

AUGUST 18, 2014

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Mitch Semans, Tony Radkiewicz, Marvin McLaughlin, Bryan Cavender, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Pearman. Councilman Robert Sims was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21st meeting, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

NJSP SCHOOLS PUBLIC HEARING

President Pearman advised the NJSP 2015 Budget Public Hearing originally scheduled for this meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict and timing of the budget advertisement and will be held at the September 15th meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared in front of the Board with an amendment to the Police Retirement Plan that was prepared by Morgan Stanley. There was some discussion in regard to what the amendment was proposing, as County Attorney, Marty Lucas stated the wording is very opaque, and non-specific. The Sheriff advised he would discuss this with the plan's representative, Stan Brown, but he advised the due date to have the amendment signed is August 30th. Councilman Semans made a motion to allow the Sheriff and the Council President to sign the agreement once the proposal is clarified. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Sheriff Cowen also requested the appropriation of the 2014 Riverboat revenue in the total amount of \$101,222.03, from Fund 7303, the Police Retirement Fund, to be paid towards the County's 2014 contribution of the County Police Retirement Fund. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes. There was a discussion in regard to the County's balance of their minimum requirement into the pension fund for the year 2014. President Pearman advised he would speak with Stan Brown to see the status of the funding. Sheriff Cowen advised the police department had received almost \$18,000.00 themselves in process serving and golf cart inspections and permits that are also sent to Morgan Stanley toward their retirement plan.

Auditor Chaffins submitted a request to transfer \$1,750.00 into the office supply budget line item, 1000.20100.000.0002 and \$1,000.00 into the postage budget line item, 1000.30100.000.0002 of the Auditor's budget, from the Deputy Auditor budget line item, 1000.10200.000.0002. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins also requested the appropriation of the County Commissioners' portion of the CEDIT Fund, 1112, the 2013 carryover amount of \$30,061.02, and the remainder of the 2014 Commissioners' portion of \$33,943.82. She also requested the appropriation of the reimbursement payment received from the City of Knox, in the amount of \$291,853.00 which was the city's share of the CR300E INDOT Grant local share expense. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the appropriation requests, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer request from the Board of Commissioners requesting the appropriation of \$10,000.00 from the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund to pay for the shredding of public documents; the transfer of \$10,000.00 into budget line item 1110-30850.000.0000, shredding from budget line item 1110-10804.000.0000, health insurance. There was a brief discussion in regard to the expense of the shredding. Commissioner Norem explained the amount of funding approved by the Board of Commissioners was an up to \$10,000.00 situation as no one yet knows what the actual cost of the document shredding will be. She noted there are twenty pallets of public documents that have been reviewed and approved by the Public Records Committee to be picked up by the Shredding Company on October 1st. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the Historical Society wants to review the documents before they are shredded.

Terry Turner, the County Veterans' Service Officer requested a transfer of \$800.00 into the computer budget line item, 1000-40100.000.0024 of his budget from the Auditor's Deputy budget line item, 1000-10200.000.0002 in order to purchase a laptop and Microsoft Office software for his Office. He advised Auditor Chaffins is allowing the transfer request. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes.

Starke County Economic Director, Charlie Weaver, appeared before the Board to request the appropriation of the Commissioners' portion of the 2013 carry-over of budget line item CR300E project, 1112-31006.000.0000, in the amount of \$43,847.57 and the SCEDF CR300E 2013 carry-over of budget line item 1112-30909.000.0000 in the amount of \$44,921.32. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the appropriation requests, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. President Pearman inquired of Director Weaver as to why the idea of the installation of a stop light at the intersection of SR8 and CR300E instead of the creation of a deceleration lane was not considered. Director Weaver advised the cost of the stop light would be much greater than the cost of the creation of the deceleration lane.

DECLARATION OF COUNTY TAX RATES

President Pearman advised the County is required each year to report their County Income Tax rates to the Indiana Department of Revenue. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the Declaration stating the CAGIT tax rate of .50; the CEDIT tax rate of .56, and the CEDIT, Special Legislation tax rate of .65, for a total County tax rate of 1.71 will remain the same as last year. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. President Pearman advised the Declaration of County Tax Rates is for the time period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

County Commissioner Kathy Norem advised she has prepared a press release for interested participants willing to serve on the County’s Park & Recreation Board. She noted the Council has two appointments and they are required to be politically balanced: one Republican and one Democrat with one appointment for a term of two years and the other for a term of four years. She noted the Circuit Court Judge also has two appointments also politically balanced with one having a term of one year, and the other a term of three years. She also noted the Commissioners have one appointment with no political requirement and that appointment will have a term of two years. She advised the appointments can be addressed at their next meeting.

President Pearman distributed a tax flow chart he created to assist the Board in visualizing the total budget picture in preparation of the work of the County in being a DLGF appointed Pilot County when they begin next month with the non-binding reviews of the other tax entities in the County. He also noted the newspaper budget advertisement will no longer be required in 2015 for the 2016 budget. The taxing units will only be required to advertise their budgets via Gateway. He advised the public of the Gateway website and how it can be accessed through the IN.GOV website for those interested in seeing any budget information. President Pearman advised those present for the meeting, the Council had completed their budget reviews and feels the County has a good product to be sent to the state for their approval. He advised they were able to incorporate the future costs of the opening of the new jail that will take place in 2015 and also the expansion of the EMS paramedic program to the Grovertown EMS Base which is scheduled to start at the beginning of 2015.

With there being no further business, Councilman Semans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.

AUGUST 18, 2014

Dave Pearman, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

Bryan Cavender

Marvin McLaughlin

Tony Radkiewicz

ABSENT
Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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