

MONDAY, JULY 17, 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 Freddie Baker, Dave Pearman, Bryan Cavender, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Nancy Dembowski present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Robert Sims. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19th, 2017 meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

EMS DEPARTMENT'S TRANSFER REQUESTS AND SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

EMS Director Travis Clary and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to discuss their transfer request to transfer \$12,000.00 into budget line 1000.20302.0000020, ambulance repair, and \$6,325.00 into budget line 1000.10124.000.0020, Director. There was a discussion by the Board in regard to the amount of ambulance repairs this year and how the ambulance repair line has been decreased appropriations over the past few years. Director Clary advised they have five ambulances, three primary and 2 backups. He advised they are encountering problems with the 2011 ambulance and it has 180,000 miles. Then they discussed the pay the EMS Director was told by the Board of Commissioners he would be receiving which will be \$59,000.00 after six months. Commissioner Norem stated the pay difference would come from the Assistant Director's pay line as the Director stated he wouldn't need that position any more. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request of the \$6,325.00 into the Director Budget line item, 1000.10124.000.0020 from the Assistant Director Budget line, 1000.10124.000.0020. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table the request to transfer appropriations into the ambulance repair budget line to allow time for the Board of Commissioners to review the request. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton suggested the Board look into the Cumulative Capital Development Fund or their portion of the CEDIT fund for appropriating one of those funds for the extra cost of the ambulance repair. Councilman Pearman stated he would also review the budgets of other departments within the County General budget to see if there will be unspent appropriations that would be transferred. A request was made by the EMS Office to amend the 2016 Salary Ordinance to increase the pay of the EMS Director. The pay stated in the present 2016 Salary Ordinance for the position of Director was \$46,359.00 and needed to be changed to \$55,000.00 base pay, plus a \$2,000.00 raise after three months and a good evaluation, then an additional \$2,000.00 increase after an additional three month period and a good evaluation. After six months the pay, with good evaluations, could be at \$59,000.00. Since the year is half over only one half of the increase was asked for to increase the salary ordinance. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to increase the 2016 Salary Ordinance EMS Director from \$46,359.00 to \$55,000.00 plus \$2,000.00 after 3 months and an additional \$2,000.00 after another 3 months, for a total of \$59,000.00. Councilwoman Nancy Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman stated he does not like changing a salary ordinance.

PART TIME PAY

Treasurer Kasey Clark complained about the part time pay and asked who was deserving of the increase in the part time pay that was approved earlier this year. She asked if her regular part time employees who just work at the two tax times (approximately six weeks each) would receive the increased pay. After a discussion of part time pay, skilled part time and who designates the employee as being skilled, it was stated to add this to the next meeting's agenda.

CORONER'S REQUEST TO INCREASE THE AUTOPSY BUDGET LINE

Coroner Dannie Hoffer appeared before the Board to discuss his request for the need of additional appropriations for his autopsy fees budget line, 1000.30900.000.0007. He stated the budget line has almost completely been spent and additional autopsies have been completed but not yet invoiced. He advised the need for autopsy fees is not something you know how to plan for because you don't know on the number of deaths in the county for the year. Councilman Pearman proposed paying additional autopsy invoices out of an appropriated budget line from the Rainy Day Fund but suggested they wait until he receives the additional invoices. The Coroner stated he has been using a Forensic Pathologist from south of Indianapolis as it is due to better pricing.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MONTHLY REPORT/ SCILL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Starke County Economic Development Foundation President Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present the monthly report. He provided a Monthly Activity List that he disbursed to the Board. He advised the SCEDF participated in the US30 Interstate meeting recently at the OD Schools. He noted there was a decent turnout for the meeting and advised the SCEDF is in support of the upgrade to an interstate. President Wickert advised the Stelerema Building is still waiting to sell. The SYSCO property, the 320 acres, is now on the market for sale. He advised SYSCO will be making a profit on the sale. Councilman Pearman inquired as to the asking price and Mr. Wickert advised it is listed at \$12,000.00/acre.

President Wickert advised in the past the appropriation for SCILL has normally been paid in the spring and the second payment in the fall. Councilman Pearman advised this year there has been a committee looking into the SCEDF contract and they are the group that delayed the SCILL payment. He stated it was discussed at the last meeting and they advised to pay the 1st installment while they were waiting on the audit of the books of the

SCEDF. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the appropriation of the \$40,000.00 SCILL payment. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Chaffins asked the Board for the date of their 2018 Budget Workshop. It was decided to hold the budget workshop on Friday, August 11, 2017 at 9:00AM.

Sheriff Dulin appeared at the meeting and advised he would like to be involved in that budget workshop. He stated he has recently lost four officers and noted that they are paid the lowest amount of any other police department in the County, and one of the eighth lowest counties in the State. He stated he doesn't believe they had an increase in pay other than the cost of living increase for the year, in twenty five years. He also stated he is aware his department was discussed at the last Council meeting and wanted to know why his leadership was blamed for losing those officers that have left. The Sheriff stated he would like to form a committee to discuss the pay for his officers. Councilman Hazelton and Councilman Cavender volunteered to service on that committee. The Sheriff stated he would contact them via email tomorrow and stated the committee would also involve the Merit Board members also, which would include Commissioner Binkley.

Auditor Chaffins advised the SBOA Auditors have completed the audit and want to schedule the Audit Exit Meeting. She advised all Commissioners and all Council Members are invited but the County Attorney was not invited to attend. It was decided to schedule the meeting for Tuesday, July 25th at 10AM. Attorney Lucas inquired as to the type of meeting the SBOA was scheduling, and does it require to be posted. Auditor Chaffins advised she will check with the SBOA and advice.

Councilman Pearman stated he still wants to hear from the Hospital in regard to the Quarterly Capital Asset Report and suggested a letter be written and sent to the CEO of the hospital. Commissioner Norem stated Councilman Baker and she had met with the new CEO of the hospital and advised they had discussed the need for the quarterly report. She stated she did make it clear that the County is not paying for any capital assets unless they are pre-approved.

Commissioner Norem stated the Commissioners would like to establish two funds. The first fund is for the Park Board so they can accept donations. She stated it would be a separate Fund created only for use by the Park Board. Attorney Lucas advised he will conduct some research before this fund could be created. Commissioner Norem then advised the Commissioners need to create a Courthouse Maintenance Fund. This fund is a requirement of the grant application. The grant will be for the replacement of the Courthouse elevator and make the elevator ADA compliant. She stated the grant is a competitive grant and the creation of that fund would earn the Commissioners grant points. Commissioner Norem advised she would like to make a \$5,000.00 payment from their portion of the CEDIT Fund and receipt it into that new fund. Councilman Pearman approved the creation of the new maintenance fund and the \$5,000.00 payment from the CEDIT Fund. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas advised he will prepare a resolution for the creation of that fund and they can sign it at their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolla Heilstedt advised she had completed the grant for the Park Board but she ended up being \$4,669.40 short in matching funds but she still submitted the grant.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

JULY 17, 2017

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

ABSENT
Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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