

January 18, 2010

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 5:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dan Awald absent, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Chuck Estok moved to approve the 12-21-09 minutes seconded by Judy Benninghoff with 5 ayes (BF was late).

IN RE: REORGANIZATION

Jennifer Davis moved to keep Martin Lucas as the attorney seconded by Chuck Estok with 5 ayes

Judy Benninghoff moved to keep Mark Smith as President and Chuck Estok as Vice President seconded by Bill Dulin with 5 ayes.

Jennifer Davis moved to keep Judy Benninghoff on the Planning Commission seconded by Chuck Estok with 5 ayes.

Chuck Estok moved to keep Jo Ellen Arndt on the North Judson Wayne Twp. Library board seconded by Jennifer Davis with 5 ayes.

Jennifer Davis moved to keep Kenny Wallace on the Alcoholic Beverage Board seconded by Chuck Estok with 5 ayes.

Judy Benninghoff moved to keep Bill Dulin on the Solid Waste board seconded by Chuck Estok with 5 ayes.

Bill Dulin moved to keep Jodi Czerniak on the PTABOA board seconded by Chuck Estok with 5 ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut arrived for the meeting.

IN RE: SHERIFF'S PENSION

Kenny Arnett with the Sheriff's Merit Board stated that per state statute, the Sheriff's Pension plan is the Merit Board's responsibility.

Charles Hasnerl and Harold Welter with Financial Partners thanked the council for allowing them to manage the pension fund for the last ten years and came to the meeting to give a final report on the plan. Mr. Hasnerl feels that they have accomplished their goals with the plan. As of December 22, 2009, \$1,830,230.72 was in the pension fund and has been transferred to the new investment manager, Morgan Stanley. Based on the report from the actuary, Mac Cready & Keene, who handle 89 of the 92 counties' police pension plans, due to the market's down turn average, the plan, though the best in Indiana, is down 17%. Mr. Hasnerl stated that they were sorry to see the almost \$2,000,000 leave the county.

Mr. Hasnerl gave reports from the actuary's report (Mac Cready and Keene's report is on file in the Auditor's Office).

Mr. Hasnerl further stated that they look forward to working with the council sometime in the future.

Ken Arnett said that he would like to thank Financial Partners for the excellent job they have done the last ten years.

Martin Lucas, Council Attorney, reported that he had asked Mac Cready and Keene for reports as soon as possible so the council can see where they stand.

IN RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #2009-30

At the December 21, 2009, council meeting the sheriff requested approval of the \$108,518 received by the county for Riverboat Revenue for the county's share of the Sheriff's Pension Plan. The council had tabled the request until the transfer to the new trustee was complete. Judy Benninghoff moved to approve the tabled additional appropriation of \$108,518 for the Sheriff's pension plan seconded by Chuck Estok with 6 ayes.

IN RE: DROP PROGRAM FOR SHERIFF'S RETIREMENT

Kenny Arnett stated that the Drop Program is an opportunity for a sheriff's deputy to lock in a retirement date and the amount of the pension. Once they sign up for this they cannot opt out of it. This helps the sheriff to plan for the future. The paperwork has been submitted to the council attorney for review for the next meeting.

IN RE: I.T. DEPARTMENT

Evelyn Skronski said that I.T. Director, Bob Smith, was going to leave but has now changed his mind and is staying.

IN RE: COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Kathy Norem stated that the county health insurance was on the council's agenda at the commissioners' request. She gave the council some background on their research and the quotes received. Brian Liechty with TCU Insurance who is our current carrier submitted a quote approximately \$398,000 less than 2009 with some changes which is a 24% decrease.

The Healy Group/Anthem did not originally give a firm quote and there were differences in the coverage. When they resubmitted with a firm quote from CIGNA, it was a level funding (partially self funded) plan.

Kathy stated that Mark Milo had asked Brian Liechty to review the Healy plan to make sure it had the same coverage. She further stated, that the commissioners have to approve the contract, but they want the council's input and perspective in order to establish better government.

Both insurance companies explained their plans which are on file in the Auditor's Office.

Kathy feels that the \$125,000 lesser amount from Healy Group is too big a savings to ignore. Mark Milo feels that it may be short term gratification. Dan Bridegroom feels that if the Healy Group could come back having cut over \$100,000 today, why couldn't they do that three weeks ago. Dan also has concerns with the fact that on the Healy Program, the state also requires council approval.

Dan Bridegroom moved to stay with Brian Liechty with TCU Insurance and Consumer Life seconded by Mark Milo with 2 ayes 1 nay (KN).

IN RE: 2010 BUDGET CUTS

Per the state budget order, County General needs to be cut by \$403,106 and the Health Fund needs to be cut by \$2,147.

Frank Lynch, Officer Manager and County Health Nurse for the Health Dept. suggested taking the \$2,147 out of office supplies as he had two other funds he

could purchase office supplies from. Judy Benninghoff moved to cut \$2,147 out of Health Dept. office supplies to meet the budget order seconded by Bill Dulin with 6 ayes.

Bruce Fingerhut moved to wait to increase Porter Starke's budget until 2011 and to make up the deficit for 2010 at that time due to the state budget order cuts seconded by Judy Benninghoff with 6 ayes.

Due to the 24% decrease in the county's health insurance plan, the council will be able to make the necessary cuts for county general out of that line item. Chuck Estok moved to cut \$406,250 out of the County General, Commissioners', Health insurance line item seconded by Judy Benninghoff with 6 ayes.

Mark Smith said to be prepared as we are riding on pure luck so far with the budget, keeping in mind that come budget time for 2011, even if we freeze the budget, we could still have to cut.

IN RE: MISDEMEANANT FUND

The misdemeanor funds needs to be clarified as if to whether or not the current funds are to be split with community corrections or funds to be received and what those funds can be used for. Mark Smith believes they would be submitting claims for fees for misdemeanants who could not afford to pay the entire fee. He thought the part time help would be paid out of the feels collected from the misdemeanants. They would bill this fund for the uncollected fees only, and they get up to 1/2 of what is in the fund as of Jan. 1, 2010 per motion by Jennifer Davis and seconded by Judy Benninghoff with 6 ayes.

IN RE: CLERK'S REQUEST FOR NEW COPY MACHINE

Evelyn Skronski, County Clerk, asked the council for a new copy machine. She stated that she can get a lease with Kemp's for a new copier with a cost of 1 cent per copy.

The council wants Bob Smith, I.T. Director, to work out a spreadsheet regarding all copiers and contracts; and to find a loaner for the Clerk until that time

Judy Benninghoff moved to adjourn.

Mark Smith, President

Chuck Estok, Vice President

Bill Dulin

Jennifer Davis

Judy Benninghoff

Bruce Fingerhut

ABSENT

Dan Awald

Michaelene J Houston, Auditor