

June 20, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 6:00pm in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16th meeting. The motion was seconded by Tony Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes. The final minutes of the April 18th meeting were also signed.

IN RE: MARSHALL STARKE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Mike Lintner, President & CEO of the Marshall-Starke Co. Development Foundation, along with Wayne Berg, and Foundation Board Member, Flora Tibbetts, appeared before the Council to present their Annual Report to both the Council and the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners were all present in the audience. He stated the contribution received from Starke County for the year, was \$40,000.00. The presentation included how that contribution is spent by the Foundation.

IN RE: TRANSFER REQUESTS

Chief Deputy, Bill Dulin appeared before the Council to request a transfer of \$3000.00 from line item 0101 027-3000.15, Education, to 1156 000-1000.10, Training School. Mark Smith advised it would not be considered a transfer since the request is between two different funds. It would be an additional appropriation to the 911 fund, 1156, and a reduction to 0101, the county general, jail budget. Councilman Seamans made a motion to approve the funding request, seconded by Councilwoman Benninghoff. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Smith inquired if the Board of Commissioners approved the Sheriff's request to purchase a new squad car. They advised they had given approval for the purchase on one new vehicle. Councilman Seamans made a motion to allow the purchase of a new vehicle, but not to exceed \$25,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Smith then addressed the Fund 1156, the Emergency 911 fund. He advised, looking mid-year at the budget, that at the rate of expenses and revenues received would be annualized, there would a \$40,000.00 deficit by the end of the year. He advised revenue is received for that fund from the 911 fees on phone land lines, and also a small fee from cellular phones. The number of land lines is decreasing as residents are taking out existing telephones and replacing them with cellular phones in the home. He advised the county has been receiving the fees directly for the land lines, but the cellular fees are sent to Indianapolis, and are allocated to each county. Therefore, the revenue has been very sporadic. He stated in order for the county to spend the 911 fees, they had to initiate a program of having a dedicated 911 operator on duty. He requested the Sheriff's Office Manager, Chris Smith look into the 911 fund and its budget and report back at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Norem requested \$200.00 be transferred into the jail laundry line item, 0101 027-2000.02 from the jail nurse line item, 0101 027-1000.15, so the Commissioners would be able to approve a claim from the jail that affected the laundry line item. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

Starke County Clerk, Evelyn Skronski, appeared before the Council to approve a transfer from the election budget, line item, 0101 019-3000.01 election postage, to line item 0101 019-3000.10, election poll meals, in the amount of \$1000.00. Councilman Seamans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Pearman. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Benninghoff brought up the request from the Treasurer's office to transfer \$565.00 from her budget, line item 0101 003-1000.04 meetings, to line item 0101 003-1000.03 extra help. She stated no action was required by the Council and the request was approved. She then inquired about the Treasurer's request that was tabled at the last meeting, on May 16th. Because the Treasurer, Linda Belork, was not present at the meeting, the Council stated it will remain tabled until she appears before the Board. Mark Smith then inquired about an invoice outstanding in the amount of \$6667.00, that needs to be paid from the Treasurer's budget, line item. 003-3000.08, but the balance in that line item is only \$ 1596.44. Councilman Smith advised the situation needs to be addressed but there was no request from the Treasurer. Councilman McLaughlin inquired as to what the expense was that had been paid from that line item, \$ 5903.56. The Auditor advised it was for the mailing of the tax statements in April. Councilwoman Benninghoff inquired as to who had authorized the claim. Commissioner Norem stated the transaction had involved the check that the Treasurer had been holding, to ProForma, that had been processed last December, for services to be performed in 2011, and had been ordered by the SBOA to be voided out, since you can't prepay for expenses. Councilman Benninghoff then brought up two outstanding checks that had been processed in December, one in the amount of \$8797.85 payable to Bobby Rugg, and one in the amount of \$4050.00 payable to Heise Excavating. She advised that checks were just recently mailed by Deputy Auditor Dona Hoban. Nobody in attendance could advise anything about the two checks, at that time. Mark Smith stated he was unsure what that has to do with there being no action taken on the Treasurer's part.

Councilman, Mark Smith, addressed the county highway's request to distribute the \$4600.00 insurance reimbursement proceeds, back into their budget. The distribution requested would place \$1000.00 into line item 0702 531-2000.19 Brush Crew Supplies; \$2400.00 into line item 0702 533-2000.15, Misc., and \$1200.00 into line item 0702 533-3000.11 Comm. Exp. Radio. Councilwoman Benninghoff made the motion to distribute the proceeds of the insurance reimbursement, into the highway dept. budget, seconded by Councilman Seamans. The motion passed with all ayes.

Courthouse Custodian, Carl Goodrich, appeared before the Board to request additional appropriations in the Cumulative Capital Dev. Fund, 2391, line item 2391-3000.17, Courthouse Elevator Upkeep, \$260.00, and line item 2391 3000.15, Repair of Equipment, in the amount of \$1000.00. President Smith stated he would like to see a transfer instead of an additional appropriation. Councilman Seamans made a motion to transfer the \$1260.00 total in funds, from line item 2391-3000.25, Off-site Backup, to the other two line items. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: STARKE COUNTY LIBRARY REQUEST

Ellen Dodge, Director of the Starke County Library, and Curt Pletcher, of Umbaugh & Associates appeared before the Board to request approval, for a proposed library renovation project. The renovations would include adding an additional meeting room, expanding the children's/young adult's section, painting and new carpeting. She advised the library had been built twenty years ago, and this was the last year of a twenty year bond issue. She is requesting to have a new bond established to pay the renovation project. Mr. Pletcher advised the interest rate would not exceed 7%, and the tax levy would not change, so there would not be a change for the taxpayer. If the project is not approved by November, of this year, to start in 2012, the taxpayer would see a small decrease in the tax rate, and then an increase, as the bond issue is approved. He stated the expense is 1.6 cents of the tax rate. He had supplied the Council with figures based on a 1.8 million dollar bond issue, but they are proposing a two million dollar bond issue. They are estimating the expense of the renovations to be a 1.8 million dollar project. Councilman Seamans made a motion to table this request until the next meeting so that the Council could review the paperwork. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sims, and it passed with all ayes. Mark Smith advised Mr. Pletcher to compile a report with figures showing a two million dollar bond issue.

Commissioner Norem addressed the Council with a request to transfer \$100,000.00 from line item, 0101 025-10000.08, Health Insurance, to line item, 0101 025-3000.11, Legal Fees, all within the Commissioner's budget. The request to increase the legal fees would be to pay for the expected expense to the County of the class action lawsuit that had been filed by jail prisoner, Jack Haut. Norem stated the Commissioner's were expecting to see a savings in the health insurance expense in 2011 of over \$300,000.00. Councilwoman Benninghoff made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: PARAMEDIC UPDATE

EMT Charlie Collins appeared before the Board to give an update on the proposed paramedic program implementation in the county. Commissioner Norem stated that there is a secure verbal affiliation agreement with a hospital, and a secure verbal affiliation agreement with a physician as Medical Director. She advised the county is proposing to hire an ALS, paramedic as the County Director, to replace Lisa Burger. A paramedic Director would qualify for a higher pay scale, than a BLS certified director, as Ms. Burger is. Commissioner Norem requested the county's salary ordinance be amended to show an increase from \$35,672.00 (the budgeted salary for EMS Director for year 2011) to \$50,000.00. If a qualified ALS paramedic is hired as Director, the budget for that line item would need to be increased by \$7600.00 to complete the end of the year. Then the budget prepared for year 2012 would reflect the change. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve amending the Salary Ordinance of the EMS Director's salary to show the increase for a qualified Paramedic Director, for the budget year, 2011. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes. President Smith advised upon hire, the rate will change to \$50,000.00 and a transfer into that line item will need be addressed. He also asked Marty Lucas to draft an amended salary ordinance.

At this point Commissioner Davis announced that she would like to see a joint meeting, of the Council and the Commissioners with Todd Samuelson, of Umbaugh & Associates. She will try to schedule the meeting for July 6th, at 5:00pm.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Benninghoff made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Seaman. The meeting was adjourned.

June 20, 2011

Mark Smith, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

Dave Pearman

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins, Starke Co. Auditor &
Council Secretary

