

## NOVEMBER 21, 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. He held a silent tribute on the passing of Councilwoman Jennifer Davis and Former Councilman Perry Lucas.

### MINUTES

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

### CIRCUIT COURT TRANSFER REQUEST

Judge Kim Hall appeared before the Board to request a transfer within his County General budget. He requested a total of \$1,787.77 to be placed into budget line item 1000.11402.000.0029, Criminal Appeals from budget line item 1000.40301.000.0029, Law Books. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

### REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE OF A PART TIME EMPLOYEE

Starke County Clerk Vicki Cooley appeared before the Court requesting a part time Election Clerk employee to receive an hourly increase of \$4.00 or more an hour. She advised she is not asking for any additional appropriation of her 2017 budget just an increase in her per hour pay. She stated the employee is currently receiving \$9.93 per hour and full time staff receives \$16.26 an hour. Auditor Chaffins stated she had previously asked for an increase in pay for regular part time employees but it was not approved because the Board didn't see the difference in regular part time employees and those just called in randomly for a day. Councilman Pearman advised he would like to see how the budget ends up for 2017, and made a motion to table this issue for now until their next meeting. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

### 2017 SALARY ORDINANCE & NEW FEDERAL OVERTIME RULE

President Freddie Baker advised he has the 2017 Salary Ordinance which was created from the 2017 Council approved County Budgets. Auditor Chaffins advised the New Federal Overtime Rule could affect the 2017 Salary Ordinance. County Attorney Marty Lucas spelled out this new overtime policy stating that implementing this rule could affect the budget and over time figures. He talked about exempt and non-exempt employees who are usually referred to as hourly or salaried employees. He stated this rule applies to salaried employees. Elected Officials do not count, and neither do the Sheriff's Officers and Jailers who have already implemented a new overtime policy. He advised the Federal Government has increased the amount of pay a salaried employee would need to be paid or else they could obtain overtime pay. He stated the old pay level was set at \$23,600.00 but was being increased to \$47,476.00 annually, or \$913.00 a week. He advised there are some salaried Department Heads that are close to the new max and their pay could be increased. Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler spoke also of his two foremen who are salaried now and how both work several overtime hours. He thought both of them could be moved up to the new rate. He stated they have five salaried employees; the two foremen, the inspector, the office manager and himself. He noted he is over that limit already so he wouldn't pertain to this new rule. Attorney Lucas stated the office manager probably wouldn't qualify either. He also stated the County could pay overtime to the employees by giving them comp. time. More part time employees could also be used. Auditor Chaffins inquired if the amount of longevity an employee earns would also be added into that annual pay. Attorney Lucas also stated the County could decrease the amount the employee normally earns and when you would add in their overtime pay for the year the total amount earned would be the same total. Attorney Lucas stated the work schedule of the Dispatch Office also needs to be addressed so that the employees only work a forty hour work week. The Attorney suggested the County hold a bigger study in the month of January, and allow overtime to take place in December if need be. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table the 2017 Salary Ordinance for now until they receive the budget back from the State. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Superintendent Ritzler appeared before the Board to request transfer approval of the following items: increase budget line item 1176.31305.000.0533, repair trucks and tractors in the amount of \$25,000.00; increase budget line item 1176.31406.000.0533, repair road equipment in the amount of \$5,000.00; and take \$30,000.00 from budget line item 1176-40104.000.0533, trucks.

He asked for an increased in budget line item 1176.32007.000.0530, safety supplies in the amount of \$2,927.84; and an increase in budget line item 1176.41675.000.0530, security systems in the amount of \$7,651.00; and take \$10,578.84 from budget line item 1176.21100.000.0533, gas, oil and lube.

He asked for an increase in budget line item 1176.10218.000.0531, part time mower in the amount of \$7,500.00; an increase of budget line item 1176.21400.000.0531, stone gravel aggregates in the amount of \$6,900.00; an increase of budget line item 1176.21600.000.0531, bituminous in the amount of \$48,089.20; an increase of budget line item 1176.21800.000.0531, road signs in the amount of \$4,147.00; and an increase of budget line item 1176.31603.000.0531, drug testing in the amount of \$600.00. He asked for a decrease of budget line item 1176.21100.000.0533, gas, oil, and lube in the amount of \$67,236.20. He advised he had calculated the fuel costs for the budget at \$4.00 per gallon in the event fuel prices were increased again. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve all transfer requests. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Superintendent Ritzler advised in regard to his appropriation request that the advertisement was published, the public hearing has been held and he is now ready to send the forms on to the State. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve this additional appropriation to be sent to the State. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

### DRUG AND TOBACCO FREE STARKE COUNTY GRANT APPROPRIATIONS

Linda Molinda and Wendy Elam appeared before the Board to ask for grant appropriations. They advised they will be receiving a total of \$16,379.24 from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, ICJI. They stated they are requesting the following appropriations:

Starke County Youth Club: \$1,896.66

Drug & Tobacco Free Starke County: \$4,000.00

Coalition Against Domestic Abuse: \$1,900.00

Porter Starke Services: \$1,700.00

Leo Smith, Therapist for Specialized Training for Certified Substance Abuse: \$1,089.00

Starke County Sheriff's Department K-9 Program: \$5,444.22

for a program total of \$16,029.88.

They also requested the appropriation of carry over money of:

Starke County Youth Club: \$103.34

Moving Starke County Forward: \$265.00

Porter Starke Services: \$950.00

Starke County Community Corrections: \$317.50

Starke County Community Corrections: \$745.00

Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the appropriations requested. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **STATUS OF THE CVC BOARD, TOURISM, AND THE INNKEEPER'S TAX**

Auditor Chaffins brought up the topic of the CVC Board, only having two to three members left on the Board and the subject of the Innkeeper's tax and if the Council wanted to see it still being collected. She advised the Tourism Board would like to receive another claim from the innkeeper's tax but there are not enough members on the CVC Board to approve a claim. The Tourism Board is not a County organization. Patty Bush of the CVC Board was present at the meeting and she came forward to talk to the Board. She advised not many taxes are collected by the Treasurer at this point in time. It is unknown for certain if the reason is that most rentals are not renting for under thirty days at a time, and also advised this tax does not apply to Campgrounds. She advised when the Board was still active they did not vote to charge delinquent accounts with a \$10,000.00 warranty tax as the State does. Councilman Pearman stated they can't get rid of the innkeeper's tax as the County needs the Tourism Board. Mrs. Bush asked what the Tourism Board has done for the County lately and the Councilman said they had participated in the Bicentennial Celebration, and other recent items. Mrs. Bush stated that work was not done by the Tourism Board. She advised our Tourism Board has been taken over by the Starke County Chamber of Commerce and they have their own budget. Councilman Pearman stated he would still like to attract tourism for Starke County. Attorney Lucas noted the CVC Board is filled by the Board of Commissioners and read number of the corresponding Indiana Code. He stated the County should create a committee to revisit the innkeeper's tax issue. The committee should also include some people who actually pay the tax.

Councilman Pearman asked that the Tourism be present at their next meeting and give a report of their expenditures of the money received by the County. He also advised the Tourism records need to be audited.

## **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Pearman stated he would like to have a meeting with Courtney Schaafsma, the head of the DLGF to talk about thawing out the County's max. levy.

He also asked for the IT Department to prepare a price proposal in order to purchase seven tablets for the County Council so it would eliminate the amount of paper used at all of their meetings.

EMS Director, Keith Emigh, advised he had purchased an ambulance that day from Fire Services and it turned out to be a little less than the Council's appropriation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

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Freddie Baker, President

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Dave Pearman, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Stalbaum

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DECEASED

Jennifer Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Hazelton

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