

MONDAY, JULY 15th, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a joint session with the Starke County Board of Commissioners at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Robert Sims, Don White Howard Bailey, Charlie Chesak, and Bryan Cavender present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 meeting. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes.

SCEDF-MONTHLY REPORT

Larry Wickert with the SCEDF came before the board to present his June activity highlights. He stated one of the highlights this month is that Norton Packaging is expected to be finished with their expansion this fall, this expansion will add several jobs for our county as well. He also wanted to mention updates on the Stellar Communities Project; they are still working hard with the entire process and they are currently working on projects as well as getting funding for local matches. He advised they are also working on the Comprehension Plan for North Judson and Starke County which are moving along nicely. Another thing he would like to mention is the county zoning. They had offered a few months ago to the Board of Commissioners that the SCEDF would hire an intern to compile and write county zoning to make it more orderly and put it online. He stated they will be splitting the cost of the intern and they are in the process of this as well. Councilman Pearman inquired about any updates regarding the Sysco property. Director Wickert stated he did have a meeting today with Wabash Valley and REMC. REMC would be willing to put money in to facilitate some of this, they may not want everything but they may want part of the property. Councilman Pearman advised he will be in contact with Director Wickert so that they can travel to Sysco to begin discussions regarding the property. Councilman Pearman wanted to clarify that they are not committing any dollars at this point regarding the Sysco property they just want to begin discussions with the company about trying to get Sysco to contribute the property back to Starke County.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Matt Noonan, Representative of the Communications Committee and Ted Hurley from J & K Communications came before the Starke County Council and the Board of Commissioners to present their yearly contract proposal. Noonan explained that this contract is not just for the VHF side it is for all of the county radio equipment including the 911 phone calling and the 911 dispatching. These two items are first on the contract and the most expensive. He explained there is two software updates a year that would be included in the contract. Councilman Pearman asked Mr. Hurley what it would have cost the county in service calls if they did not have an active contract. Noonan presented a document to Councilman Pearman indicating we have used \$47,000 over the past year in labor hours alone with J & K, that amount does not include materials. Councilman Pearman is concerned about the amount that is being spent on repairing the system when the system is not very old. Mr. Hurley explained that much of the costs of the maintenance of the system is all of the software upgrades that have to be done. Councilman Hazelton advised he had attended the last Communications Committee meeting and there were multiple quotes presented. He advised there was also a 5-year contract quote presented which was a much higher amount but you received a certain percentage off if you did the 5-year. He stated they had discussed in their meeting that they wanted to go with a contract that covers everything.

Mr. Hurley stated our current service contract has expired as of July 1, 2019. They have already been on site for repairs after July 1 but will hold the \$800 bill pending the outcome of the decision of continuing the service contract. Councilman Hazelton asked Sheriff Dulin his opinion on the maintenance agreement. Sheriff Dulin stated we should stay with J & K. Councilman Pearman advised Sheriff Dulin that the payment for the maintenance contract will become part of his budget. Councilman Pearman asked Mr. Hurley about the 5-year contract compared to the 1-year contract. Mr. Hurley explained that with the 5-year contract we would receive a \$21,000 discount, he also stated that the county would commit to the 5 years but be billed on a yearly basis. After further discussion regarding the price of the contract and the rotation of the contract it was decided that the first payment will get service contract on a January 1st rotation for a yearly contract. The amount due now is \$18,904.59. On January 1, 2020 the

yearly amount of service contract will be \$37,809.18 for five years. Councilman Hazelton made a motion pending the Commissioner's approval that we enter into a 5-year contract and pay the first six month installment to finish out this year in the amount of \$18,904.59 from the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passes with all ayes.

CITY OF KNOX-PRIMARY ELECTION COSTS

Clerk Treasurer Jeff Houston from the City of Knox came before the Starke County Council for further discussion regarding the billing he had received from the Starke County Clerk for Knox City's Primary Election costs. He stated the problem regarding this billing is that he did not budget for this amount this year therefore there is no appropriation for this amount for 2019. Councilman Pearman would like the record to reflect that moving forward if someone forgets about the billing that this is statutory billing and will not be forgiven again if it is forgiven this year. After further discussion regarding the City of Knox's revenues, grants, and rainy day funds Councilman Baker made a motion to forgive the costs incurred up until this point and moving forward the City of Knox will be billed for elections costs. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passes with all ayes.

PTABOA APPOINTMENT

Councilman Pearman read the letter from Rebecca Ferch regarding her appointment to the PTABOA Board: It is with much regret that I must resign from the PTABOA effective May 6th, 2019. Thank you for your consideration in appointing me to the past years PTABOA. Councilman Pearman requested an ad be posted for the open position to the PTABOA Board.

MOOSE BUILDING DISCUSSION

Councilman Pearman asked if there was any updates on the Moose Building. Councilman White stated that he and Commissioner Cavender toured the Moose Building. When inside they noticed there was a lot of leakage through the roof. Other than that the building seemed to be in fairly decent shape. Councilman White received a quote from the same company that did the B & H Building a couple years ago. He stated they advised that per their inspection the roof has been repaired several times in the past and recoated. The current roof appears to be in unsatisfactory condition and is in need of a new roof. Councilman White stated the proposed quote for the installation of a new roof is \$51,900. Councilman Bailey asked how much they are asking for the purchase of the property. Commissioner Cavender stated the asking price is \$119,000 but we may be able to get it for around \$80,000. Councilman White stated they could take the \$119,000 and subtract the \$51,900 to equal our possible offer. Attorney Lucas advised they would have to have an appraisal before they were to make an offer. Commissioner Hazelton made a motion pending Commissioner approval that we get two appraisals on the Moose property, not to exceed \$1000 per appraisal, the money will be taken from Cumulative Capital Development. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion that we get two appraisals on the Moose property, not to exceed \$1000 per appraisal, the money will be taken from Cumulative Capital Development. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman entertained a motion to approve the following resolutions:

1. Approving a total of \$81,270 brought forward from 2018, fund 1000 county general.
2. Approving a total of \$300 brought forward from 2018, fund 1169 LR & S.
3. Approving a total of \$109,687 brought forward from 2018, fund 1176 MVH.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve these three resolutions, Councilwomen Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman advised the office holders and the council that on the budgets that is the office holder is going to request the same dollar amount on their budgets, or less, that they had appropriated for 2019, those departments would not be called in to the 2020 Budget Workshop. The council will hold their Budget Workshop on July 25th, 2019 beginning at 9:00 AM. The public hearing will be held September 16th, 2019 at 5:30 PM and then the Adoption date being September 30, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

With there being no public comments Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn at 6:28PM. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

JULY 15th, 2019
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and
Secretary to the County Council

JULY 15th, 2019
STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charlie Chesak, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners