

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak, Bryan Cavender, and Mark Gourley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charles Chesak directly at 6:00PM.

PUBLIC HEARING/CDBG COVID-19 GRANT

Commissioner Chesak opened the public hearing for the CDBG COVID-19 Response Grant at 6:01 PM. Edwin Buswell from KIRPC explained that they had heard from OCRA last week that they have received 118 proposals requesting \$26 million dollars. OCRA currently has \$20 million to give out this round so there is a good chance that most of the grant application will be funded. The application date has been change to March 11th. The announcements will be held on April 15th, 2021. He advised that they would like to have 3-5 five letters from businesses that would be interested in applying explaining how they have been affected by COVID and how this grant money would help them. They would also like a more detailed budget for the food program portion of the grant. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the public hearing was closed at 6:04 PM. Commissioner Chesak then signed the Stellar Grant Agreement.

SWANSON REZONING

Attorney Lucas advised that at the last meeting there was a couple of things in the documents for the Swanson property that needed to be corrected. He advised they have been corrected and he has reviewed the Ordinance for the Swanson Property. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of Starke County Indiana, to Rezone Certain Real Estate from R-2 to AG. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PLANNING COMMISSION JOB DESCRIPTION REQUEST

The Planning Commission had presented the following updated job descriptions Planning & Zoning Administrator, Building Commissioner, Code Enforcement Officer, and Board of Zoning Appeal Secretary. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve all presented jobs descriptions with the addition of all job descriptions containing to whom that position reports to. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SCEDF CONTRACT

The Board of Commissioners along with Attorney Lucas review the updated SCEDF contract that was presented. Commissioner Gourley advised that he did add the guaranteed funding in the amount of \$80,000 for SCILL out of the total of \$159,480. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the SCEDF Contract commencing on March 1, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

BRIDGE 7 & BRIDGE 137 DISCUSSION

Superintendent Ritzler advised that they have received grants from Bridge 137 on 300E and Bridge 7 on 700E. They received the standard consultant's contracts from INDOT today, he advised he will be sending those contracts to Attorney Lucas and as long as Attorney Lucas and the Board of Commissioners approve he would like permission to sign the contracts. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the signatures from Superintendent Ritzler as long as Attorney Lucas approves of those contracts as well. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley advised he had received a quote from Jim Coad, Maintenance Director in the amount of \$3500 to repair the furnace located at the Starke County Government Warehouse. He asked Superintendent Ritzler if this is something he would be able to pay for with his departments fund as he stores equipment in the warehouse. Superintendent Ritzler advised he would have no problem paying for the repair if they can work something out in which he can store a few more pieces of equipment in the

warehouse. He advised that there are items that did not sell in the auction that can be removed from the warehouse which should give him the room that is needed for his additional equipment. Commissioner Gourley advised that if those items did not sell at the auction we might be able to dispose of those items. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to make additional storage at the warehouse for the highway department pending the removal of items that did not sell in the auction. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$264,776.20, including deductions in the amount of \$81,981.94 for the pay period ending on 02/06/2021 and pay date of 02/12/2021. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$223,881.45. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes from February 1st, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to open the government buildings to the public effective immediately. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Karl Swihart to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Annex Keys issued to the employees as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to have the Board of Commissioners meeting at 6:00 PM on the 1st Monday of the month and then at 9:30 AM on the 3rd Monday of the month. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC HEARING/CDBG COVID-19 GRANT

Commissioner Chesak reopened the public hearing for the CDBG COVID-19 Response Grant at 6:35 PM. Auditor Oesterreich advised that she had a public comment today in which they suggested to verify that the business who is applying for the grant has complied with the permits and anything else that they would need to be a legitimate business. The Board of Commissioner agreed. Commissioner Chesak closed the public hearing for the CDBG COVID-19 Response Grant at 6:36 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Charlie Chesak, President

Bryan Cavender, Vice-President

Mark Gourley

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners