

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

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 and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker at 5:35PM. Absent from the meeting was Councilwoman Jennifer Davis.

MINUTES

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15th meeting. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

2017 BUDGETS PUBLIC HEARINGS

NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOLS

Superintendent Annette Zupin and Treasurer Guy Richie appeared before the Board to discuss the 2017 North Judson San Pierre budget. Mr. Richie advised they are once again looking at an ADM decrease; the ADM has been dropping each year for the last fourteen years. So this year's budget request will also show a drop in its funding. He noted the 2016 Budget is for 7,600,000.00 and the requested 2017 budget is for 7,035,000.00. The budget public hearing was opened at 5:38PM. Councilman Pearman inquired if there has been any thought of sharing services with some of the other County schools. Superintendent Zupin advised they have monthly meetings between schools and they are currently sharing some of the other school's services. There was no comment from the Public. Councilman Pearman made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Public Hearing closed at 5:45PM. Mr. Richie advised their 2017 Budget Adoption is scheduled for October 17th.

SOLID WASTE

The public hearing for the 2017 Solid Waste Budget opened at 5:48PM. Councilman Pearman stated he would like to reduce some lines in order to keep the budget similar with the amount of the 2016 Budget. There was a discussion of the cost of doing away with televisions and the increased amount of recycling they are seeing. There was a question if the State requires recycling and the answer to that question was it is not required by the State but it is important for a government to be recycling responsible. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing closed at 6:05PM. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman made a motion to keep the budget total at \$235,794.00 without raises. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY BUDGETS

County Auditor Katherine Chaffins advised the Probation Fees could not be deposited into County General since they are required to be placed into the Adult Supplemental Fund and the Juvenile Supplemental Fund. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to move the pay of the Chief Probation Officer and the Assistant Chief # 3 out of the General Fund into the Adult Supplemental Fund, # 2100. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to increase the payroll of the 2017 Budgets by 2%. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Public Hearing of the Budgets was opened at 6:15PM. A question was asked if the 2017 Budget included Longevity. It was stated the Longevity is remaining in the 2017 Budget. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sims and passed with all ayes. The Public Hearing closed at 6:18PM. Auditor Chaffins advised she would input the changes to the budget and email the Board with the new total for the County General Budget. She also noted she will be attending the SBOA County Auditor's Conference and there will be a session on the impact of Circuit Breakers to the 2017 Budget.

EMS REQUEST TO PURCHASE A NEW AMBULANCE

EMS Director Keith Emigh and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of purchasing a new ambulance. Clerk Richie advised they had been receiving their regular EMS payments which totaled \$615,127.36, but they also have collected Medicare Reimbursements that so far have totaled \$97,000.00 and are expecting another \$13,000.00 any day. Councilman Pearman advised that capital expenditures use Capital Funding such as from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund or the Rainy Day Fund. Commissioner Kathy Norem advised that the State looks at the amount of revenue the County General has and we took a budget cut last year because there was not enough revenue. She noted money should not be transferred out of County General. Councilman Pearman agreed the money should stay in County General. Director Emigh advised the ambulance with the new engine is still at Dobson's Ford getting the engine replaced again. He advised the job was under warranty and will not be costing the County anything. Councilman Pearman noted Dobson Ford should also be paying the cost of the towing bill to tow the ambulance to Winamac. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table the request to purchase an ambulance and attempt to schedule or address a plan to create an ambulance replacement schedule. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SHERIFF'S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to request approval of the 2016 Riverboat money to be appropriated to pay the Sheriff's Department's Pension Plan payment. The Sheriff advised the County had just received notice there was an error in the amount received. The correct amount was \$101,218.36. Councilman Pearman advised the County in the past that the Sheriff's Pension was always delinquent and underpaid. It has now been revealed the County is one of the top in the State paying at over 80%. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to appropriate the 2016 Riverboat money to be paid to the Sheriff's Pension Plan. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Sheriff Dulin then requested the appropriation of the 2016 Misdemeanant Fund just recently received by the County, from the State, in the amount of \$16,349.99. He advised the proceeds were deposited into Fund 1175. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the appropriation of that amount. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The Sheriff advised he is responsible for creating the schedule of the Courthouse Security Officers and creating the budget for those security workers. He stated that would be for the worker at the 1st Floor Security Scanner and a Security Officer at the Courtroom, on the 3rd Floor. He advised he has spoken to the Judge who offered \$18,000.00 toward the 2017 budget for those workers. The Sheriff stated he would like to use part time officers for those positions, and he noted he would like to match the Judge's funding. He did state he does not know at this time what the cost for a year would be for those workers. Once he determines the estimated cost the Fund 1113 will be appropriated for the 2017 Budget of those workers. He didn't see it happening before the end of the year. There was also a brief discussion in regard to why the new Courtroom at the new County Jail is not used more frequently.

CASA REQUEST TO INCREASE 2017 BUDGET

Rhonda Adcock, Director of CASA, appeared before the Board to request her 2017 Budget which was set at \$9,000.00 be increased to \$12,673.91. She advised that is the amount the State says they could reimburse the County for the matching funds. If her Budget is only set for \$9,000.00 that is all they would receive from the State. Ms. Adcock advised she has 27 active CASA Volunteers and currently have 84 CHINS (Children in Need of Services). Starke County has a limited amount of Foster Parents so some of the County CHINS are residing in bordering Counties and there is mileage when a Volunteer pays them a home visit. She advised those children are in Court due to case of abuse or neglect. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the additional increase in the CASA Budget for 2017 to \$12,673.91. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

President Freddie Baker commented on the amount of complaints he has received in regard to the renovation projects on the Old Jail Building and the County Courthouse. He stated it was too much money being spent and believes it needs to be discussed. He stated he didn't know where the money was coming from and wanted to know if there would be a need to borrow funds. Commissioner Norem advised him the initial project was first presented by Skillman and DLZ with a cost of 4.5 million last November. The project has been downsized and now has a price of 3.5 million. In December motions were approved to proceed with the project. The funding will be paid from the Jail CEDIT and the regular CEDIT money. There was a delay in the project so the two funds could accumulate sufficient balances. Director Weaver is cooperating with the use of the regular CEDIT Funds. The project bids have been requested, opened, and rewarded. No other comments of the projects were made.

It was decided they would hold a special session of the Council to have the public hearing for the Starke County Airport on October 3rd, at 8:30AM. All the Starke County Budgets will be approved for their final adoption at the Council's October 17th meeting.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Sims made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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