

**AUGUST 15, 2016**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a regular session at 6:00PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker at 6:00PM. Absent from the meeting were Councilmen Dave Pearman, Robert Sims, and Councilwoman Jennifer Davis.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18th meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

One of the papers from the OTES Abatement, from the last meeting, was signed tonight. It was approved at the last meeting but the one form was over-looked.

**2017 BUDGETS: LEVIES & CIRCUIT BREAKERS**

Auditor Katherine Chaffins explained a change the State has made in regard to the 2017 Budgets. The County Council will no longer be required to conduct Non-Binding Reviews of the other taxing units in the County. Instead the County Council, at their first meeting in August, was to review the levy and circuit breakers for every taxing unit in the County. The Auditor has passed out paperwork on the circuit breakers, especially noting the past history of the circuit breakers in the County and the 2017 State Estimated Circuit Breakers. Last year the County had a total of \$680,591.49 in Circuit Breakers and this year the State estimated a total of \$5,169,535.00 for the County. The Starke County Circuit Breakers went from \$87,480.83 in 2016 to an estimated \$605,384.00. County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired as to why the State was estimating so highly since the County’s NAV for 2017 had decreased by .5%. The Auditor explained the State refused to re-calculate the County’s Estimated Circuit Breakers and was told this year the Circuit Breakers will be reflected within the budget. The amount of circuit breakers would decrease the amount from the levy you would have left for your budget. Auditor Chaffins advised she had just been told 15 minutes before she came into the meeting that the DLGF Representative advised the County could change the value of the circuit breakers if they think the estimated figures are not valid. After a discussion by the Council it was decided it would be more practical to just show a 10% increase in the 2016 Circuit Breakers and to use those numbers when entering your 2017 budget instead of the estimated State figures. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to calculate the 2017 Budget Circuit Breakers at a 10% increase of the 2016 Circuit Breakers across the board for all taxing units in the County. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins advised the County’s Budget Workshop is scheduled for Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8AM. The 2017 Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for their September Meeting and the 2017 Budget Adoption will take place at their October Meeting.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

**AUGUST 15, 2016**

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Freddie Baker, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Pearman, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Cavender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davis

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Hazelton

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