

March 21, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 6:00pm in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Judy Benninghoff asked the minutes of the Feb. 21st meeting be corrected to say that she had made the statement that the Board was in remiss for not taking the salary that was left, after the Commissioners eliminated the floater position. A motion was made by Dave Pearman, to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Tony Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: TRANSFER REQUESTS

Frank Lynch, of the Starke County Health Board, appeared before the Council to request a transfer of funds within the LHMF/Tobacco Settlement Funds, # 4528; \$ 600.00 was requested to be transferred from account 000-1000.04 clerical part-time, to 000-4000.02, copy machine. Councilwoman Benninghoff made the motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Frank Lynch, of the Starke County Health Board, also requested the transfer of funds, within the Local Health Maintenance Fund, # 0807. He requested to transfer \$ 3400.00 from account 000-3000.17, liability insurance to account 000-1000.16, unemployment. He advised he was paying on employee that became unemployed in May, 2009. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer; seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Also in consideration was a request for a transfer by Sheriff Oscar Cowen, to transfer \$ 1000.00 within Fund # 1156, the Emergency 911 fund, from the overtime account, 000-1000.04 to unemployment, account 000-1000.06. Because no one was in attendance from the Sheriff's Department, Councilman McLaughlin made the motion to table the request until the next meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: BZA APPOINTMENT

Tabled from the previous meeting, up for discussion was the appointment to the BZA Board left vacant by the resignation of Roger Chaffins, Sr., a citizen member to the Board. Councilman Semans made a motion to appoint E.J. Rogers to the BZA Board, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman inquired if there was a job description on file, regarding that position, for Mr. Rogers. He was advised to touch base with Bruce Williams, at the Planning Commission Office.

IN RE: GRANT FISCAL AGENT

Ted Bombagetti, the county's EMA Director, appeared before the Board to seek approval to name Starke County as the fiscal agent on a grant he is requesting. The grant, a District II grant in the amount of \$ 10,000, is awarded through Nature's Way. The purpose of the grant is to assist the county during the time of an emergency with animal rescue and animal injuries. The County would receive a 3% handling fee for acting as the Fiscal Agent. He advised this grant opportunity would open the door for him to apply for larger grants with the IGMS, the Indiana Grants Management System. Councilman Pearman made the motion to accept Mr. Bombagetti's request, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: DEPUTY TREASURER

Council Benninghoff brought up the subject of the request for an additional full time deputy by Starke County Treasurer, Linda Belork, which had also been tabled at the last meeting. Councilman Radkiewicz inquired if the Treasurer had time to talk with the Commissioners, which is what was recommended at the last meeting. After a discussion, Councilman Radkiewicz inquired if the Treasurer was requesting to make her part time position, a full time position. Ms. Belork advised she would, and she could transfer the balance in the part time account of the Treasurer's budget to use towards the other full time deputy treasurer. Councilman McLaughlin inquired of the Commissioners who were in attendance in the audience, if they could come up with \$ 10,000. in additional funding. Dan Bridegroom advised the council should also consider the additional amount for the benefits included in a new person's employment. Ms. Belork also advised they are only able to work at about 75% of capacity and they have to prioritize what work needs to be completed first. Councilman Semans advised the additional benefits could range from \$10,000 - \$ 18,000. depending on the health insurance coverage of the new employee. President Smith advised he was in favor of transferring already appropriated money from another section of the budget, but was against creating new appropriation from un-appropriated funds. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve the request for additional appropriations, allowing the Treasurer's office to hire another full time deputy. Councilman Semans seconded the motion. Mark Smith asked for a show of hands in the voting. There were two ayes: Judy Benninghoff, and Mitch Semans. There were three nays: Tony Radkiewicz, Mark Smith, and Bob Sims. Marty Lucas advised the councilmen could also abstain from voting, is so choose. Dave Pearman abstained. Marvin McLaughlin was undecided. Councilman McLaughlin asked the Commissioners again if they had any funds they could transfer. At that time, Councilman Pearman decided to change his vote to a nay. He stated he agreed with Councilman Smith, that he also does not want to see any additional, new appropriations to the state approved budget. He also emphasized the fact that the Treasurer had been advised, at the last meeting, to meet with the Commissioners to work out the possible financing. Mr. Lucas advised, at that time, that since there were four nays, the motion could not pass.

At that time, Commissioner Kathy Norem, announced that Commissioner Jennifer Davis, and the Treasurer, Linda Belork will be meeting on Saturday, March 26 at Noon, to discuss the possible funding and would report back at the April 4th meeting. President Smith advised Ms. Belork to bring the motion to the next council meeting, with the transfer/reduction appropriation request. The Commissioners will have to create the additional position.

IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Linda Satkoski, The Chief Executive Officer of Starke Memorial Hospital, Dave Hyatt, VP of Operations of SMH, and a representative from BSA LifeStructures appeared before the Board to discuss their action to

review, evaluate and plan for a new or improved health care facility for Starke County. They advised they were not there to ask permission that night, on what needs to be done. They presented to the Board, a Cost Summary of potential repairs/improvements that could possibly be accomplished before the term of the lease expires on Sept. 30, 2016. The report was completed by BSALifeStructures, and is on file in the Auditor's Office. President Smith stated the county would be responsible for items not depreciated out by the end of the lease. He recommended a committee be formed of county officials along with the hospital administration, to work together to plan for the future. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he believed the committee should consist of all council members and all commissioners; a public meeting, but attendance by the boards would be voluntary. The meetings, held jointly with the hospital staff, would be posted to the public, but would not be a public hearing. Councilman Semans made a motion for everyone meet as a group, seconded by Council Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman McLaughlin requested, in the future, when a motion is made, it be made with exact wording, and not leave it up to the secretary to determine the correct wording.

At this point Commissioner Davis made a motion for the Commissioners to also participate in those joint meetings, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

President Mark Smith notified the Council of an upcoming meeting, to discuss the "Paramedic Chase" on April 6, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Annex meeting room.

There being no further business, Councilman McLaughlin made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The meeting was adjourned.

Mark Smith, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

Dave Pearman

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins, Starke Co. Auditor
Council Secretary