

## **MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Howard Bailey, Don Binkley, Todd Leinbach present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM.

### **AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION SCEDF**

Councilman Pearman began the discussion regarding the Starke County Economic Development Foundation additional appropriation request. The board questioned paying Ortman Well Drilling in some years and then in other years they would pay them twice. Interim Director Dan explained why this occurs. Councilman Pearman would like something on record at the Auditor's Office regarding how long Ortman is there on site when working on the well. Interim Director Dan advised that the \$750.00 charge they are speaking about is not an inspection charge but is the charge for the service of being on-call. If there is a power outage or the alarm goes off, the fire well the company calls the Economic Development Foundation. She explained that is why there is a phone associated with this billing as well and why there is a CenturyLink bill. Further discussion was held regarding the amounts that Kankakee Valley REMC has been charging over the past few years. Both Interim Director Dan and Councilman Pearman will be meeting with Kankakee Valley REMC to discuss the charges. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve an additional appropriation for CEDIT 1112, Hamlet Fire Well, in the amount of \$7500.00. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSION**

The Pre-Budget Workshop will be held May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 PM and the Budget Workshop will be held June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Interim Director Dan advised she has been surveying industries throughout Starke County. She has received six responses so far and from those responses she has tallied that we are in need of over 90 employees. She stated that other questions in the survey are being asked as well such as the starting wages. She advised the average beginning wage at this time is between \$13 and \$14 per hour. Councilman Bailey inquired about what Starke County's unemployment rate is showing as at this time. Interim Director Dan stated she was not sure about the current figure. Councilman Pearman asked if there was going to be a Spring Job Fair this year. Interim Director Dan advised she was not able to get into the schools so there will not be a job fair this year in Starke County. However, the Culver Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring one at Culver Community Schools and she is currently working with the in the participation of Starke County industry and the Starke County Economic Development Foundation. Councilman Pearman asked about possibly setting up an adult job fair. Interim Director Dan will reach out to WorkOne concerning this. She also advised that Friday at 1:00 PM in Kokomo, IN, the SCEDF will be traveling to see a solar farm in active operation. She advised all Council Members are welcome to attend.

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:07PM. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**MARCH 15, 2021**  
**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

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Kay Gudeman

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Don White

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Howard Bailey

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Don Binkley

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Todd Leinbach

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Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Council