

MONDAY, AUGUST 19th, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a joint session with the Starke County Board of Commissioners at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Howard Bailey, Charles Chesak, Kathryn Norem, and Bryan Cavender present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM.

3rd FLOOR COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Commissioner Norem advised that the Commissioners have a legal responsibility to maintain infrastructure in the county. This includes roads, bridges, and buildings. The courthouse is on the National Historical List of Registers and it is an old building that will require regular monies to be put into it on an ongoing basis. Otherwise we may have to face some sort of crisis at some point down the road. Commissioner Norem explained they have tried to keep up with some things like the water pouring into the Judge's secretary's office by sealing the joints. She also stated they have replaced broken windows and electric lines. Commissioner Norem advised they have spent about 1 million dollars in revitalizing the 1st floor of the courthouse a few years ago. However, this did not include anything up on the 3rd floor. She stated there is a tremendous need and understands the council many have quite a few questions regarding the project. Commissioner Norem then asked John Kirk from DLZ to explain the projects projected design. Mr. Kirk explained DLZ had received a priority list from the Judge. The first on the list is carpeting, he explained in the courtroom there are seams that are starting to show and areas where the carpet is bunched up. He stated the current carpet is at the end of its life with seaming. There are some rooms on the 3rd floor where the carpet has been redone. Those that have been redone are not in the scope of the project. He explained they have put temporary VCT around the elevator area, he explained that the VCT in all areas on the 3rd floor is at the end of its lifetime.

Mr. Kirk advised that in the courtroom they are looking at new entry doors, as the current doors are worn down, the drapes as they are 50 years old and when they are moved you can see the fibers falling down from the fabric. He explained the lighting in the large courtroom is very dark, the jury seating is towards the end of its life as well as the seating for the public. Mr. Kirk explained the seats are bolted to the floor but they are very wobbly and can no longer be bolted to the floor. He stated that maintenance is re-bolting down the floors on a weekly basis because they are worn down and falling apart. He explained that the cost you see in the chair price also includes the cost in the work that will need to be done to the subfloor. Mr. Kirk advised that they are looking to keep the individual seating in the jury box but doing bench seating for the area of the public which will give more flexibility larger or smaller individuals and even children that may be present. The desks present in the courtroom only have a microphone hooked to them with no plug in adapters. The attorney are asked to have their laptops fully charged before coming to court as there is no plug-in access. The intent in this upgrade is to bring in power when they do the flooring so it is not seen. He stated there is a question in whether or not they will keep the existing tables.

Mr. Kirk advised the jury box does have speakers but they do stick out about six inches and are considered too big for the area. There are also locations within the jury box where you are unable to hear what is being said. With that being said, another aspect about the courtroom is that there are several areas within the courtroom in which you are unable to hear what is being said upfront. As a part of this project they would like to get a sound system that will work for the entire courtroom. Mr. Kirk explained they will be completing a small upgrade to the bench to include privacy space for the Judge for court documents. The last item on the list is security, he stated there are a few cameras in the courtroom but there are other locations on the 3rd floor in which there is no camera coverage. He explained in the small courtroom the wall paper is falling off the walls and not enough adequate lighting. He explained all the bathrooms on the 3rd floor are raised floor bathrooms with plaster. Most of the plaster has plaster damage from water, the light fixtures are very dated. The idea is to at least bring them up to date as they did to the prosecutor's laboratory downstairs on the 1st floor which is done in tile and leaking pipes were repaired. The other areas outside of the courtroom that have not received upgrades to the carpet will also be completed.

The tour of the 3rd floor facilities commenced.....

The tour of the 3rd floor facilities concluded.....

Commissioner Norem advised that the Judge had prioritized the list of what needed to be done the most. She stated the list is prioritized as follows: new flooring on the 3rd floor, bathroom renovations, jury room repairs, lobby ceiling repairs, small courtroom improvements, and then the large courtroom improvements. She explained each section is broken down and estimate is listed. Commissioner Norem advised that some of the estimates have been estimated high as they needed working numbers to present to the council to request the funding. She stated she had a question regarding the tiling on the 3rd floor, she stated the tiling is on the National Historic Register list so they will be preserving the tiling. Commissioner Norem advised she believes our courthouse is the county's national treasure and is something that we have an obligation to keep up and put regular maintenance into. She stated nothing has been done in the courtroom for at least 50 years. The seating for the public, as told by Carl, came from a movie theater from the 1930's and 40's who had upgraded their own seats. Commissioner Norem advised that she had spent a great of time going through the finances, revenue streams, and how we could afford these renovations. She explained they anticipate carrying over \$1.3 million in Jail CEDIT and \$700,000 in Regular CEDIT. She explained the Jail CEDIT fund was set up by State Legislators for Starke County to build and operate their jail as well as for the ancillary departments that would be needed to run a jail. One thing that is very important to the operating of the jail is the court and the justice system.

Commissioner Norem advised they are looking for about \$400,000 to do this project, they believe it will be less but they don't want to undershoot it and have to ask for more money. She stated that when they look at the functions of the 3rd floor and the courtroom she believes that three quarters of the necessary funding would be able to come from the Jail CEDIT fund and one quarter from the regular CEDIT. Meaning, from the \$1.3 million we anticipate carrying over from the Jail CEDIT they could take \$300,000 and out of the \$700,000 we anticipate carrying over from the regular CEDIT we could take \$100,000. She advised that the building is more than 100 years old and if you want to maintain it you have to regularly put money into it. Commissioner Norem advised this project is not about Judge Hall, this is about the building and the obligations they have to the building and the historic nature of the building. John Kirk advised that the security camera quote can directly from the county's IT Director not DLZ. Council President Pearman asked when the current carpeting was installed. He stated that when a company does a project estimate they usually have background information on the current fixtures in which the council can use to estimate when they will need to replace certain items again. Judge Hall stated he has been with court services for 33 years and he does not remember that the carpet had been replaced in those years. President Pearman also stated that he would not think the paneling should be replaced as it gives the courtroom its uniqueness. Mr. Kirk advised that the paneling will be staying in the courtroom. Commissioner Norem advised that it would only be the small courtroom where paneling would be a cost. In the large courtroom the current paneling would stay.

President Pearman advised he felt the lighting quote seemed a little bit high. He asked if Architect fees meant it was Project Management Fees as you don't need an architect to put new carpeting down. He also felt that with a project like this we should be able to manage it ourselves and not hire a consultant. Mr. Kirk explained that he is in the position in which he has research that helps determine the right benches, the right lighting, and etc. Commissioner Norem advised they do not have the time to sit down and pick out every single detail that is needed. President Pearman then asked if this project will be bid out because that will give an opportunity for local businesses to bid on the project. He stated there are many areas in the pricing were it could look a lot more attractive. President Pearman stated if they are going to do things such as get rid of the vintage tables he will not agree to the project. Judge Hall stated he agreed with the tables and keeping the vintage feel to the courtroom. Commissioner Norem stated because of being on the National Historical List they know they will need to be careful as to how they replace some items. She stated they will be keeping the tiles as well as the court paneling in the large courtroom. She stated they are simply updating and making improvements that need to be done; there is nothing on the proposal that is a stretch of the imagination. President Pearman agreed that the needs list is definitely good as far as what is needed to be upgraded he just does not agree with some of the pricing. For example, \$45,000 for paneling for the small courtroom. Commissioner Norem said several years ago they received a quote from the local contractor for paneling on the small courtroom. Judge Hall explained 5 years ago they received a quote from the Knox Wood Shop in the amount of \$20,000 for paneling replacement in the small courtroom. He stated the paneling makes it look prestigious than what it is now as the small courtroom is used for some very personal court hearings. Judge Hall advised that originally the courthouse was not built in the manner to support a small courtroom. The Sheriff,

Clerk, and other office holders had offices on the 3rd floor. He stated they eventually converted what use to be office space to a small courtroom.

Judge Hall stated that 5 years ago the panel replacement was \$20,000, he has spoken with Knox Wood Shop and they would be happy to contribute in some fashion to this remodel. Judges Hall also advised he came to the courthouse 15 years ago as Judge of Starke County. He stated they recorded everything on audio tape, there were no laptops, no speakers in the jury box and no speakers in the ceiling. However, times have changed and they have piece mewed some upgrades here and there. He explained they hear just fine upfront but the individuals located in the back of the courtroom are unable to hear the conversations going on upfront. Judge Hall stated he feels very blessed that he gets to work here and whether or not the upgrades takes place he will be very happy coming into work every day and they will continue with what they are doing on a daily basis. He stated this is not about him and he does not mind if a committee is put together for this project as he is not an interior decorator. He put bathroom renovations toward the top of the list as up until a few years ago they did not have hot water on the 3rd floor. He feels that employees and jurors should have a place that is somewhat modern for bathrooms. Judge Hall advised he does not want to be responsible for coming up with the decisions for the remodeling as long after he is gone and after most of us are gone, other people are going to live with how it was designed. Commissioners 120 years ago agreed to build the courthouse originally and here we are 120 years later still talking about the courthouse and those Commissioners have been long gone. He stated it was last remodeled fifty years ago, if we put money into the remodeling now it will likely stay that way for the next 30,40, or 50 years.

President Pearman stated he felt that the public seating was not that bad and still looked nice. He also stated there are companies that could fix the pedestals. He also does not agree that the jury seating would need to be replaced either. Commissioner Norem disagrees as the current seating is not adequate for the public to have to come up here and listen to a court hearing. Councilman Hazelton advised that if anyone knew how to prioritize it would be the person that is here all the time. He stated he does not spend time in the courtroom but the Judge would know most what needs to be done up here. Judge Hall advised they have been diligent in the items they have replaced over the years such as digital recording and TV screens. He stated we should want the public, which uses the courtroom, to be able to hear, be able to have adequate seating, and be able to be comfortable. President Pearman stated that Porter County has church pews and you feel like you are falling forward when you sit in them. He stated his point is that the entire pricing system on the estimate of costs can be sharpened up and he believes we could knock \$100,000 off of the estimate. Councilman Hazelton stated that when it goes to bid it may have a reduction in costs but he does not see \$16,000 in a courtroom curtain. Commissioner Norem advised she personally believes that when you go into a courtroom you want a degree of decorum and you want a solemn experience as well as a professional experience. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve \$300,000 from Jail CEDIT and that is it for the funding. Commissioner Norem advised she does not believe the funding can completely come out of Jail CEDIT because of the law the law was written for that tax rate. This is why she expressed a portion should be paid from Jail CEDIT and a portion paid from Regular CEDIT. Councilman Hazelton stated they had already approved \$100,000 from Regular CEDIT during the council's budget workshops. At that time Councilman Hazelton amended his motion to approve \$200,000 from Jail CEDIT. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion. Councilman Hazelton advised that the order of renovation should come from the prioritized list that the Judge has determined what needs to be done first. President Pearman advised that for his own personal perspective we need to keep as much vintage as possible during these renovations. The motion passed with all ayes.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes.

WILLIAMSON V. VORM

Attorney Lucas advised that the Board of Commissioners had received a letter of action regarding to determine whether or not to vacate part of the easement through Cedar Pointe Park and Cottage Corner Pointe at Bass Lake. Attorney Lucas stated that today the Board of Commissioners had received a letter of objection presented by Attorney Jon Bomberger who is representing Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hampton. These parties had been originally notice by the petition for the public hearing for tonight. In this objection several issues are raised one being the timeliness of the Petition for Notice today. Another

issue that was raised in the objection is whether or not the Board of Commissioners are the correct party in taking this action. Attorney Lucas respects their request in that the hearing be postponed so that proper notice may be given. Without making a further comment about the objection within the letter Attorney Lucas advised the Commissioners to grant a continuance as there is a party objection to the vacation of part of the easement through Cedar Pointe Park and Cottage Corner Pointe at Bass Lake. After further discussion regarding Williamson V. Vorm Commissioner Norem asked Attorney Wallsmith the harm postponing this matter for two more weeks would cause. Attorney Wallsmith stated the closer it gets to winter the more problems one of his clients will have in completing construction in this area in question. After further objections from the public regarding this matter of vacation Commissioner Norem made a motion to postpone this matter until their next meeting on September 3rd, 2019. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

NORTH JUDSON WAYNE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY-ADDITONAL APPROPRIATION

North Judson Wayne Township Library came before the Starke County Council to request approval of an additional appropriation. President Pearman explained that over the years they have had several different proposals from the North Judson Wayne Township Library about restorations and improvements. To his understandings some of them were done. The library representatives explained that this proposal for funding is a little different from past proposals, they explained over the course of the lease repayment of the bond the library had issued for the addition for the library back in the 90's they had ended up repaying on the repayment. They advised once the final lease payment had been made they had a significant amount of money sitting in the debt service fund they no longer needed to pay off the debt. They stated the money has been sitting there for the past couple of years and they saw this as an opportunity to make some significant improvements to the facility. They advised they did work with the State to get the approval of moving it out of debt services fund into the operations fund. Councilman Bailey asked how much money was left in the debt service fund. The library official stated \$231,000. Councilman Bailey clarified that they were asking to spend \$125,000 of the \$231,000 that was left in that fund. Councilman Hazelton stated the additional appropriation has been posted and published, he asked if the public had any objections to the approval of the additional appropriation. With no objections Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$125,000 in the operations line item of the budget of the North Judson Wayne Township Library. Councilman Baker seconded the motion after further discussion regarding the additional money from what would be left of that \$231,000 the motion carried with all ayes.

MICROFILM MACHINE QUOTES, ENHANCED ACCESS FUND, & SERVER

Recorder Thomason presented the council members an example of what a current page looks like when printed from one of the microfilm machines they have now. President Pearman asked Recorder Thomason to revisit the financial scope and impact of buying a new microfilm machine. Recorder Thomason stated she would like to go with the quote from Imaging Office Systems in the amount of \$8,793.00. She explained this would be coming out of the Recorders Perpetuation Fund. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the request for a new microfilm machine as presented. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Recorder Thomason then presented an Ordinance to the council to establish an enhanced access fund/fee. She explained this is for the public viewing of images, she stated the Filder has been holding on to their Tapestry credit. They can no longer hold on to this credit, the credits (money) need to be deposited into this fund and then their software fees paid from this fund. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Enhanced Access Fund. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Recorder Thomason advised they have been having server issues and their programs have been down quite a bit lately. She stated the county's anti-virus is not working well with their server and they would have to upgrade the server. She advised IT Director Franks is encouraging their department to go with AVID Hosting Partner to store all of the information rather than storing it on our county server. She explained this would be a \$350 increase per month if they went with this company. Commissioner Norem asked if this amount would come out of her perpetual fund. Recorder Thomason stated it would be. Right now they pay \$4000 per year to have it stored on our server but if they went with AVID storage it would be \$8,800 per year. Commissioner Norem asked when their department would have to make a decision. Recorder Thomason explained that they will be upgrading the end of September and going live in October. After further discussion regarding the offsite storage Commissioner Norem made a motion to table this issue until their next meeting on September 3, 2019. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

STELLAR COMMITTEE

Superintendent Rik Ritzler and SCEDF director Larry Wickert came before the Starke County Council to request possible funding for the Stellar Communities Project. Director Wickert explained the background of how they ended up to the point at which they are now. He explained that our regent is made up of Knox, North Judson, Hamlet, and Starke County and that we had been selected as a finalist for the Stellar Community Project. He advised there are four finalist across the State of Indiana and Stellar was designed to provide support to rural communities. He stated the way this is organized is that the regent comes up with a 10-year plan with the things we want in our region in the next 10-years, this includes what we want to see our community do and become. He also explained that to participate the incorporated entities have to come up with their own comprehensive plan. He stated they have to have their initial plan submitted by September 20, 2019 but they are looking to having the plan submitted by September 13, 2019. He advised that the selectors will look at what our plan involves, what studies have shown, what our needs are, are we meeting those needs, and how this will all be supported financially for the match. He stated they are requesting a resolution for the financial support for the 20% match from the county council if our regent is selected. Superintendent Ritzler presented the county council with a chart of the different possible ways in how the funding can be broken down. He explained the unincorporated projects that Starke County has to match consist of \$11 million dollars in projects. Our county would have to match approximately \$1,825,280 million dollars.

He proposes to use the money that is already being used for new development in the county which is coming from CEDIT Roads and Bridges, other CEDIT money, and private donor money could all be used to fund this match. He also presented the council with a chart listing the entire list of projects that the committee and incorporated areas has established. He advised that the Board of Commissioners have approved committing to the fund during their last meeting. He stated we would need to commit to \$1.75 Million as the rest would be covered by donations. Councilman Hazelton asked when the Stellar Communities would be awarded. Ritzler stated it would be awarded in December of 2019. He advised one good thing about the match is that it does not have to be matched immediately. He stated that if chosen when including the incorporated and the un-incorporated it will be \$16 million in projects for only a \$3 million match which is a tremendous opportunity for this county. President Pearman advised he thinks it is great that the Commissioners want to support this opportunity but he would not like to commit, at this time, to using any of the Rainy Day funds. He believes CEDIT can carry it for now, he explains that we have about 20% of our budget in Rainy Day right now and he believes it is important to see this stay in that fund. He also advised that down the road if some of Rainy Day is needed we can deal with it then. After some further discussion regarding the type of motion that will need to be made for the support. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Stellar Matching Funds. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. President Pearman asked what other three counties are completing for the Stellar Communities. Director Wickert advised they were Marshall County, Jay County, and Henry County. Director Wickert advised that on August 21st they will be having a public meeting to discuss what their plan is at this point. This is not a final plan but just where it is at right now. They will also be asking for input regarding their plan. The meeting will be located at the Nancy J. Dembowski Center in Knox, IN at 6PM on August 21, 2019.

EMS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, HEALTHLINC, & EMA SALARY REIMBURSEMENT

Director Travis Clary and Clerk Mary Lynn Ritchie came before the council county to request an additional appropriation and talk about possible partnership with Healthlinc. Director Clary explained that they had cut \$4000 in the Gas, Lube, and Lube account for the budget year of 2019 but yet had added the transfer unit. They had started out the year 2019 with \$20,000 in which he compared it to the 2015 budget approved about of \$32,500. He advised they are completely out of funds in this account. Clerk Ritchie presented the council with a chart showing their revenue streams and how much it has increased this year compared to 2018. She stated they are up \$218,000 this year at this point as compared to last year at this point. She also stated that they recently found out they are going to be receiving a reimbursement from Medicaid, this amount will be around \$20,000 and for the calendar year of 2017. President Pearman stated he believes their fuel need is well deserved but the problem that the council carries is the additional appropriation part. He stated he does not want the end of the year to come and they have \$50,000 left in a certain account that they could have used. President Pearman inquired as to why only 30% of their Part Time Staff has been used for 2019. Clerk Ritchie explained that more funds are used in other payroll line items and then toward the end of the year they transfer money from one payroll line item to another to make up the difference. She advised that the payroll money in question will be used before the end of the year. President Pearman made a suggestion to take

the money from their part time fund now and keep an eye on it and look at it again in September and October and just watch it. He also advised that some other department may be able to compensate for their shortage at the end of the year rather than making an additional appropriation now.

President Pearman is recommending to the council to make a motion for the transfer of the two part time lines to the gas, oil, & lube lines and building maintenance line. He advised it would be \$15,000 for Gas, Oil, Lube and \$2,500 for Building Maintenance, and \$2,192.92 for Ambulance Repair. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to transfer \$15,000 from 1000.10704.000.0020 Part Time Staff to 1000.21100.000.0020 Gas, Oil, Lube and \$2,500 from 1000.10704.000.0020 Part Time Staff to 1000.20205.000.0020 Building Maintenance. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to transfer \$2,192.92 from 1000.10704.000.0020 Part Time Staff to 1000.20302.000.0020 Ambulance Repair. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Director Clary explained they are still working with Healthline regarding the mobile response team. He stated he sent an MOU over to Attorney Lucas for review. President Pearman stated they still had one concern regarding the liability aspects. Carrie Block with 1st Choice Insurance was in the audience and explained that she would like to have a meeting with Director Clary so that have a clear picture of what the mobile response team would be doing so that they can assess the liability.

President Pearman then brought up the discussion regarding the EMA salary reimbursement. By having a full time EMA director and meeting certain training qualifications the county is able to be reimbursed 50% of the EMA Director's Salary, 50% of the second in charge, and 50% of a third employee. Commissioner Norem advised she believes some of the qualifications has changed. At this time Stormy, the District 2 Coordinator came before the board to explain the qualification reimbursement requirements. She stated the positions to be reimbursed would have to have a job description that is specific to EMA, time sheets that say EMA on them and only the hours permitted to EMA work can be reimbursed. She explained the salary would have to be in the EMA budget and that individual would have to complete three HCEEP exercises per year, they have to be NIMS Compliant, and they have to complete a series of classes which is the Professional Development Series. President Pearman asked if the individual would have to hold the exercises or participate in them. Stormy stated they would only have to participate. President Pearman asked Auditor Oesterreich if we have historically been receiving 50% of the EMA director's pay. Auditor Oesterreich stated she did not believe so as the county only received around \$12,000 in 2018. However, Director Nier just started a little over a year ago and reimbursement are not received until October of the current year for the previous year. After further discussion regarding the EMA position and the job duties of that position the council has requested Auditor Oesterreich to audit the last 3 or 4 years of reimbursement money received that pertains to the EMA Salary Reimbursement.

The Meeting Adjourned for recess at 7:24 PM

The Meeting Resumed at 7:44 PM

VOTE CENTERS & E-POLL BOOKS

Clerk Bernadette Manual explained that at the last Commissioners meeting Attorney Lucas was to prepare a resolution for the Board of Commissioner regarding the Recommendation to Election Board to Commence Process for implementation of Vote Centers. President Pearman asked if there was anything statutory that the council would have to pass a resolution as well in the implementation process of vote centers. Attorney Lucas stated that they will eventually have to pass certain resolutions regarding the vote centers but not at this point. Attorney Lucas explained that the current resolution that is being presented to the Board of Commissioners tonight is just a request from the board to the Election Board asking to get the process started. He explained that it is required at the end of the process both the council and commissioners adopt what they have completed with the new vote plan. President Pearman asked if the council wants the resolution read to them tonight or would they like to study it. Councilman Hazelton stated the resolution presented tonight is the Commissioners resolution. President Pearman stated they could also endorse it. However, he stated the council has already agreed together that polling centers would be a benefit to the county. Councilman Hazelton expressed they are a financial benefits from the council's point of view. President Pearman stated as the executive body the council has made the recommendation, Attorney Lucas has drafted the resolution based on the council's recommendation, and this should be enough information to go to a vote by the Board of Commissioners.

Councilman Baker asked if the election board has been involved in this process. Clerk Manual stated they have a new election board member and this member has not been completely up to speed yet. They will hold an election board meeting on Tuesday and this discussion will be brought up then. Councilman Bailey stated as a Councilman he does support polling places and if we want to limit it to 6 or 7 he believes this is a good idea and he supports this. However, he has some concerns he would like to address: one concern is that we have a Presidential Election coming up in 2020 and we need to be very prepared and we need to keep the glitches down to a minimum. He would like to see a 3 or 4 person panel consisting of a Commissioner, a Councilman, the Clerk, maybe the Auditor if she is interested. He would like the election board to work with in panel together as a fine tuned machine. He believes the election board should have control over this issue as they are the election board. He believes there is a lot of work that needs to go into this to be able to make this happen before the Presidential Election. After further discussion involving Councilman Bailey regarding polling centers Councilman Hazelton asked if the decision to go to polling places has to be voted on by the election board and it would have to be a unanimous decision. Mrs. Brettin stated that this is correct. Clerk Manual advised she has been studying extensively on the vote center plans and also speaking with other Clerk's in county's that have vote centers to be able to side-step their mistakes when we change over to vote centers ourselves.

President Pearman advised that at the budget workshop Clerk Manual and proxy election board member Bridegroom were presented. Mr. Bridegroom stated at the budget workshop that he was working with Clerk Manual on a plan in being able to go to vote centers. Councilman Baker agreed. Mr. Bridegroom in the audience stated he had a plan in reducing polling sites, making it to 14 polling sites but not going to vote centers. Mrs. Brettin then advised she had received a letter this afternoon stating she has been released from her duties as the Republican representative for the election board. President Pearman asked Clerk Manual what she needs from the board to proceed with vote centers for Starke County. Clerk Manual stated she would need the resolution from the Board of Commissioners to be approved. She also advised Steve from Microvote was here tonight to demonstrate the E-Poll Book to the council. President Pearman asked Steve if he believed going to vote centers in Starke County was a good idea. Steve advised that as long as everyone is in agreeance and they get past a few difficult parts such as choosing the polling locations everything should run smoothly. President Pearman asked the Board of Commissioners if the Commissioners had reviewed the E-Poll Books and their use. Commissioner Norem stated yes they did. However, she stated they are not required unless you have vote centers. So they do not intend to buy the E-Poll Books if the county does not go to vote centers. President Pearman asked about the payment on the E-Poll Books, from what he understands the payment can be stretched over a 24 month period. Steve explained Microvote is not allowed to markup hardware purchased, the hardware costs would have to be paid upfront but then the software part of it can be paid over time. After further discussion with President Pearman, Councilman Bailey, Commissioner Norem, and Clerk Manual regarding the process of going to vote centers Steve gave a presentation on the E-Poll Books.

Steve explained if the county does move towards vote centers E-Poll Books are a mandated piece of equipment. He stated many counties are using them on a prescient level as they give a clearer voter account of when an individual comes in to vote. He stated they are required for vote centers as each one communicates with each other no matter where they are in the county. This would prevent an individual from voting at two separate vote center locations within the county. He stated 53 counties in Indiana currently use E-Poll Books with Microvote. He went through the check-in process of the voter with the board. He states one major positive aspect of using E-Poll Books is the time saved. When and if there is a close race, on Wednesday morning how would an individual know whether or not I should file for a recount or a challenge at that point in time based on what? He stated they don't know until every paper poll book comes back in and is bar code scanned for each and every person who voted. It is not until that time that they have an accurate list of the people who voted at that election. That process can take 2 or 3 weeks which would be beyond the point of filing for a recount. With E-Poll Books this information is at hand the day after election. He explained if we go to vote centers we would not have to have 2 teams operating both books, the number of poll workers can be decreased. An individuals of each party can operate a pad because the pads will be in the same room talking to each other.

Steve explained the check-in stations are \$1,500 per device and then there is software that would need to be purchased. The current quote of \$41,000 is for 14 units and the software. After further discussion regarding future requirements of voting machines beginning in 2029 President Pearman stated as Councilman Hazelton said and Councilman Bailey said we all want everyone to work together to facilitate the voting process to get more people out to vote. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to pass the Resolution of the Recommendation to the Election Board to Commence Process for Implementation of Vote Centers. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

SHERIFF SALARY CORRECTION

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Auditor Rachel Oesterreich came before the Starke County Council pursuant to a mistake in salary that was found during the 2017-2018 Starke Board of Accounts audit this year. President Pearman advised that Auditor Oesterreich contacted him as part of the audit and it was found that in 2017 the Sheriff was not paid accordingly to the 2017 Salary Ordinance. Auditor Oesterreich advised that according to that State Board of Accounts this money has to be repaid to reflect what was approved on the 2017 Salary Ordinance. Councilman Bailey asked the Sheriff if he and Auditor Oesterreich were in agreement with the amount that needs to be reimbursed. The Sheriff agreed, Councilman Bailey made a motion to reimburse the Sheriff the amount of money that was shorted him in 2017. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Sheriff Dulin advised that the state statute says the Sheriff's position is supposed to make 60% of the Prosecutor's salary, he stated currently his salary is below that. President Pearman believes that all of the Sheriff's income, which includes income received from warrant money. Auditor Oesterreich asked Attorney Lucas if the all income the Sheriff's position received is included in that 60%. Attorney Lucas explained that the Ordinance regarding the Sheriff's salary was set back in 2013 at \$87,500 which may have been 60% of the Prosecutor's salary at that time. But now the Prosecutor's salary is more which should be reflected in the Sheriff's current salary. Sheriff Dulin advised he is the lowest paid Sheriff in our county over the last 30 years. President Pearman asked if Sheriff Dulin pays taxes on the other income he receives. Sheriff Dulin stated that he does. President Pearman then stated that is should be a part of the 60%. Attorney Lucas stated that would not be considered his salary therefore not a part of the 60%. After further discussion between President Pearman, Sheriff Dulin, Commissioner Norem, and Attorney Lucas, President Pearman asked Auditor Oesterreich to audit the previous years in coming up with the figures for his salary beginning with 2015.

President Pearman took a moment to thank Commissioner Norem and Anita Goodan for bringing the food for the lengthy meeting tonight.

PROSECUTOR POSITION REQUESTS

Prosecutor Leslie Baker came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to request a new job position as an investigator and updating the job title of two current positions. President Pearman stated where they last left off during the budget workshop is that Prosecutor Baker was going to work with the Auditor to make her budget totals work for the creation of her new positions and change of positions. Prosecutor Baker advised she sent information on job descriptions to the Commissioners a few weeks ago regarding the Investigator, Paralegal, and Legal Secretary. Commissioner Norem asked a few questions regarding the operations in the prosecutor's office. The first is regarding the pre-trial diversion. She stated in the past it had been used for misdemeanors and traffic violations. She stated she has had at least a 100 of them filed this year and some of them for high level felony cases as well as some for criminals that have had prior convictions. Commissioner Norem advised she had looked up the guidelines for using pre-trial diversion, she stated it implies to be used for first time offenders but not for level 1,2,3,4 felony cases. Commissioner Norem stated one case this year was dropped from a level 4 to a level 6 so that it would fit into the pretrial diversion standards. Prosecutor Baker stated that this could have been done because of material issues within the case as well as issues with the case's investigation.

Commissioner Norem asked why the pretrial diversion would be used for felonies and not just for the misdemeanors and traffic violations. Prosecutor Baker stated the idea of the program is to divert people from the system and for those who may respond positively to treatment including those who do not have any prior felony convictions. These people could benefit from having the diversion of having a criminal conviction. She stated the idea of the program is that they participate in things like community service and treatment through Porter-Starke. In the past she stated there has not been a lot of follow up in terms of what people are doing and completing in their program. Moving forward they would like to make sure people are being held accountable for the terms of services they have to do. She stated when she came in office they were bound by pretrial diversions that had already been given, these included felonies. Further discussion was held between Commissioner Norem and Prosecutor Baker regarding the pretrial diversion program. Commissioner Norem stated she was always under the impression that pretrial diversion was used for misdemeanors. If it is used for felonies people out there can commit drug crimes, domestic abuse, neglect of a dependent and still qualify for pretrial diversion. Prosecutor Baker stated it is all based upon the individual.

Commissioner Norem asked how those were monitored and how they are followed up on. Prosecutor Baker stated when the pretrial diversion is signed they will keep it on their calendar and three months in they will follow up on whether or not the individual have completed or is still in the programing required. Further discussion was held between Commissioner Norem and Prosecutor Baker of the requirements of the individual that has been offered the program. Commissioner Norem then inquired about dismissals. She advised there have been a number of dismissals so far this year, one being an F2 felony. Prosecutor Baker stated that the case in question had a special prosecutor on the case as she was a defense attorney for that individual for that case. Commissioner Norem then inquired about probable causes. She stated there have been several people who have not had their probable cause signed within 48 hours. She stated there have been at least 200 cases where this was the case. Prosecutor Baker stated there had not been that many but there had been some in which she had made decisions where the officer made the report and she didn't necessarily agree with items in the report. However, she can assure Commissioner Norem that there have not been 200 cases. Commissioner Norem advised she needed to bring those items up as they are concerning. Commissioner Norem then asked how many staff members Prosecutor Baker has in her office. Prosecutor Baker stated she has her Paralegal, Chief Deputy, Secretary, and three people in Child Support Services. Commissioner Norem asked if this was a full staff. Prosecutor Baker stated it is missing a Deputy Prosecutor and a Victims Advocate.

Commissioner Norem stated she didn't believe that our county can continue to hire new employees. She stated as in the Investigator position. She stated that the Sheriff's Department has investigators and are very good investigators. She asked Prosecutor Baker to work with the Sheriff's Department regarding any investigating issues as she does not believe the county can afford to add an investigator at this time. Prosecutor Baker stated if the Commissioners all feel the same way about this issue she will withdrawal her personal request at this time. Commissioner President Chesak agreed that it would be best to withdrawal it at this time. President Pearman stated Prosecutor Baker would like to manage her shop a little differently and to create a new position with a new or updated job description that would have to go through the Commissioners first. He stated what the council had discussed with her was that if she could manage this in her current budget and pay for those then the council had an agreement to be okay with these as long as the Commissioners approved the positions. Commissioner Norem stated she understands but we currently have paralegals that work for the county and receive a clerk's pay. Furthermore, if we keep doing this without the ability to give the regular employees a raise, in which they did not receive a raise last year, this will be a problem as this is taking away from the other employees that have been employed with the county. The way to get extra money is to stay with the county and receive the longevity pay. President Pearman stated they did not necessarily state they were going to fund all of those position but those positions would need approval by the Commissioners first. Prosecutor Baker stated that the job descriptions she had presented has the qualifications, experience, and what the functions would be.

Councilman Hazelton asked about the diversion officer that Prosecutor Baker had listed on the agenda as well. Councilman Bailey asked if everything that the Prosecutor is requesting is coming out of the already approved budget. Prosecutor Baker stated that it is coming out of the budget that was approved at the budget workshop. Commissioner Norem stated she is opposed to the creation of the investigator position. She stated we currently have investigators. President Pearman stated from what he can recall the investigator was more of a "wish list" item. Prosecutor Baker advised that Healthline is starting a mobile integrated response team in our county and they have several positions available. President Pearman asked if this was the same thing as what the EMS department was talking about. Prosecutor Baker stated it was except they will be running theirs based on over time. She stated what Healthline has offered to her was that if she were to create a position for a diversion officer they would partially pay for the salary. Almost like a subcontractor for a diversion officer. The idea of this would be that they would respond to overdoses and part of oversee the diversion program. She does not have the full numbers of the amount of money they would be giving the county yet. She stated she is not looking for anything to be done with this tonight but she would like to develop this program. President Pearman asked if this person would be on the scene assessing the situation and on-call. Prosecutor Baker stated they would be responding with the mobile response team. The idea is to get this person into treatment and from point A to point B. She explained the other component of this would be the diversion officer overseeing this individual through the diversion program. After further discussion regarding the diversion officer and mobile response team Councilman Hazelton stated we would need to know how much it will costs and how much we would be reimbursed. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table until they get more information on the total salary and how much Healthline will be reimbursing. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion. Attorney Lucas asked if there is a written contract involved. Prosecutor Baker stated she was not sure but could look into this. The motion to table was passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made the same motion to table until further information is presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

AUDITOR-EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE

Auditor Oesterreich came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to speak about how employer health insurance is paid. She stated the employers portion of health insurance currently is paid as a percentage out of certain fund being 67% Commissioners, 27% Highway, 1% Community Corrections, 1% Health, 1% Assessor, 1% WIC, 1% Probation, 1% Child Support. She then presented a chart showing what each department had paid in June compared to what they should have paid according to the bill that we had received by Anthem. What Auditor Oesterreich proposes is to charge each department accordingly to the employees they have and what they actually owe. She stated county general and the highway currently support the employees that are not being paid through payroll out of those departments. She stated this has been brought to her attention through other departments that are being supported by grant monies. During their audit, their health insurance account shows employees names who are not being supported through that grant. She advised we would have to restructure the health insurance accounts of certain departments for the 2020 budget. After further discussion regarding the employer portion of health insurance payments President Pearman asked Auditor Oesterreich to adjust budget numbers for the 2020 budget for the departments that will need adjusting.

OTHER BUISNESS

Commissioner President Chesak presented the Incarcerated Offender Provider Agreement. He asked Sheriff Dulin if this is something he would like the Commissioners to approve. Sheriff Dulin advised they already do a lot of Quality Correctional Care. Commissioner Norem stated if she remembers correctly they wanted the counties to sign on to this agreement for the inmates that are there two weeks or longer to be signed up for Medicaid after their discharge but not during their jail stay. However, now with this agreement we will be able to put them on Medicaid now while there in the jail. Sheriff Dulin stated he believes that they have to be in there 30 days and then they are enrolled. Commissioner Norem asked if we have current inmates that would qualify for this program. Sheriff Dulin stated he does have inmates that would qualify. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Incarcerated Offender Provider Agreement. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Broadband Plan project was presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Broadband Plan contract. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised she and Surveyor Crase had met with Gene Novello and one of the other board member of the Bass Lake Conservancy in regards to storm sewers and the drainage around Bass Lake. She stated that Mr. Novello was interested in meeting with the county to see what some of the options were in requesting some help from the county as well. Commissioner Norem advised the Surveyor Crase, a member of the planning commission needs to set a meeting about the possibility of the county working with the conservancy district.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims in the amount of \$536,163.11. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 08/10/19 with a pay date of 08/16/19, in the total gross amount of \$248,412.51. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with both ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were public comments made regarding the seating and not being able to hear the meeting in the courtroom in the back few rows. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn at 9:43PM. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

AUGUST 19th, 2019
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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

AUGUST 19th, 2019
STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charlie Chesak, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners