

August 19, 2013

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 Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Robert Sims, Mitch Semans, Bryan Cavender, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman. He advised Councilman McLaughlin could not attend the meeting.

RE: MINUTES

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15th meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23rd Budget Workshop, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23rd Special Meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 29th Special Meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5th meeting, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: LISA LEE, ICE MILLER

Lisa Lee, of Ice Miller, appeared before the Board with documents that required their approval, in regard to the County's new jail project. She presented a resolution determining the need for the jail project, which included the petitions of fifty taxpayers, and the ordinance pledging the CEDIT tax revenue to pay the bond lease rentals. She advised the Building Corporation will be the bond issuer, leasing the project to the County. The County will be paying the debt service. She advised the County will not be able to reduce the .65 CEDIT tax rate while the bond project is open, but it can be done away with once the Bond project is completed. She noted the amortization of the bond is for a period of 21 years. Councilman Semans made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the documents on their first reading. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Semans then made a motion to adopt the resolution and ordinance as presented, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: ADOPTION OF NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOL'S 2014 BUDGET & SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT'S 2014 BUDGET

Councilman Semans made a motion to adopt the 2014 budget of the North Judson-San Pierre Schools, Ordinance 75819A. Councilman Baker seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Semans made a motion to adopt the 2014 budget of the Solid Waste Department, Ordinance 75819B. Councilman Sims seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

RE: CREATION OF PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Commissioner President Kathy Norem advised the Board of Commissioners, at their last meeting, voted unanimously to recommend to the County Council the creation of a County Parks & Recreation Board. She stated the Board would be responsible for the issues at the Bass Lake Beach & Campground, and also the other park-like properties in Starke County, such as the Koontz Lake Beach, the Starke County Forest, and the Commons Areas in San Pierre, Koontz Lake and Boa Shores. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised the County would be creating a Parks & Recreation Department that would be controlled by a Parks & Recreation Board. He noted it would be up to the Board if a Superintendent would be necessary, and if so the Board would define their role. President Pearman stated he was concerned with who has the ultimate authority. Attorney Lucas advised the Board could not create a tax, only the County Council can adopt any taxes. He also noted the Circuit Court Judge per State statute has the authority to appoint two Board members, and the Board would consist of five board members. He advised the Board would be the manager of the property, not the owner of the property. Councilman Baker inquired if the Board/Department does not have any funding, what funding would they operate with. Commissioner Norem advised a Parks & Recreation Board should be created so as to get everyone on the same page. Clyde Haniford advised at the Bass Lake Beach & Campground they rent out approximately 28 campers year round at \$1,700.00 annually per each camper, and an estimated 30 boat slips at \$500.00 each. MJ Bendt inquired if the Board will be composed from all areas of the County. She noted her concern that the Board would be composed of all the same area of the County. Attorney Lucas advised a political balance is required when choosing the appointees. He noted the purpose of the Board would be to delegate authority and relieve some of the time consuming issues that appear before the Board of Commissioners. He also noted the Board would keep all park entities separate, not having one person managing all the parks. Councilman Baker made a motion to have the Board table the issue for now and hold a special meeting, prior to the next Council meeting, to discuss this topic at length. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 6th, at 5:30PM. President Pearman advised the meeting will be open to the public, and anyone having any questions should email them to Attorney Lucas prior to the meeting.

RE: APPROPRIATION, TRANSFER REQUESTS

President Pearman advised the first appropriation request is to appropriate the \$101,222.03 the County has received as their share of the 2013 Riverboat Wagering Tax Revenue, to be expended as payment towards the Sheriff's Pension Plan for the 2013 fiscal year. President Pearman explained that the County is currently funding the Sheriff's Department's Pension Plan at approximately 83%, and is not recommending the County fund the pension plan at 100% due to the fact that the investments could grow and would become more than 100% of the plan. Councilman Semans made a motion to appropriate the 2013 payments of the Riverboat Wagering Tax to pay towards the Sheriff's Pension Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cavender, and passed with all ayes. President Pearman advised the County would require an additional payment of \$200,000.00 to completely fund the pension plan, and noted he would like to see a budget line item, payment to their pension plan, be included in the County's yearly budget.

County Extension Officer, Elizabeth Smith, appeared before the Board to present a transfer request, transferring \$1,200.00 to their travel expense, budget line item 1000.30204.000.0021, from the Deputy Auditor's budget line item, 1000.10200.000.0002. Auditor Chaffins advised she had authorized the transfer request as there is a surplus in the Deputy Auditor's budget line. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

County Highway Department Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, appeared before the Board to request a transfer in the amount of \$41,000.00 into the road equipment budget line item, 1176.40201.000.0533, from the following budget line items: 1176.31406.000.0533 repair road equipment, \$10,000.00; 1176.21100.000.0533, gas, oil, and lube, \$20,000.00; and the insurance reimbursement of \$11,000.00. He advised the purpose of the transfer will be to purchase a wood chipper to replace the one that was stolen, and to purchase a GPS system for the highway department's trucks. President Pearman inquired as to why they don't purchase a used wood chipper. Superintendent Ritzler advised the stolen wood chipper was ten years old, and the one they had been demoing has many more safety features. He noted the County has not yet received the insurance check. The cost for the wood chipper is estimated to be \$38,000.00 and the GPS system to be \$3,000.00. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes.

2014 COUNTY BUDGETS

President Pearman advised he would also like to add a discussion in regard to the County's 2014 budget, to the scheduled September 6th meeting. He stated he is concerned with the total budget amount of the County General Fund, and should relook at the proposed 3% pay raises and the proposed change in the EMS Department. He also noted he would like to find a permanent home for the CAGIT revenue, so as to reduce the total of levy budget items. He asked to see the budget figures with and without the pay increase, and with and without the EMS changes. He also stated he would like to see an appropriation of the CAGIT funding of approximately \$40,000.00-50,000.00 each year for the Sheriff's Pension Plan in addition to the Riverboat Wagering Tax Revenue the County receives.

At this time in the meeting, 6:45PM, Councilman Semans made a motion to open up the 2014 County Budget Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baker, and passed with all ayes. Questions from the public included what the CAGIT revenue is used for, and if the County Council would be included in the 3% pay increase. A question was also asked about the increase in the County Highway Department revenue and it was pointed out that the Highway Department is separate from the other County budgets as it is not funded by the tax levy. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes, and the public hearing was closed at 6:48PM. President Pearman advised the final adoption of the 2014 County budgets will take place at their Sept. 16th meeting.

Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the signing of the Declaration of County Income Taxes, stating the County's CAGIT rate is .50 and the CEDIT rate is 1.21, for a total county income tax rate of 1.71. Councilman Baker seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

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 adjourned at 6:55PM.

August 19, 2013

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