budget line was partially used in the beginning of 2013 to pay for the last week in 2012 when the Jasper County Judge reinstated Linda Belork to finish out her term. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

President Pearman then asked the Board of their thoughts in regard to transferring any portion of the unexpended amount of the County General Fund from 2013. Auditor Chaffins reminded them of the responses she received from the DLGF about the County General Fund's poor cash flow. After a discussion, and upon a recommendation from Commissioner Kathy Norem, Councilman Semans made a motion to transfer \$100,000.00 from County General into the County's Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The board stated if the County General Fund runs short of cash, then they will look into borrowing cash from the Rainy Day Fund.

With there being no further business, Councilman Semans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.

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Dave Pearman, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Bryan Cavender

Marvin McLaughlin

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
County Council Secretary