

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners & Starke County Council and meet in a Special Session at 6:30PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Commissioners Kathy Norem, and Donald Binkley present along with Council Members Pam Stalbaum, Freddie Baker, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton and Bryan Cavender and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Jail Office Manager Chris Suprenaut appeared before the Boards to present information in regard to the Sheriff's budgets in the County General Fund and the Jail CEDIT Fund 1113. The Sheriff presented information to the Boards listing what he was requesting to be added to his 2016 budgets. He presented for Part Time Jail Staff: \$114,546.00; Utilities \$102,701.60; Building Maintenance \$5,250.00; Prisoner Meals \$63,000.00; and Cooks \$33,878.00. Auditor Chaffins inquired about the several other items in his budgets that will be over-expended prior to the end of the year: Full Time Jailers, Laundry/Cleaning, Repair & Maintenance, Part Time Maintenance Person; and Jail Nurse/Health Professional.

Commissioner Norem advised she had contacted NIPSCO in regard to checking out the Jail's invoices. She stated NIPSCO had advised the County was receiving the best deal for the purchase of gas, but not for electricity. She advised they currently are on the 621 rate and NIPSCO sent out an agreement to change the County to a 624 rate. Commissioner Norem asked if the amount previously paid could be applied for pending credit and was advised it was going to be in affect moving forward. She stated the estimated savings for the County would be approximately \$40,000.00 per year. Attorney Marty Lucas reviewed the NIPSCO Agreement and approved. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the NIPSCO Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Binkley. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton discussed the possibility of installing a windmill at the jail site and the Sheriff stated he would get an estimate on the installation of solar panels. Councilman Hazelton stated he would receive information on a windmill.

The Sheriff then discussed his staffing at the jail and documents he provided and noted Starke County had the least amount of full time employees. He was advised the Part Time Employees would also be included in the calculation of jail employees. The Sheriff stated he had asked for two more full time jailers in the fall of 2015 but the appropriated amount was not included in his 2016 budget. The Sheriff stated we are just one phone call away. He also complained of being understaffed in the jail. He stated he thought it would be better to meet in an Executive Session. Attorney Lucas noted this type of meeting could not be an Executive Session. Sheriff Dulin stated statistics as posted by the Jail Inspector for employment at the jail. Commissioner Norem noted the jail inspector has no enforcement authority. Attorney Lucas noted in the State of California, in a case, the court decided to enforce 70% of the jail inspector's recommendations and he felt that was very close in this case also.

Commissioner Norem noted Chris had received a notice from the SBOA stating that the Board of Commissioners through a Home Rule Ordinance could create a Fund for the DOC funding of the Therapeutic Community Program. Then that Fund could finance some of the extra amount the Sheriff would need for his budget. Commissioner Norem stated she would rather they didn't increase his budget out of the Jail CEDIT Fund for that money is required to cover expenses of the remodeling of the old jail building. Auditor Chaffins asked for copies of the invoices that are submitted to the DOC for billing to keep track of what was paid for the T/C Program, and also for the housing of State DOC inmates, which is all included in the same check.

The Sheriff stated he needs to give Tony a rest and he would like to hire a part time maintenance person to assist Tony. There was a lengthy discussion about the jail and funding.

Discussion was held on the Sheriff's statement that he feels understaffed at the jail. Councilman Baker stated he would talk with Judge Hall to see if inmates can move through the system quicker than has been happening. There was a brief discussion in regard to the meals in the jail. The Sheriff stated he does not have trustees preparing the meals. They serve 345 meals in a day. He does have trustees help serve the meals though. Commissioner Binkley stated if this program doesn't pay for its self-there's no need to do it. The Sheriff responded it is just a phone call away. I can call them tomorrow.

Councilman Hazelton inquired as to the County receives \$35.00 a day per inmate from the DOC, what is the actual cost of every inmate in the house? The Sheriff stated they should give him a couple days to figure that out.

The Sheriff and the Committee (Sims, Baker, Binkley, & Pearman) will meet with the Sheriff on either Wednesday or Thursday of this week to discuss what can be done. They will report in at a future meeting.

There was a discussion in regard to the number of full time jailers working in the jail.

The Sheriff stated we are not the only ones going through this situation with budgets as there are sixty some jails were the same problem is happening.

The money received from the DOC which has been part of the TPC has been receipted into County General for part of February and the month of March. But it is unknown exactly how much is paid from the Program and how much was paid for regular DOC inmates.

The increase to the Sheriff's budgets would most likely be paid out of the funding for the Program which now will be receipted into a different fund after it is created by the Board of Commissioners and appropriated by the County Council.

There being no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

JUNE 13, 2016

ABSENT _____
Kent Danford, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Donald Binkley

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT _____
Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the County Council