

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 Dave Pearman, Bryan Cavender, Robert Sims, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Nancy Dembowski present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 meeting and the January 3rd meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. President Baker advised he was signing the Certification of Appointment for KIRPC showing Councilwoman Stalbaum being the Council representative to KIRPC.

SETTING TAX RATES FOR CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND AND CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

President Baker read the public hearing notice for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and opened the public hearing for both the CCD Fund and the Cumulative Bridge Fund. The tax rate being established for the CCD Fund is .03 and the tax rate for the Cum. Bridge Fund is .0275. He opened the Public Hearing at 5:35PM. Larry Harris inquired as to why the County was increasing the tax rates of those funds. Councilman Pearman advised it was because the rates had slipped in the last couple of years and now it will be established back to the tax rate it should be. Mark Gourley inquired about the particular projects these rates would be funding. He was advised the Cumulative Bridge Fund is used to maintain the County Bridges and replacement bridge projects. The Cumulative Capital Development Fund, County Attorney Marty Lucas explained, is used to purchase capital expenditures such as police squad cars, larger building repairs, etc. Councilman Pearman advised this fund is used to purchase capital purchases that are not covered by the departmental budgets. With there being no further comment Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The resolution to adopt the tax rates will be presented at the Council's next meeting.

HB1002 & ROADWAY FUNDING

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board and advised of State Legislation Bill HB1002. He explained that the bill has cleared the State House and will be presented to the Senate. He stated it is unknown what may happen to the Bill in the State but wanted to explain the present version of this bill. He stated HB1002 is calling for a one time increase to the fuel tax rate of \$.10 per gallon and limits the annual rate increase adjustment to that fuel tax rate of \$.01 per gallon. The Bill stated the gasoline use tax will be distributed to highway funds beginning in 2018.

The Bill would also establish a \$15.00 transportation infrastructure improvement fee that applies to the registration of all motor vehicles. But only 5% of the funds collected by this fee will be deposited in the Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund.

The Bill could also make various changes to the local road and bridge Community Crossings matching grant program. Last year it was a 50/50 match and this year they are proposing an 80/20 match. The projects must be on the County's transportation asset management plan

The Bill is proposing changing the deadline for the creation of a County Wheel Tax/User Fee enactment from June 30th to August 31st. Superintendent Ritzler provided examples of the possible increase in MVH and LRS funding for Starke County if this bill passes as is. The bill should be completed in the Senate in about one month. He advised he would keep the Board aware of how the Bill is completed.

CLERK VICKIE COOLEY REQUESTS HOURLY PAY INCREASE FOR PART TIME EMPLOYEE

Clerk Vickie Cooley appeared before the Board to request the increase of the hourly pay for her part time election employee. She advised there is a \$6.72 pay difference between the current pay for part time employees and full time employees. She also noted that her part time employee works thirty two hours a week and her full time employees work thirty five hours per week. There was a lengthy discussion between the Council and the Board of Commissioners about increasing the pay of all regular part time employees. They stated they would like to see three classes of employees: full time, regular, skilled part time, and substitute, non-skilled part time. Auditor Chaffins was advised the Board would like to see a listing of all part time employees, their department and classification, and their current pay. She advised she would email the information out to the Board so they would have it prior to the next meeting. Attorney Lucas advised the 2017 Salary Ordinance could be amended with changes to part time pay if need be. Councilman Cavender made a motion to table the part time raise discussion to their next meeting. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SHERIFF BILL DULIN’S DISCUSSION OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY AND REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION OF THE JAIL CREDIT FUND AND THE THERAPUETIC COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUND

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request appropriation of approximately \$50,000.00 to his 2017 budget for the Courthouse Security Officers. He advised State Statute states the Sheriff and his budget are responsible for paying that expense. He noted Larry Harris will be the Director of Courthouse Security when the Courthouse remodeling project is complete and there will be two officers working when completed, one on the third floor and one on the first floor. Attorney Lucas noted that if the Sheriff were to work his regular working Officers for the Courthouse Security they would be eligible for overtime. The Sheriff stated he feels he would need at least five part time officers to maintain the security schedule. He stated he wants the funding to hire Courthouse Security and would like to appropriate \$50,000.00 from the Jail CREDIT Fund. He also noted he may be receiving money from the Judge for the Courthouse Security. Sheriff Dulin also noted he will call into the Academy to see if he could hire his “Reserve Officers” who are not on the payroll at this time. The Sheriff stated Larry Harris is currently earning \$15.00 per hour right now and would like to pay the other officers similar pay. Sheriff Dulin advised he will create a job description by the end of this week. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the \$50,000.00 budget appropriation and to utilize the Jail CREDIT Fund to pay the Security Officers. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin also noted he would like to create his budgets of the Jail CREDIT Fund for 2017 and also appropriate the Therapeutic Community Program Fund for 2017. Auditor Chaffins suggested Jail Office Manager Chris Suprenaut and her will meet and work out a budget of those two funds and present it to the Sheriff for his approval. The Sheriff agreed to that. The proposed budgets will be presented to the Council for their approval at their March meeting.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:27PM.

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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