

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 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, 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 March 15, 2021 meeting. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – BAKERTILLY

Todd Samuelson from Baker Tilly came before the Starke County Council to provide information about the American Rescue Plan Act. He advised Starke County will be receiving funding from the Federal Government under the American Rescue Plan. He advised the identified amount for Starke County is about \$4.46 Million. He explained the American Rescue Plan is vast in what you are allowed to use the funding on. Mr. Samuelson explained that \$350 million has been made available in total for the ARP with \$195.3 billion to states and Washington, D., \$130.2 billion to local government, and \$20 billion to Tribal governments. He also went over the other provisions as allocated by the ARP bill. Councilman Pearman advised that they have been working on a type of infrastructure project in Starke County regarding internet providers. He asked if there was an updated regarding the previous project regarding broadband in Starke County. Attorney Lucas advised that the prior program was called the Broadband Readiness Program. He explained it was not linked with any project, it just made it easier for a company that wanted to do a project to get information regarding our area. Mr. Samuelson advised that the ARP money can be used for as investments in sewer, water, or broadband, respond to public health emergency, respond to workers performing essential work, recover revenue losses, transfer to not-for-profit or special purpose unit of state or local government but they cannot be spent on pension funds. Councilman Pearman addressed the area of loss revenue and explained that a large portion of our lost revenue was due to bank investments.

Mr. Samuelson then presented the council with a graph of potential revenue losses. He advised that the State Board of Accounts suggested to comparing revenue losses to a base year such as 2019. However, they do not believe counties have experienced in all of the revenue losses that are coming to them because of the delay in Local Income Tax money, those losses will not be felt until 2022. Other eligible uses would be to help businesses directly as well as helping individuals directly. Mr. Samuelson explained that the timing of the release of these funds will be in two stages. The first deposit should be made within 60 of the enactment of ARP, which was March 11, 2021. The second half of the payment will be roughly within 12 months of the first payment, so sometime in 2022. He explained that monies will have to be spent by December 31, 2024. He explained that the council needs to think about what they would like to achieve and accomplish with these funds. Mr. Samuelson explained that there will be federal audits on how this money was spent, so documentation and building the file will be very important for those audits. He presented the council with a graph with a list of other assistance plans that are available so even if the county does not use their funds in a certain area there is most likely other help individuals can receive in that area. However, if they county is considering any of those programs listed they Bakertilly has provided some key considerations as a part of that grant administration. Further discussion was held regarding the eligible expenditures and the additional programs are available through the ARP bill. Councilman Pearman advised that we don't really know what is to come as far as revenue losses. He advised we will need to take a conservative approach to spending this money. Key points of the Power Point presentation from Bakertilly has been recorded in the meeting minutes. The full presentation can be found in the Auditor's Office Under the meeting date of April 19, 2021.

STARKE COUNTY YOUTH CLUB

The Starke County Youth Club meets critical needs for safety, learning, and personal growth. They do this by providing after school programs for kids in the community both after school and through the

summer. She explained what the program does and how the program supports learning. She explained that one thing the pandemic has taught them are the ways that they can be creative within the community and the gaps that may exist within the community. Councilman Pearman asked if she ever heard of the statistic that 28 youths have no place to live. She agreed with those numbers and even stated that the numbers may be depressed some. She explained that when we talk about homeless youth those are not just kids who are living in a car, those are kids who are couch surfing. She explained how the Starke County Youth Club allows for kids to build a connection with staff members and that connection makes them feel safe and loved. She explained the skills that kids learn in the Starke County Youth Club. They will be doing a community needs assessment, they want to understand where the gaps lie within the community. They would like to provide things that are needed within the community. That is why she is here today to talk about the radio thon, this is when they go on air and talk about the program, talk with their kids, some families come on air and talk about the work that they do. During the radio thon they also ask that people make a pledge of support for their kids. Councilman Pearman asked for her to email him their revenue for 2019 and 2020 for comparison during the pandemic. Councilman Bailey asked if they find a child that seems to be lacking in certain areas, if they then do interaction with the parents as well. She advised they are not set up to work directly with parents but they do host education components for parents. However, that is not specific one on one intervention. In that case they would refer a parent to another agency, who is trained for instances like that.

RECORDER TRANSFER REQUEST/PERPETUATION FUND USE

Auditor Oesterreich advised that Recorder Thomason would like to transfer \$19,875 from redaction fund 4920.00481.000.0000 to the recorder's perpetuation fund 4905.50100.000.0000 to pay our annual software contract to Fidlar. Recorder Thomason did give Auditor Oesterreich verification from the State Board of Accounts that this can be done. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to transfer \$19,875 from redaction fund 4920.00481.000.0000 to the recorder's perpetuation fund 4905.50100.000.0000. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Recorder Thomason is also requesting an ordinance for the ability to use postage money out of the Recorder Perpetuation Fund. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Use of Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund during the Calendar Year of 2022. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Pearman requested for the Starke County Assessor to come to the next meeting to discuss assessed values of homes in Starke County. Councilman Hazelton will provide an example prior to the meeting so that it can be researched and explained.

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

APRIL 19, 2021 STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Don Binkley

Todd Leinbach

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