

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 5:30 PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Howard Bailey, Don Binkley, Todd Leinbach present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30 PM for the Starke County Council Regular Session.

President Pearman explained that Kathy Norem would like to present information on the Park Board but with it not being on the agenda he is looking for a motion to add that item to the agenda. Councilman Binkley made a motion to add that item to the agenda. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2021 meeting. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PROSECUTORS REQUEST/FULL TIME POSITION

Starke County Prosecutor Leslie Baker came before the Starke County Council to request funding for an additional full time position. The county would be reimbursed 66% of the salary and benefits for this position. Prosecutor Baker explained that there is more than enough work in the IV-D office to keep the 3rd full time position busy. The Board of Commissioners made a recommendation to the Council to approve this position beginning 1/1/2022. Councilman Binkley asked if that position would be working solely on IV-D case work. Prosecutor Baker stated yes they would as they would have to receive the full 66% reimbursement rate. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the increased budget request of \$175,745 from IV-D 0032 beginning 1/01/2022 contingent upon the budget approval by the Department of Local Government Finance. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY TRANSFERS

Starke County Highway Superintendent Daniel Dipert came before the Starke County Council to request transfer of appropriations. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve a transfer from 1176.21600.000.0531 in the amount of \$175,000 and 1176.10211.00.0533 in the amount of \$30,000 to 1176.3123.00.0533 in the amount of \$205,000. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request from 1176.10120.000.0530 in the amount of \$9,000, 1176.10209.000.0530 in the amount of \$5,000, and 1176.11450.000.0530 in the amount of \$3680 to be transferred to 1176.20100.000.0530 in the amount of \$2800 and 1176.30400.000.0530 in the amount of \$14880. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PARK BOARD REQUESTS

Kathy Norem, Starke County Park Board member, came before the Starke County Council for a few different requests. The first is the approval of some gate staff, the Park Board decided it would be wise to hire a couple part time employees to man the gate entrance at the Bass Lake Beach to collect the fees as they were coming in. She explained that they wanted the staff to begin on the 4th of July weekend so they asked the Commissioners to hold a special meeting for approval of the hiring of some folks who are seasonal. She explained they have been paying them \$10 per hour. She is requesting the approval of the \$10 per hour and then next year we could put in a pay range. Councilman Pearman suggested taking EMA out to the beach location to discuss security measures as well. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to amend the current salary ordinance to add the Bass Lake Beach Gate Attendant at a pay rate of \$10 per hour. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Kathy will submit a job description to the Council as well. Kathy then provided a copy of the Ordinance Establishing the Starke County Department of Parks and Recreation to the Starke County Council. She explained that the Indiana code that governs parks boards is IC 36-10-3. She advised that the jurisdiction

of the Park Board falls on the County Council and according to this ordinance as presented it authorized the hiring of a Superintendent.

The Park Board would be following the Indiana Code for the job description for the hiring of a Park Superintendent. She explained that even though the Board of Commissioners does not govern over the Park Board they would like to go to the next Commissioners meeting and ask for their blessing in the hiring of a Park Superintendent. Councilman Pearman expressed his concern regarding what this individual would be doing in the off seasons and that a lot of planning and work seems to be Bass Lake Centered. He would like this position to oversee and be focused on the whole county not just one area. Commissioner Norem agreed and also stated that she believes it adds to the quality of living and economic conditions of the county to have nice parks. She explained that the expectation of the Park Superintendent is that they would develop programs for each of these parks and it might be a little heavier on Bass Lake because Bass Lake has a greater audience and attendance there. Councilman Pearman asked what the range of the salary would be. Kathy stated they are looking for a range to start with between \$37,500 and \$42,500.

Kathy advised that when Mr. Callahan died at the end of March, they knew they were only a month away from opening season and they did not have the opportunity to get some people in there or hire a Park Superintendent so they contracted with Larry for one season hoping that would get them through this season. She explained it has not been a satisfactory arrangement. Councilman Pearman asked if this would start this season. Kathy stated yes it would. Councilman Binkley asked if the Superintendent would be taking over Larry's duties. Kathy stated yes he would. She also advised that anything they are asking from the county tonight they are not asking for funding, they will be funding this position with the revenue stream the Park Board currently has. She explained that what they do need help with is capital improvements for some of those things. Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve the request for a Park Superintendent with the contingency that only one individual be paid as a "manager" role at a time, meaning the current contracted person and the Park Superintendent could not be paid at the same time. The salary range will be \$37,500 - \$42,500. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Kathy then provided the Board with a brief update regarding the CVC Board. She advised that the Board got started this year with an entirely new board. The board has a total of \$30,000 in their fund as Auditor Oesterreich did not pay out any monies last year. What they elected to do was follow the model used by the Community Foundation which is to distribute monies based on profits in twelve rolling quarters. She stated they had \$6500 to distribute. They ended up funding the rodeo at the 4-H fair, the puppet show at the North Judson Mint Festival, they funded something at the Yellowstone festival, advertising for the music concerts at the Koontz Lake, and something for the City of Knox. They will be giving more grant funding out that will be available at the end of this year.

WIC ADDITIONAL 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Lisa Dunfee the Starke County WIC Coordinator came before the Starke County Council for additional funding request for the 2022 budgets. She explained that when she was here the last time for budgets she was not thinking big enough. She was notified by the State WIC office that she could request more money in her budget for 2021/2022 fiscal year. She has requested this additional amounts to be added to the salary as that is what was directed by State WIC. Councilman Pearman advised that they already raised their numbers up but now the State is saying that the council should raise their numbers even more in the salary area. He has asked Auditor Oesterreich to contact the State to verify this information. Lisa stated that she did bring the email she received from the state. He advised they stated "Your allocation for FY22 is based on caseload, so it would be great if you could get you board to approve the increase so you can make staffing/clinic/hours/pay adjustments needed to support your clients". After further discussion Councilman Binkley made a motion to approve the increased requested of \$136,688 contingent upon the information that is received from the State and Auditor Oesterreich. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SHERIFF – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Sheriff Dulin came before the Starke County Council to request either the use of ARPA money or an additional appropriation in Jail CREDIT for the purchase of a body scanner. Councilman Pearman advised he had met with Sheriff Dulin about this issue and how the county is at risk when individuals bring drugs into the jail. He stated that instead of banking on ARPA funds for this purchase this is a capital asset purchase and Jail CREDIT funds could be used. Sheriff Dulin added that they need this item as soon

as possible. Sheriff Dulin presented one quote to the Council from Tek84 for the amount of \$149,000 and in addition an optional item for \$15,000. The 2-year warranty is also an additional \$7,500. Sheriff Dulin advised he would like to get additional quotes as well. After further discussion Councilman Hazelton made a motion to have Auditor Oesterreich advertise for an additional appropriation for Jail CREDIT in the amount of \$175,000. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

TIF DISTRICT DISSOLUTION – SYSCO

Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Redevelopment Commission for the TIF District SYSCO was dissolved in 2020 but there was never an official motion to dissolve the actual TIF District. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to dissolve the TIF District of SYSCO. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Oesterreich request the use of the no appropriation funds to fund the county employee Christmas party this year. The party will be held on December 3, 2021 at the VFW in Knox. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to use up to \$1400 in funds for the 2021 Christmas Party. Councilman White seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Auditor Oesterreich also asked permission to hire Baker Tilly for the purposed of Estimated Revenue Loss for Starke County up to an amount of \$3000. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve hiring Baker Tilly for Revenue Loss Estimate up to the spending amount of \$3000. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**JULY 19, 2021
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Don Binkley

Todd Leinbach

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