

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

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 Nancy Dembowski, Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Absent from the meeting were Councilman Robert Sims, and Councilman Brian Cavender. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15th, 2017 meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

CVC BUDGET

Carolla Heilstedt, of the CVC Board, appeared before the Board and presented them with a budget for 2017. She appeared at the last Council meeting but has returned to have her budget officially approved. The budget presented for approval was more than the amount that is presently in the Innkeeper's Tax Fund at this time which is \$6,139.18 and the Board wanted to know how they will be making up the difference. Ms. Heilstedt stated she is coming up with different ideas for revenue and the Board discussed the possibility of creating another fund to hold that other revenue as the only revenue in the Innkeeper's Tax Fund should be that tax money. Then there was a discussion in regard to the contract the CVC Board entered into with the Chamber of Commerce. It was noted that the County Officials did not sign off on the contract and they are not sure if it is a valid contract; the contract has no expiration terms. The Tourism Office of the Chamber of Commerce uses the Office for 9 hours each week but is responsible for one half of all the expenses for that office. County Attorney Marty Lucas stated the CVC/Chamber Contract was never approved by either the Board of Commissioners or the County Council. Councilman Pearman stated they had used the Chamber Building, The Depot a lot for the Bicentennial Celebration of the State.

Carolla Heilstedt then talked about her grant application she will be presenting as she had proposed to the Park Board. She explained it would be a grant for the establishment of a Yellow River Kayak Launch on Range Road just north of CR50S. She stated Attorney Lucas advised it was County property owned by the Board of Commissioners and it also was listed in the Park Board's 5 Year Plan.

CEDIT FUND APPROPRIATIONS

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver was scheduled to appear at this meeting to request the approval of CEDIT appropriations. SCEDF Member Larry Wickert appeared instead due to the illness of Mr. Weaver. Mr. Wickert advised they were requesting the approval of the following appropriations: 1112.30207 SCEDF Consulting Contract, \$180,000.00; 1112.30712 Hamlet Fire Well \$15,000.00; and 1112.30712 North Judson Industrial Park Road \$75,000.00. Councilman Pearman questioned the cost of the North Judson Industrial Park Road stating the last time it was discussed the price was \$45,000.00. Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler advised the cost was more since it would be an industrial roadway that could manage the heavier trucks. There was a discussion in regard to the North Judson Industrial Park being moved out to SR10 and not thinking this road will be getting that much use in the future. Superintendent Ritzler stated he could chip seal that existing road for now and it would maintain it for the next 5-6 years. He stated he could move the \$50,000.00 to the Highway Department's portion of the CEDIT Fund and pave CR300E north to SR8, by the Knox Industrial Park. He stated he would like to appropriate \$154,696.94, the remaining balance from 2016, and a total of \$663,166.00 from the 2017 CEDIT Fund. He also noted the amount he would need for the paving of CR300E would be \$56,320.00. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the appropriations of \$817,862.94 and the \$56,320.00. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman then made a motion to approve the appropriation request for the \$180,000.00 for the SCEDF and the \$15,000.00 for the Hamlet Fire Wall. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Chaffins advised the newly remodeled Old Jail Building, which is now being called the Annex Building 2, does not have a budget for utilities due to the construction project. She noted when the Council had their 2017 Budget workshop the budget was marked that the utilities for that building should be divided by among the Departments who would be using the building: 45% to Probation, 45% to Starke County Community Corrections, and 10% to the Extension Office. However it was noted that since the Health Department was now also using the Building they would also be responsible for 10% so it reduced the Probation and SCCC roles to 40% each. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the budget for the utilities for the Annex 2 Building to be 40% Probation, 40% SCCC, 10% Extension, 10% Health. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman

Pearman advised anyone with any questions can come in and discuss this with the Board at their next meeting.

President Freddie Baker advised they are still waiting to replace Talia Reed on the Starke County Library Board. Councilman Pearman stated he believed Mitch Semans is interested in the position and he will talk to him. He was advised to tell Mr. Semans to submit a letter of interest to the Auditor before the next meeting.

Councilman Pearman inquired as to the health of Councilman Robert Sims and also as to why the hospital has not given a Capital Asset Quarterly report. President Baker reported on the condition of Councilman Sims, and advised Commissioner Norem and himself had met with the CEO of the Hospital. He said they were told the CEO will be getting in touch with the Auditor about the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Hazelton stated at the last SCEDF meeting they had announced that the unemployment rate in Starke County is a low now as it was in May, 1998.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:22PM.

JUNE 19, 2017

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

ABSENT

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

ABSENT

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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