

March 16, 2015

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, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Jennifer Davis and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker.

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16th meeting. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER REQUESTS

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request the appropriation of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund, # 1110, for the following: \$60,980.00, account line item 43600, squad cars; and \$9,477.73, account line item 40100, equipment. He advised the Commissioners had already approved the purchase of the 2016 SUVs and additional equipment for the vehicles. Councilman Pearman inquired as to why light bars can't be transferred from the retired vehicles. Sheriff Dulin advised the retired vehicle is a Dodge Charger and wouldn't fit the SUV. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriation request for the vehicles and equipment from Fund 1110 in the total amount of \$70,457.73. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sims and passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin then requested an appropriation of \$6,765.00 in order to pay the portion of the Agisent Technologies Invoice for the annual maintenance and support fees for various software of his department. IT Director Joe Short also appeared before the Board to explain a portion of the invoice was a legitimate expense of the 911 funding and was paid out of the 911 Fund. He noted in past years he had it in his County General Department Budget to pay for those expenses but it was cut in recent years. Auditor Chaffins suggested the fees be paid either out of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund or the CREDIT Fund, Commissioners' Portion. Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the appropriation of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund in the amount of \$6,765.00 for the payment of the balance of the maintenance and support fees. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Director Short advised he will include those fees in his 2016 budget.

Director Short advised he had received approval from the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting to purchase eight computers for the County. He stated he has six computers that are outdated, having the XP operating system, and two would be back-up spare computers. There was a brief discussion in regard to purchasing those two spare computers right away or allowing the appropriation for the purchase of those two computers and only to purchase them as needed. Attorney Marty Lucas noted the warranty would be expiring on those computers when they are still sitting on the shelf waiting to be utilized. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the appropriation of the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund in the total amount of \$8,000.00. Councilwoman Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilwoman Davis stated she would like to see the IT Director establish a computer replacement schedule similar to the Sheriff's Department replacement of squad cars.

County Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to request a transfer within his Fund, 1176, Department 533, in order to cover the additional expense due to the creation of the third mechanic's position, in the total amount of \$17,080.00. He advised the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting approved the creation of the third mechanic's position. He noted he has the funding in his 2015 budget to cover the cost of the position for the last half of 2015, and will include in his budget next year. He also proposed beginning in 2016 to charge the other County Departments for the labor in repairing their department's vehicles, but noted he will be presenting that issue for approval prior to the beginning of the 2016 budget workshops. He stated he is looking for a qualified diesel mechanic with a CDL license to begin on June 1st. His transfer request was as follows: Reduce the 31400 account line, repair road equipment, \$5,000.00; reduce 40201 account line, other road equipment, \$5,000.00; reduce account line 21100, gas, oil & lube, \$7,080.00 and increase the mechanics account line item, 10211, in the amount of \$17,080.00. Councilman Pearman stated he thought that was why the department was purchasing new vehicles lately was to reduce the amount of necessary repairs. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the transfer requests in Fund 1176 in the total amount of \$17,080.00. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler then advised he was requesting approval on the salary ordinance in regard to the payment of the Apprentice Mechanic noting the current pay rate is \$17.25 but he will be conducting a performance evaluation in September at which time there would be a possibility of the pay increasing to \$17.50 an hour. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the change to the County's Salary Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with five ayes and one nay (Davis).

Auditor Chaffins requested an appropriation of Fund 1112, CREDIT, in regard to Resolution 2015-3-16, authorizing a loan between the CREDIT Fund to the County General Fund in the amount of \$750,000.00. She advised the County General Cash flow has been an issue in the last few years, and a similar loan was completed last year also. The loan would be paid back before the end of the year. She did note though the cash balance at the beginning of 2015 had increased by \$130,000.00 over the same time last year. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the appropriation of the CREDIT Fund in the amount of \$750,000.00 for the loan, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins advised the resolution will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at their meeting for their approval.

Councilman Pearman noted there has been some discussion in regard to the snow removal at the new County Jail. He advised Councilman Cavender had met with Superintendent Ritzler to discuss the Highway Department completing the snow removal and they worked up some numbers. Commissioner Norem advised the County is still in the process of gathering information, and no decision had been made yet in that matter. Councilman Cavender gave a brief report of the costs of the highway department in regard to snow removal. He advised Superintendent Ritzler worked out a per event cost of \$59.11 based on labor, fuel and maintenance/overhead expenses. He noted there were 64 snow events in the 2013-2014 winter months, which would have been an expense of \$3,783.04. Thus far in the 2014-2015 winter months there have been 37 events which would have been an expense of \$2,187.07 if the County Highway Department was to plow the new jail property. President Baker suggested the discussion be tabled for now since the Commissioners are first looking into the various options.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Mix inquired if Attorney Lucas has sent out a letter to the taxpayers of the Innkeeper's Tax in the County. Attorney Lucas advised he will be meeting with the Treasurer to discuss the issue.

With there being no further business, and no public comment, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

March 16, 2015

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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