

NOVEMBER 19, 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, Nancy Dembowski, Dave Pearman, Robert Sims 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 October 15th meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY 2019 BUDGET

President Hazelton advised the County received their 1782 Notice from the State in regard to their 2019 Budgets. He noted the 2019 County General Budget had been decreased by \$ 833,803.00 and all the other County budgets had been approved in full. He stated now the Council needs to come up with a plan to deduct that much in appropriations from the County General Budget. Auditor Chaffins had developed a plan to reduce \$160,000.00 from the health insurance line item of the Commissioners' 2019 budget; move a total of \$ 291,825.00 of the Sheriff's Budget for Detective Sgt., prisoner meals, and Jailers from his County General budgets into Jail CEDIT, Fund 1114, take out the 3% employee pay raise which is \$91,325.00; and move \$290,653.00 of health insurance into the Regular CEDIT Fund, 1112. There was much discussion as to how to handle this budget cut. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see a 25% decrease in the amount of Jail CEDIT and increase the amount of the Regular CEDIT by 25%. She stated she has a reason to request the movement of the funds but did not address it at this meeting. County Attorney Marty Lucas stated he recently attended a state program and advised the State is considering increasing the daily cost of an inmate held in a County Jail for the State and the fee would increase from \$35.00 to \$55.00 but it is pending possible legislation. Auditor Chaffins advised she had notified each department of the budget cuts but no department had offered any deductions to their 2019 budgets. The Council stated they would like to see at least a 6% cut from each department. Auditor Chaffins noted it is difficult to cut a budget with having a new department head coming into that department on January 1st. Councilman Baker made a motion to table this discussion until the December Council meeting and in the meantime ask each department head for a 6% decrease. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

TRANSFERS REQUESTED

The Highway Superintendent appeared before the Board and requested to create the position of Office Clerk to assist with the recording of asset management and reporting. He noted it has already been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the position. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum and passed with all ayes.

The following transfer of appropriations were requested from the Council:

The Highway Department asked to cut \$2,802.49 from 1176.10210.000.0531, Truck Drivers and put into 1176.10209.000.0530, Administrative Assistant. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Coroner Dannie Hoffer appeared before the Board but did not have any transfer requests written. He spoke of his lack of funding for all the necessary autopsies he has to get. He noted if a death has a suspicion of drug overdose an autopsy is required to rule out another medical issue caused the death. He stated new state legislation came out in July stating the requirement for the autopsies. He noted their goal is to charge the drug supplier with murder, as they had caused the overdose but so far no one yet has been charged with murder. Commissioner Norem stated if need be the Coroner would be able to pay for some of the required autopsies out of the Regular CEDIT fund. Councilman Baker made a motion to table this request until the December meeting. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The Veteran Officer, Randy Johnson, appeared before the Board to request to cut \$500.00 from 1000.10400.000.0002, Auditor's meetings to 1000.20100.000.0024, Office Supplies, \$91.97, \$30.72 to 1000.30100.000.0024, Postage and \$377.31 to 1000.30204.000.0024, Travel Expense. He advised the Auditor had given her permission for the use of her budget. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the Veteran Officer's transfer request. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The Extension Officer, Julia Miller, requested to cut \$309.26 from 1000.30600.000.0021 Utilities and put into 1000.20202.000.0021, Repair & Maintenance. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Surveyor Bill Crase requested to cut \$900.00 from 1000.10107.000.0023, Comp. Drainage Board; \$150.00 from 1000.10400.000.0006, Meetings; \$300.00 from 1000.10400.000.0023, Meetings and put into 1000.20100.000.0006, Office Supplies in the total amount of \$1,350.00. Surveyor Crase advised he would like to purchase a new computer and since their computer crashed they are currently using a

computer from the Auditor's Office. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Pearman advised the Surveyor that he had done a good job during the flooding this year. He also pointed out that his request for the purchase of a computer could have been paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund but since they have it in their budget they should use their budget. The Surveyor advised due to the flooding they did not hold as many drainage board meetings and had that money left over.

Clerk Vicki Cooley request to cut \$980.00 from 1000.10204.000.0019, Clerical Assistant and move into 1000.31001.000.0019, Precinct Board Meals. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

ORIENTATION FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilman Pearman stated he would like to see the newly elected officials receive training prior to the beginning of 2019. He stated they will have three new Council members after Councilman Cavender is replaced as he is now an elected Commissioner. Commissioner Norem stated she would also like to have a training for the other elected officials but a definite date had not been determined.

Councilman Pearman advised of the possibility of the Moose Lodge closing soon. He stated since it borders the Courthouse on the west side and the County already owns the parking lot north of that building, he thought it would be a good purchase for the County. He asked Attorney Lucas to check into its purchase. Commissioner Norem stated she did not know how the City would feel about it. Councilwoman Dembowski was asked to look into it also involving the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comment and no further business, Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

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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