

OCTOBER 17, 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 5:30PM. Absent from the meeting was Councilwoman Jennifer Davis.

2017 BUDGETS ADOPTIONS

STARKE COUNTY BUDGETS

There was a brief discussion in regard to the County's Net Assessed Value being flat lined or negative in the last few years. Auditor Chaffins noted the State talks in regard to the State Growth Rate and expects each County to have seen that amount of an increase in their NAV or greater. Councilman Pearman stated he expects to see a major cut for the State approval of our 2017 County Budgets due to the NAV. He advised the County will need to decide if they should "thaw" out their max levy to increase it since it is not growing by the assessed values on County properties or how the County should react. County Attorney Marty Lucas had the Assessing Company run a Four Year Trending Summary for the years 2015-2018 and discovered the only properties in the County trending a value over 100 are the Bass Lake and Koontz Lake properties. He noted the rural areas are dropping down to the 70-80 range. In regard to the actual 2017 County Budgets, Auditor Chaffins noted the adopted figures do not pick up the amount listed in Circuit Breakers. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adopt the 2017 County Budgets in the total amount of \$10,081,661.00 which includes County General, Reassessment, County Highway, Local Road & Bridge, Health, Cumulative Bridge, and the Cumulative Capital Development Funds. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman asked the Auditor to contact the DLGF Director, Courtney Schaafsma and set up an appointment with her. Attorney Lucas stated it would be helpful to get the support of State Legislatures also. County Ordinance 75-1017A was signed by the Board and Auditor.

NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE SCHOOLS

Guy Ritchie, NJSP Treasurer, advised nothing has changed with their Budget since he was at their meeting for the Budget Public Hearing. Councilman Pearman stated he felt NJSP was in a similar situation as the County and hoped they were planning ahead for that. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the North Judson San Pierre 2017 Budgets in the total amount of \$11,379,815.00. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. County Ordinance 75-1017B was signed by the Board and Auditor.

STARKE COUNTY AIRPORT

Starke County Economic Development Director Charlie Weaver advised the airport runway will be extended in 2017 with assistance of federal and state monies. He also noted the Lutheran medivac service at the Airport should begin in the month of November. He stated they will be collecting rent from them and also a crop duster. But no landing fees are charged. Councilman Cavender made a motion to adopt the 2017 Budget for the County Airport in the total gross amount of \$1,994,397.00. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. County Ordinance 75-1017C was signed by the Board and the Auditor.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adopt the 2017 Solid Waste Disposal Budget in the gross amount of \$344,000.00. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. County Ordinance 75-1017D was signed by the Board and the Auditor.

TRANSFERS REQUESTED

Council President Baker read the request for a transfer from the County Auditor, Katherine Chaffins, requesting \$939.00 be moved from budget line item 1000.10605.000.0002, First Deputy to budget line item 1000.30750.000.0002, printer. Auditor Chaffins advised they are replacing the printer that is used to print out all checks the majority of reports. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the transfer requested. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Council President Baker read the request for a transfer from the County Clerk, Vicki Cooley requesting a total of \$3,189.00 be taken from budget line item 1000.10204.000.0019, Clerical Assistant and placed into budget lines: \$200.00 into 1000.20401.000.0019, election supplies; \$300.00 into 1000.20100.000.0019 office supplies; \$100.00 into 1000.20301.000.0019 registration supplies; \$1,709.00 into 1000.31001.000.0019 precinct board meals; and \$880.00 into 1000.31101.000.0019, prepare voting machines. All Transfers were in the County General Fund, Election Budget. Councilman Pearman inquired about the extra money for the meals and preparing voting machines.

Clerk Cooley stated she thought the Council had reduced both of those lines during their 2016 budget workshop. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

President Baker then read the transfer request from Extension Officer Julia Miller who requested \$541.00 to be placed into 1000.20202.000.0021 repair and maintenance from \$215.00 from 1000.30404.000.0021 computer contract and \$326.00 from 1000.20100.000.0021 office supplies. Director Miller advised she has seen an increase in the amount of yearly contract costs. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilwoman Stalbuam seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman stated he was very happy with the job completed by all Departments since these were really the first transfers the Board had to handle this year. He noted it was a huge improvement over past years.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ADVISING OF APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Highway Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, appeared before the Board to advise them of his proposed application for an appropriation approval. He advised he is getting together the paperwork for filing for the additional appropriations and noted it will require posting the public hearing. He stated the paperwork will be ready for approval at the next Council meeting. He advised he is calculating the use of extra funds received in 2016 which would include \$2,900.00 in utility permits, \$4,249.53 in Mechanic labor, \$41.50 in interest, \$635.49 in scrap sold, and other receipts \$55,026.50 for a grand total of \$62,853.02. He stated he had listed a total of \$52,202.58 in funding that he would need to repair the roof of the office area, resurface the main garage roof, purchase a rear mounted boom mower for the JD tractor and a small contingency. He advised the remaining funds, in the amount of \$10,659.64 would stay in the fund as a type of "rainy day funds". He reminded the Board that the request to file for an additional appropriation will be presented to the Board at their next meeting.

SHERIFF'S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to talk about the status of the Sheriff's Pension Plan. He advised Elaine Beatty was supposed to appear with him at this meeting but she had a conflict in her scheduling. He noted she is back at Morgan Stanley from McKready Keene. He advised he had received information from her that Starke County is behind in their 2016 pension plan deposits and noted at the time it was approximately \$27,000.00. The Sheriff stated he had met with the Auditor who noticed that the \$100.00 per Sheriff Sale was not placed into the retirement in 2016 but instead placed into County General. The Auditor corrected the amount in 2016 and with money received from the Clerk for paper serving a check was paid to Morgan Stanley for a little over \$10,000.00. Councilman Pearman explained how the pension plan is perpetual and the last time Morgan Stanley advised him the County was funded at 83% and was told they were in great shape. The Sheriff stated he is thinking of different means to obtain additional money to fund the retirement. He talked about placing a fee on house security alarms that keep activating false alarms. He noted after about three false alarms the owner of the house could pay a fee and that money would go towards the pension plan. The Sheriff noted nothing has been finalized on any additional funding at this time.

Sheriff Dulin advised the Council and Board of Commissioners recently approved the purchase of the septic screen at the Jail. He advised the cost of the screen is \$77,000.00 and the County is paying a down payment of \$20,000.00. The Sheriff advised he would need to make the monthly payments out of his Commissary Fund. He stated it would be rather tight since he will need to purchase four squad cars.

EMS REQUEST TO PURCHASE A NEW AMBULANCE

EMS Director Keith Emigh appeared before the Board to request permission to purchase a new EMS ambulance. He advised at the last month meeting of the Board of Commissioners they had approved the purchase of an ambulance to be paid out of the Rainy Day Fund. He advised he had received price quotes for the purchase of the ambulance and he noted from Fire Services the prices of a 153 inch Wheeled Coach, a Chevy with a Diesel engine 3153C for the price of \$116,303.00, and a 170 inch Wheeled Coach, a Chevy with a Diesel engine 3170C in the price of \$127,876.00. He also quoted a 166 inch wheel base rig with a Chevy 6.6 diesel engine in the amount of \$117,076.00. He also quoted a 2017 Ford E450 with a gas engine in the price of \$129,900.00; and a 2016 Chevy G4500 with a 6.6 diesel engine for a price of \$139,900.00. Councilman Pearman stated the Wheeled Coach ambulance is a better built rig and he would want the longer base. Councilman Hazelton calculated the average cost between the 170 inch Wheeled Coach and the 166 inch rig from Medix. He advised the average cost would be \$122,476.00. Councilman Baker inquired if the EMS Department couldn't use the Medicare reimbursement they have been collecting this year that was receipted into County General. He was advised it would not be wise to move it out of County General. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the purchase of an ambulance, a longer wheeled rig to cost \$122,476.00 or cheaper and to be paid out of the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Supermajority approval was met for it to be a valid expense of the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Pearman advised in the past few years the Council had moved money, part of that year's unexpired

budget, from the County General Fund into the Rainy Day Fund. He advised he would like to look at that again at the end of this year.

Councilman Pearman asked about the status of Rig 86 and inquired if it would be retired. Director Emigh advised they had just returned the rig to Dobson Ford in Winamac for repairs to the AC System. He advised the majority of the work completed by Dobson Ford on that rig had been warranty work. Director Emigh also noted Rig 86 would not be retired; one of the two older ambulances would be.

MINUTES

President Baker advised he still needed to have the minutes approved from the last meetings. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19th and October 3rd meetings. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Pearman noted what a great job the County did for the Bi-Centennial Celebration and he was very happy with the job the Highway Department did at the Park and on CR300E by the River to prepare for the celebration.

Councilman Sims advised he has received numerous complaints in regard to a house on CR250E south of Culver Road who has cut down trees but has left them sitting on their property. The complainants are afraid it will attract rodents and insects. President Baker advised he believed the owner of the property was Larry Manns and stated he would talk to him. Councilman Sims asked if the issue was brought up at the last Commissioner meeting, and it was not. They believed it would be more of a Planning Commission issue. Betty Dotlich, who was present for the meeting, stated she would look at the classification of the property also to see how it was zoned. Councilman Pearman stated if the County would clean up the property the property owners could be sent the bill as part of the Nuisance Ordinance.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hazelton. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

OCTOBER 17, 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