

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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 Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Nancy Dembowski and Pam Stalbaum present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Brad Hazelton at 5:30PM. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20th meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY AIRPORT 2019 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing of the Starke County Airport's 2019 Budget was opened at 5:31PM. Charlie Weaver spoke of the Airport, but there was not any public comment on the budget. Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baker and passed with all ayes. The public hearing was closed at 5:35PM.

DRUG AND TOBACCO FREE STARKE COUNTY REQUEST FOR GRANT APPROVAL

Linda Molinda and Wendy Elam of DTFSC appeared before the Board and requested approval of the grants they were wishing to disperse. The grants were:

Starke County Youth Club, \$1,000.00

Drug & Tobacco Free Starke County, \$3,000.00

Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, \$1,750.00

Bella Vita Pregnancy Center, \$1,331.00

Knox Middle School, \$2,000.00

Porter Starke Services, \$1,750.00

Leo Smith, Specialized Training for

Certified Substance Abuse Therapist, \$1,100.00

Starke County Sheriff's Department, \$6,814.21.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the grants requested. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY, NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOL, SOLID WASTE, AND KOONTZ LAKE CONSERVANCY 2019 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing for the Starke County 2019 Budget was opened. There were no public comments. Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The public hearing closed at 5:37PM.

The public hearing for the North Judson-San Pierre School's 2019 Budget was opened. Treasurer Guy Richie advised the total amount of their budget for 2019 decreased from their 2018 budget. There were no public comments and Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The public hearing closed at 5:39PM.

The public hearing for the Solid Waste was opened. There was no public comment and Councilwoman Dembowski made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The public hearing closed at 5:40PM.

The public hearing for the Koontz Lake Conservancy opened. Attorney Ethan Lowe advised this was the first year following the Conservancy's creation that they would have a budget. He noted within three years they will be able to have an elected Board of Directors and will be able to approve their own budget. There were no public comments. Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The public hearing closed at 5:43PM.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing for the Additional Appropriation request of Fund 1138, Cumulative Capital Development Fund was opened. Auditor Chaffins advised this year the tax rate had been increased and a total amount of approximately \$250,000.00 could be received this year from property taxes but that fund only has a 2018 budget of \$100,000.00. The request for Additional Appropriations was for the amount of \$150,000.00. Councilman Pearman made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

EMS DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR TRANSFER PREPARTION

EMS Director Travis Clark and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board. Director Clary asked that in order to reduce the amount of overtime expense he wanted to know if they could increase

the number of full time employees out of the part time employees. They advised the Board of Commissioners had already approved this request. The Council advised their approval was not required. Councilman Pearman thought that request would lower their 2019 budget but that was not the case. They did not wish to lower any expense items in their 2019 budget.

The EMS Director then spoke to the Council about the number of Transfers they will be seeing. Director Clary stated County Attorney Marty Lucas had created a MOU Agreement for Starke Hospital naming the County as the number one provided in regard to Transfers. He stated currently the Hospital is in possession of the MOU and they are awaiting its approval. Clerk Richie spoke of the number of transfers they are projecting to see and their approximate net income they could earn from increasing the number of transfers. But they stated the increase in transfers will also see an increase in expenses, and wanted to know if they could ask for an additional appropriation request for 2018 and for 2019. There was a discussion about when exactly the transfers were going to be beginning. Director Clary thought it would begin after they receive their new ambulance but Commissioner Norem thought the transfer program would begin right away. Director Clary stated the Hospital has put the County done as 1st when calling for a transfer but the program won't be able to begin until the MOU has been approved and signed. Councilman Pearman stated he believed the request for the additional appropriation be tabled for now and see how it plays out in 2019. He stated if they do start to see a major increase in the revenue collected they may be able to pull the EMS Department out of the County General Fund and have its own Fund. But, he was not certain the EMS Department completely could be taken out of County General. He stated that would require more knowledge.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MONTHLY REPORT

SCEDF Director Larry Wickert presented a brief monthly update to the County Council and the Board of Commissioners who were in attendance for the meeting. He advised a Manufacturer's Day will be held on October 4th. He also noted the SCILL Center classes are full. He did state that the welding class was not completely full; they have dropped from 40 to 33 since Plymouth has begun its own welding classes. He also advised they will be having a Coalition Meeting in October in regard to the US30 Project and will also have a local meeting in November.

SHERIFF'S REQUEST FOR 2018 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS; REQUEST FOR EXTRA HELP IN 2019

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Office Manager Pam McDonald appeared before the Board and asked for one additional jailer and an additional patrolman in 2019. He advised they had presented this request to the Board of Commissioners and they did approve it. Sheriff Dulin stated they would both be paid out of the Fund 4919, Therapeutic Community Program. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the motion for the increase in employees. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin then asked for the Transfer Requests:

Fund 4919: Reduce 10650, Jailer Sergeant in the amount of \$8,000.00 and Increase 39900, Misc. Expenditure \$8,000.00.

Fund 1114: Reduce 40502, Patrol Cars in the amount of \$34,000.00 and Increase 21100, Gas, Oil & Lube by \$30,005.00 and Increase Mitsubishi Electric by \$3,995.00.

County General Department 27: Reduce 20208, Laundry & Cleaning by \$3,300.00 and Increase 20202, Repair & Maintenance \$1,500.00 and Increase 31102, Garbage \$1,800.00.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer requests. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin also had a request for Additional Appropriation of:

Fund 4919, 20202, Repair & Maintenance, \$2,500.00

Fund 1114, 31415, Inmate Medical Invoices, \$14,000.00

Fund 1222, 10300, Extra Help, \$8,000.00

Fund 1222, 11400, Overtime, \$8,000.00

Fund 1222, 40600, Radio Headsets, \$2,015.00

Fund 1114, 10300, Extra Help, \$6,000.00

Fund 1114, 20100, Office Supplies, \$500.00

Fund 1114, 20600, Garage & Motor, \$12,000.00

Fund 1114, 21200, Tires & Tubes, \$3.06

Fund 1114, 31202, Cellular Phones, \$3,500.00

The Board of Commissioners asked to study the request for the additional appropriations. They concluded that the lines for Fund 1222, 10300, Extra Help and Fund 1222, 11400, Overtime, be each reduced to one half of what was requested. It was then explained that Fund 1222 was the 911 Fund and it has its own funding; a sufficient amount of funding. It was then approved in full by the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Pearman then made a motion to approve all the Sheriff's requests for Additional Appropriations. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

2019 PAYROLL RAISE

After a brief discussion, Councilman Baker made a motion to approve a 3% pay raise for the 2019 County Budget. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Council made it clear the budget increase will not go into effect until the State has approved the 2019 budget. If there is a decrease of the County General Fund then the pay raise will be the first item to be deducted from the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comment and no further business, Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.

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Brad Hazelton, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

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