

**MAY 16, 2016**

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

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker at 5:30PM. Councilwoman Jennifer Davis was absent.

## **MINUTES**

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18th meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOLS BOND ISSUANCE AND FUND APPROPRIATION**

Guy Richie of NJSP Schools, Attorney Thomas Peterson, and Curt Pletcher of Umbaugh, appeared before the Board to request approval of a \$1,400,000.00 bond issuance, a \$1,400,000.00 appropriation in the Construction Fund, and a Rainy Day appropriation in the amount of \$544,326.00. Mr. Pletcher advised NJSP will be retiring their debt in 2016 and this was being completed for energy costs. Mr. Richie advised they had recently cut twenty five employees in order to cut expenditures and have made other cuts also. They will be closing one of their buildings and therefore will be combining the high school and junior high school and moving the elementary school into the current middle school building. Mr. Pletcher advised, in regard to the amount of cash flow an agency should have on hand, it should be 8% of the general fund budget. President Baker asked the public if there was any comment and there was none. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the Council to make separate motions for each transaction. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the issuance of the \$1,400,000.00 bond, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman made a motion to appropriate the \$1,400,000.00 out of the Construction Fund. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriation of the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$544,326.00. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **EMS REQUEST TO HIRE TWO FULL TIME PARAMEDICS**

EMS Director Keith Emigh and EMS Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to request approval of two full time paramedics. Clerk Richie went through the spreadsheet she had submitted to the Board and advised the two new positions would not affect their budget. Councilman Pearman inquired about the fringe benefits of those two FT employees. Auditor Chaffins and Commissioner Kathy Norem advised the benefits are paid out of the Commissioner's County General budget and is alright to accept those two positions. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the two new full time paramedics. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **SHERIFF'S REQUEST TO INCREASE 2016 BUDGET**

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Office Manager Chris Smith appeared before the Board to request an increase to three items in their Fund 1113 budget: part time jailers, utilities, and building maintenance. He requested \$114,546.00 in part time jail staff, \$102,701.60 in utilities, and \$5,250.00 in Building Maintenance. He noted all three would be added to whatever has been spent in each category. He stated a lot of extra expense is spent on transporting inmates to court, both City Court and Circuit Court. He advised the Courtroom at the Jail is hardly used. The Sheriff advised they had received \$19,000.00 in February and \$25,000.00 in March from the DOC for the Drug Program. He noted they currently have 24 inmates in that program while the full amount would be 48. He noted it takes a while before an inmate is put into the program. Councilman Pearman advised he believes next year's budget will also be cut by the State and if that is the case they will need to start cutting. They decided they needed to hold a special meeting in order to further discuss the Sheriff's requests. A date of June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM was chosen to have another meeting to discuss the Sheriff's budget. Attorney Lucas advised they can't have an Executive Session as it doesn't meet the meeting criteria so it will be posted as a Special Session. Councilman Pearman inquired as to why the utilities are so high already. Auditor Chaffins advised Commissioner Norem and she had spoken with NIPSCO & Lockheed employees who are researching the situation. Commissioner Norem advised Skillman is looking into it also. Attorney Lucas inquired if they have seen a result of the overtime/compensation ordinance which was recently passed. Chris Smith advised they are in the first pay period. Attorney Lucas asked for a calculation of the difference in overtime due to that ordinance. Auditor Chaffins noted she calculated how much of the Sheriff's budget is in County General versus how much in Fund 1113, Jail CREDIT. She advised 55% of the budget is in

County General and 45% in Fund 1113. She advised 45% of February and March's DOC payments will be calculated and receipted into Fund 1113 as the SBOA consider those DOC payments as a reimbursement to your Budgets.

**STARKE COUNTY AIRPORT ORDINANCE REQUESTED**

Terry Stephenson, Building Commissioner, and SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board to request approval of an updated Airport Ordinance. Director Weaver advised the last airport ordinance was approved in 1974-1975 and the FAA who funds 90% of the airport has requested a new ordinance. He advised this is the only ordinance that requires Council approval by the FAA. A change to the new ordinance is that the airport runway has been expanded by 5,000 feet. Attorney Lucas advised he sees no problems with this ordinance. Director Weaver advised he will run this by the Board of Commissioners for their approval also. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the ordinance seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S FUNDS RECEIVED**

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to explain SEA67. He advised the County had received a total of \$890,000.00 of which 75% or \$667,500.00 is marked for highway and road use. The other 25% there is no restriction on. He advised the 75% had been placed in a special fund while the 25% went into County General. He stated a committee was formed to look into how best the Highway Department is to spend the 75%. The committee consists of Rik, Charlie Weaver, Councilman Brian Cavender, and Auditor Kay Chaffins. He advised \$500,000.00 of the money will be used in HB1001 as matching funds with the State geared for bridge repair. He stated the extra money received from the State will be geared toward bridge repair and within the next few years he will be able to free up the CEDIT because now 50% of that year's CEDIT revenue is spent on roads and bridges. He noted the State is not sending out any new money. The money received is the local tax money; the State usually held onto 50% of it but now lowered that amount to 15%.

In other business the Board discussed the Circuit Breaker Funding Report the Auditor had distributed. There was a brief discussion in the way the circuit breakers affect the City of Knox in particular.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:32PM.

**MAY 16, 2016**

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Freddie Baker, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Pearman, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Hazelton

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