

**JUNE 20, 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.

## **MINUTES**

Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16th meeting, and the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **REPORT ON STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION WEBSITE**

Dianne Thalman of the SCEDF Board of Directors appeared before the Board to present the SCEDF website and to answer questions that the Council and the Board of Commissioners had earlier in the year. She explained the website is mainly used as an outdoor resource for out-of-county businesses looking to locate to Starke County. Councilman Pearman inquired if the site had a location where a resident could go to find out the status of a current project such as Sysco. Ms. Thalman and Director Charlie Weaver both explained that information is proprietary until the deal is finalized. Then the deal is published as a press release. She advised that the unemployment rate in Starke County is now equal with the state unemployment rate.

## **REQUEST FOR AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA, OUTSTANDING TRADESHOW EXHIBIT SERVICES, OTES, IN NORTH JUDSON AREA**

Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones Attorneys Ed Volk and Anthony Nowak appeared before the Board representing Outstanding Tradeshow Exhibit Services (OTES) who is moving into the Thermo Products Building in the North Judson Area. Mr. Nowak advised she had to revise the original paperwork showing Mae Engineering LLC as the owner of the land per the bank's request; OTES owns the personal property and is asking for abatements on the real property and on the personal property. Nan Wellman is the owner of OTES and the owner of Mae Engineering. Attorney Nowak asked the Board to designate 5235 W. SR10, North Judson as an Economic Revitalization Area. It contains 13 acres. He advised they are asking for a 10 year tax abatement on real property in the amount of \$665,125.67 due to the many improvements being made to the parking lot, roofing, lighting and the dock area. He advised they are also requesting a 7 year tax abatement on the personal property in the amount of \$362,230.16. Ms. Wellman advised she is moving from Romeoville, IL, and is bring with her five of her current employees. Mr. Nowak stated she would like to stimulate economic growth and job creation; two businesses occupying the Thermo Products building will lease from OTES; and she is improving a building that already exists and is in need of revitalization. Councilman Pearman inquired if they are retaining 6-10 jobs if there was a way to ensure compliance of those jobs with the abatement. SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver stated a company has to complete an annual form that shows "a substantial effort" which allows an amendment or denial of abatement if jobs are not made.

Mr. Nowak asked the Board's approval on a preliminary resolution to be signed and set for hearing in July; a Declaration of Economic Revitalization Area. Councilman Baker stated he felt it was putting them on the spot. Councilman Pearman stated he felt they weren't losing anything by signing the resolution. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the resolution with an instrument to call back the abatement if jobs are not created. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cavender and was approved with all ayes. Mr. Nowak advised the Public Hearing and the abatement question will be decided at the July 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Director Weaver questioned why the Council hadn't seen the abatement packet before the meeting. There was a brief discussion on timely disbursing of documents. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the documents prepared called for the location to be within North Judson but advised the Thermo Products building is located in the North Judson Area, which is outside of the town's limits, but within Wayne Township. Mr. Nowak advised he will correct the address to include the unincorporated area of Wayne Township.

## **SHERIFF'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS**

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request \$18,326.00 to be transferred from the Sheriff's budget to Part Time Jailer in the Jail Budget. Councilman Pearman inquired as to why the Sheriff was moving appropriations now when there is still \$32,000.00 in Part Time Jailer and moving appropriations from the Sheriff's Detective budget line. He asked what if the budget is needed later on in the year

within the Sheriff's Budget. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table this decision. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Baker advised Councilman Sims, Commissioner Binkley and himself met with the Sheriff last week to go through the Sheriff's budget. He stated he was still concerned with the appropriations for two extra jailers that were never established in the 2016 budget. It was noted this would be discussed with Auditor Chaffins when she returns. The Sheriff discussed the amount of money he has received from the Therapeutic Community Program. The total amount billed to the DOC were: January--\$8,155.00; February--\$19,845.00; March--\$27,230.00; April--\$28,420.00; May--\$28,490 and he stated he is expecting to bill them \$47,000.00 from the month of June. Councilman Baker advised he had spoken with Judge Hasnerl from the Knox City Court who advised he will not be holding court at the new jail courtroom but he was interested in conducting hearings using the virtual camera. Councilman Pearman asked if the Sheriff ever calculated the actual cost to house a prisoner and the Sheriff advised he had not but that they were making money from the TC Program.

## **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Pearman voiced his concerns in regard for the need for a super bridge to be constructed on CR600E to unite Knox and Hamlet. He advised the CR600E would allow the Hamlet Police Department to be able to work more closely with the Jail Building. He also advised that the bridge of CR700E was closed for repairs. Superintendent Ritzler advised that bridge was to be opened the next day following asphaltting.

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

**JUNE 20, 2016**

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Freddie Baker, President

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Dave Pearman, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

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Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT

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Jennifer Davis

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Robert Sims

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Brad Hazelton

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Jill Rhoda, Deputy Auditor

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