

## **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, Robert Sims, 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.

Councilman Hazelton makes a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, August 19, 2016 Starke County Council Meeting. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the July 25, 2019 Budget Workshop minutes. Councilwoman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. President Pearman advised to the Board of Commissioners that he had attended the Communications Committee Meeting. He believes everything has mellowed out pretty good and things are working well. One issue they did have was with one of the cellular companies that has to deal with their 800 system, the problem was on their side. There was another issue regarding the North Judson Tower site and cabling that has been fixed.

### **REFINANCING OF JAIL**

Andrew Mouser from Bakertilly Municipal Advisors came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to discuss options regarding refinancing of the jail. President Pearman explained that Bakertilly is here tonight as some of the interest rates have gotten better and there is an opportunity to save money regarding the jail bonds the county has. Mr. Mouser explained this discussion is for the possible refinancing of the Ad Valorem Property Tax Economic Development Income Tax Lease Rental Bonds of 2013. He explained the county have paid approximately \$2 million of that off and still owes about \$11.6 million. The interest rate on what is outstanding ranges from 3% to 4.5%, the bonds are expected to be fully repaid by 2034. He explained that the interest rate are much lower now than they were in 2013. He explained that in scenario 1 and 2 the county could reduce their yearly bond payment or in scenario 3 the county could free up about \$1.5 million of cash if we have any capital projects or additional expenditures at the jail scenario 3 would be able to fund those projects. Scenario 1 and 2 show taking the 3.9% interest rate and replacing it with 2.68% interest rate which would reduce the total payment owed each year on the bonds. President Pearman asked Mr. Mouser if Bakertilly has an opinion about which scenario would be better for the county. Mr. Mouser stated that either scenario 2 or 3 would be the best option as it would be freeing up the debt service reserve amount of \$1,030,975. He stated it just depends on if the county would rather take a deduction in the annual payment due or in one lump sum for additional project the county would like to fund that a lump sum could help assist with. President Pearman asked Mr. Mouser if he believe the interest rates could get any better. Mr. Mouser advised this is dependent on current interest rates with a little cushion. He stated if rates were to go down the county savings would improve and if rates were to go up then our savings would not be as much. After further discussion regarding the options of refinancing of the jail Commissioner Norem asked if the county would be able to cut the jail rate and increase their regular CREDIT rate since the rate was set by special legislation. Mr. Mouser explained the county can't go over the .65% that was approved but the county does not have to take the full .65%. The county could shift some of that to CREDIT or to another allocation. Commissioner Norem asked if they decided to refinance the bond if this is something that they could do simultaneously. Mr. Mouser explained there is an annual deadline for shifting the percentages. He believes this is the beginning or end of October. Attorney Lucas asked if shifting the rates would have a negative effect on the bond rating. Mr. Mouser said they could analyze that for the county if needed. President Pearman stated the Starke County Council will be taking this matter under advisement and will be in contact with Bakertilly.

### **2020 STARKE COUNTY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilman Baker made a motion to open the public hearing for the Starke County Budget. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 6:54PM. President Pearman advised they has a pre-budget workshop this year before their normally scheduled workshop. He advised during these workshops the council indicated to department heads that they need to be ready for a contingency plan if our budgets get cut this year. Auditor Oesterreich brought up the additional CAD system funds that need to be approved in the 2020 budget. President Pearman stated the council was out

of the loop when the CAD system was being discussed and installed. He stated he was not aware of the additional \$30,000 per year that they would have to pay. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Sheriff's Department has fit almost the entire amount into their existing budget except \$14,100. She stated that the \$14,100 is the only additional amount that was not talked about during the budget workshop. Councilman Hazelton asked for an explanation of what services they are paying for on a yearly basis. IT Director Richard Franks explained it is the entire public safety system for Starke County. Councilman Hazelton asked about this additional money compared to the first \$300,000 the county has already paid. Councilman Hazelton would like to know what we are getting for this additional amount, he asked if it was a service contract of some sorts. Director Franks explained it is the service contract for the CAD system that was purchased last year which includes software updates. President Pearman asked if the Commissioners were aware of this additional costs when the CAD system was purchased. Commissioner Norem advised she believes there was a discussion regarding an annual maintenance contract. After further discussion regarding adding the CAD system to the Jail CREDIT budget Commissioner Norem agreed they would need to take the additional \$14,100 from the Jail CREDIT budget.

After reviewing the entire Jail CREDIT budget Commissioner Norem asked what the 3% pay raise for officers 2018. After a short discussion it was determined that when county employees received their pay raise in 2018 the 3% for the officers had to be taken from the Jail CREDIT fund. Which is still currently being used to fund that 2018 pay raise in the current budget. President Pearman asked for any comments regarding the 2020 Starke County Budget. With no public comments being made Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the 2020 Starke County Budget Public Hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:05PM.

#### **2020 STARKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2020 Starke County Solid Waste Budget. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:05PM. With no public comments being made Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the 2020 Starke County Solid Waste Budget Public Hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:06PM.

#### **2020 STARKE COUNTY AIRPORT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilman Baker made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2020 Starke County Airport Budget. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:07PM. Attorney Weaver and a few members of the Airport Authority Board were in the audience and gave a brief overview of the current happenings going on with the Starke County Airport. Attorney Weaver explained that the airport has received approximately \$1.4 million from the Airport Aviation Administration to extend its 1,836 feet runway to 5,001 feet. This will make the longest runway in our area with the exception of Valparaiso and South Bend airports. He explained that the funding for this project comes from the user excise tax that is placed on aviation purchases. Councilman Hazelton asked when the runway extension will be taking place. Attorney Weaver stated it is undergoing now and will hopefully be done within a month. With no further public comments being made Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the 2020 Starke County Airport Budget Public Hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:11PM.

#### **2020 KOONTZ LAKE CONSERVANCY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilman Baker made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2020 Koontz Lake Conservancy Budget. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:12PM. Chairman Marty Wolf of the Koontz Lake Conservancy was present in the audience. Auditor Oesterreich asked if they have an established board. He explained there are supposed to be five members total but they have one vacancy. Auditor Oesterreich asked for a current list of the board members to be emailed to her. President Pearman explained that the Commissioners may know more about the board as the council does not get into the conservancy business too much. Commissioner Norem advised that the conservancy district is formed to clean up Koontz Lake. She also explained that they are a new conservancy and the Commissioners appoint them in staggering terms beginning with last year. As those terms fall off the district will hold elections for those positions, according to the law, and either re-elect that person or elect a new person. With no further public comments being made Councilman Baker made a motion to close the 2020 Koontz Lake Conservancy Budget Public Hearing. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:15PM.

## **2020 NORTH JUDSON SAN-PIERRE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2020 North Judson San-Pierre Budget. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:16PM. President Pearman asked about the paperwork they had submitted. Auditor Oesterreich explained their paperwork was for the additional appropriations and the Rainy Day Fund transfer not about their budget. President Pearman asked what is driving the additional appropriation request. Mr. Richie with the school system explained that last year the approved appropriation line for the debt services was not high enough. He stated the DLGF built their budget to support the additional \$188,950.00. He explained that on the amortization schedule that was given last year looked like 6 months was given. When the budget for debt services came out it was \$1.1 million and should have been \$1.3 million. He explained that DLGF told him that they could just come before the board and ask for the additional appropriation for the debt service fund as it has already been structured into their budget. After further discussion between President Pearman and Superintendent Zupin Mr. Richie explained why they are looking for the Rainy Day reduction resolution. With no further public comments being made Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the 2020 North Judson San-Pierre Budget Public Hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes at 7:21PM. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for North Judson San-Pierre School in the amount of \$188,950.00. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Rainy Day Reduction Resolution in the amount of \$418,814.00. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

## **CIRCUIT COURT TRANSFER REQUEST**

Georgette Gibbs from the Starke Circuit Court came before the Starke County Council with a request to transfer budget appropriations within a departmental budget. She explained this year they have had a lot of appeals this year due to having several trials last year. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request from 1000.30100.000.0029 Postage \$2,500 and 1000.30600.000.0029 Utilities \$5,000 to 1000.11402.000.0029 Criminal Appeals \$3,000 and 1000.10406.000.0029 Pauper Counsel \$4,500. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

## **SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT**

Director Larry Wickert of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the Starke County Council and Board of Commissioners to present his monthly report. Director Wickert reported that this Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> they will be turning in their plan for Stellar Communities. He explained in November they will go downstate for a presentation and interview with the State Stellar Committee and then on December 5<sup>th</sup> they will be announcing their selected designee. President Pearman asked if this was the final cut and Director Wickert stated yes it would be the final cut on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Attorney Lucas advised that even if our county is not chosen as the winner we should still receive about \$340,000. Councilman Hazelton asked if there was a match to that amount. Attorney Lucas and Director Wickert stated they are not sure yet how the runner up monies awarded works yet. Director Wickert advised no matter what happens he believe we are already a winner. The county now has a Stellar Community plan and the county is currently making a Comprehensive Development plan. He stated the county knows what we want to do and we can still do it, it will just take a longer period of time. He stated another thing is the collaboration and all of the communities working together. He advised the Economic Development Foundation is having their annual manufacturer's day coming up on October, he would like to encourage members of the council and commissioners to attend the luncheon.

## **EMS VEHICLE REQUEST**

Director Clary came before the Starke County Council to request approval for a new used EMS ambulance. This vehicle would cost \$39,900 and they are still holding it for us. It is a 2013 Chevy Duramax, LED lighting, it already has a striker cot mount, inverter, it is ready to go and has everything they need other than decals and switching over radios. He advised they have received the Commissioners grace on this purchase and he is now presenting this to the council looking for \$50,000 to help with that purchase. President Pearman asked if there was a way to reduce the cost in any way. Director Clary said that he does not believe they will need to use the entire \$50,000, he just did not want to have to come back and ask for additional if needed. President Pearman advised the council that if they approve this purchase they should take bids on any additional money that needs to be spent other than

the \$39,900 for the purchase of the vehicle itself. Councilman Bailey asked if the \$39,900 includes stocking the ambulance with supplies that they need or if they have those supplies on hand. Director Clary stated that they have the supplies on hand and they do not need to stock this unit like they did with the new unit back in March. He explained that they will be taking the items out of the old ambulance to the new ambulance. After further discussion regarding the amount of \$50,000 Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the purchase of the new used ambulance in the amount of \$39,900. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Gudeman made a motion to approve the additional \$11,000 request from EMS for the decals and the transfer of radios as well as getting quotes on the services and the Board of Commissioners accepting the lowest quote. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

#### **IT-CLOUD STORAGE**

IT Director Richard Franks came before the Starke County Council to discuss the county's cloud storage. President Pearman stated he has received many inquiries about why we can't protect ourselves with a firewall and why we would need to spend an extra \$10,000 for storage. Director Franks stated that a fire wall does not protect us 100%, it is just a layer. President Pearman asked if this was 2500G of back-up. Director Franks stated that is correct, he explained we also have a local storage retention that is 20 terabits. He advised what he is asking for is for a cloud portion. If we get compromised or something happens we would still have all of our information stored off site. After further discussion regarding the current security measures the county now has in place Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the Cloud Storage protection in the amount of \$9,840.60 to be paid from Cumulative Capital Development. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

#### **VETERAN'S TRANSFER**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer request as follows: a reduction will be made in 1000.30100.000.0024 Postage in the amount of \$90.15 and 1000.30204.000.0024 Travel Expense in the amount of \$18.56. An additional appropriation will be made in 1000.20100.000.0024 Office Supplies in the amount of \$108.71. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Commissioners had approved, on September 9, 2019, to pay for two squad cars out of Jail CEDIT. She asked if the council would like to make this motion as well. Councilman Baker asked Sheriff Dulin about the \$7,000 per car being requested for equipment. Sheriff Dulin stated that on one car they equipped it with new equipment but the other car they moved the equipment from an existing vehicle. Sheriff Dulin advised that they have already turned a Crown Victoria into the county highway garage and they are waiting for their second vehicle to get painted and stripped out before exchanging another vehicle. After further discussion regarding not being able to purchase Ford Taurus's anymore Councilman Hazelton made a motion to take \$68,000 out of Jail CEDIT to fund the two new squad car purchases. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Shelby with the Starke County Clerk's Office came before the Starke County Council and the Board of Commissioners to advise them of the voting/polling hours as follows:

#### Hours of voting at the North Judson Wayne Township Public Library

Thursday, October 17, 2019 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, October 18, 2019 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday October 19, 2019 10 am to 2pm

Thursday, October 24, 2019 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, October 25, 2019 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday October 26, 2019 10 am to 2pm

#### Hours for voting at the Starke County Court House Clerk's Office

Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 4, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

Shelby also advised that the first town hall meeting regarding vote centers will be on September 25, 2019 at 6:30PM at the Washington Township Community Building. The second will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at

6:30 PM at the Knox Community Center and the third one will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the North Judson Wayne Township Public Library.

### **WTH GIS REQUEST**

Rhonda Milner with WTH GIS came before the Board of Commissioners to request that she be allowed to make change to the Erie Trail layer of the GIS Starke County Map. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this request as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

### **AUDITOR BUISNESS**

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 09/7/19 with a pay date of 09/13/19, in the total gross amount of \$245,329.59 with the deduction amount being \$74,732.68 and a Boston Mutual refund in the amount of \$1132.08. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims in the amount of \$695,524.87. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem rescinded the motion to approve the vendor claims in the amount of \$695,524.87. Commissioner Cavender seconded the rescinded of the motion, the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem explained the claim under discussion is in the amount of \$357 that had violated the travel policy of Starke County. Commissioner Norem made the motion to approve the vendor claims as presented with the exception of the claim for \$357. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the joint session minutes from August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Norem explained they had solicited quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Source Insurance this year from our previous liability insurance carriers. Although the county has been completely satisfied with 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Insurance it was a matter of business that the Commissioners take a look at what is out there for liability insurance coverage. The quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Source Insurance came in at \$388,815.00 and the quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Insurance Came in at \$405,170.00. Commissioner Norem advised that Attorney Lucas does like working with Bliss McKnight and their attorneys, the Starke County Highway department likes working with Bliss McKnight as well. She advised that the Commissioners will have to decide if loosing Bliss McKnight and the opinions of other departments about Bliss McKnight is worth \$16,000.00. Commissioner Cavender stated he has working with Mark from Bliss McKnight several times and they do a great job for our county. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to accept the proposal from 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Insurance in the amount of \$405,170.00. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem asked Attorney Lucas if he had reviewed the DLZ contract. Attorney Lucas stated he did and he does not have any problems with it. Commissioner Norem advised the DLZ contract in question in for the Starke Circuit Court Courtroom. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the DLZ contract as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner President Chesak asked Attorney Lucas about the handbook update. Attorney Lucas stated there were no major changes in the handbook. The only suggestion he had received was not having a table for mileage. Auditor Oesterreich reminded the Commissioners that Bliss McKnight as also reviewed our handbook and they will be presenting the Commissioners with some suggestions as well. Commissioner Norem made a motion to table this discussion until after the review from Bliss McKnight. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

After having no public comments made Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn at 7:17PM. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

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Kay Gudeman

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Don White

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Howard Bailey

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Robert Sims

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Freddie Baker

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

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2019  
STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

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