

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak, Bryan Cavender, and Mark Gourley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charles Chesak directly at 6:00PM.

CONSTELLATION OF STARKE BID STATUS

Attorney Lucas explained that the bid tabs came in well above the budgeted amount for these projects. He stated that this was partly driven by the rise in the cost of materials. In the most recent meeting that the Stellar Committee held it was approved by the committee to advise the Board of Commissioners that they would like to wait until fall of 2021 or early spring of 2022 for rebid those projects. They will also be making some changes including being able to work with alternate bids. The bid tab has been put into the record with the Auditor's Office. Commissioner Gourley would allow for us to not complete all four projects around the county but still some of them. Attorney Lucas advised they have not gotten to that point yet, he stated that the projects can be delayed and hopefully the material prices will go down again. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to rebid those projects. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PETITION FOR VACATION

Attorney Lucas advised that this was similar to the one that the Board looked at about a year ago. He advised Argento, LLC did properly publish the notice for the Petition of Vacation. Discussion was held regarding the future possible of use of this right-of-way as roadway, utilities, and future broadband installation. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to deny the Petition for Vacation request. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

EMA FULL TIME REQUEST

The Starke County EMA Advisory Board sent a request to the Board of Commissioners to make the EMA Director position a full time position so that the position could also take of duties of grant writing for the county and also ADA Coordinator. Commissioner Cavender suggested waiting to see how the new employee does in the current position before making it full time. Commissioner Chesak advised that they may want to have the current office manager at the highway department complete the ADA training. After further discussion the Board of Commissioner decided that the EMA Director position will remain part time at this time.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$241,982.12, including deductions in the amount of \$74,680.49 for the pay period ending on 05/15/2021 and pay date of 05/21/2021. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$243,547.98, including deductions in the amount of \$74,194.12 for the pay period ending on 05/29/2021 and pay date of 06/04/2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$591,193.54. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, May 3, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, May 17, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Attorney Lucas advised that we have been a named party in the multi-law suit for the opioid litigation since October, 2018. Recently there was a development of a new statute were the attorney general would take over the law suit in Indiana except for the jurisdictions that opt-out. He advised he believes Starke

County will be better off if we opt-out and would recommend us opting-out. This would not be a final decision the Board will have a couple months to opt back in if they so choose to do. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adopt the Notice to Opt-Out and the Opt-Out resolution. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

Charlie Chesak, President

Bryan Cavender, Vice-President

Mark Gourley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Bo