

**December 16, 2013**

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 Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Councilmen Mitch Semans and Marvin McLaughlin were unable to attend the meeting.

President Pearman called the meeting to order. He advised to also add to the posted agenda a report from Commissioner Kent Danford in regard to the purchase of a new County ambulance, and the resolutions and ordinance prepared by County Attorney Marty Lucas in regard to investing the jail bond proceeds.

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18th meeting, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Surveyor Dennis Estok appeared before the Board requesting a transfer within the Surveyor's budget and the Drainage budget (Departments 6 & 23 of the County General Fund), moving \$600.00 in budget appropriations from budget line 10400, meetings, Department 23, to extra help in the Surveyor's budget, Department 06, budget line item 10300. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Prosecutor Nick Bourff appeared before the Board to discuss the pay of the Deputy Prosecutor, Autumn Ferch since the budget line item for the Deputy Prosecutor in the Prosecutor's Budget of County General, Department 08, had been over-expended thus far in 2013. After a brief discussion Auditor Chaffins suggested she will research the situation with the payroll claims expensing versus the Prosecutor's budgets in County General and of the Pre-Trial Diversion Fund, and will provide an explanation at the next meeting of the Council. Councilman Baker made a motion to table this discussion for now until further research can be done. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. It was decided Deputy Prosecutor Ferch should continue to receive her normal pay in the December 27<sup>th</sup> payroll.

Craig Felte and Steve Timm of IU-Health Starke & LaPorte appeared before the Board to present a report on the status of the Capital Assets of the IU-Health Starke facility. The report lists the piece of equipment, when it was purchased, the acquisition cost, total depreciation costs, and then the book value of each piece of equipment. Mr. Felte advised the last quarterly report of 2013 will be presented at the Council's January meeting. Commissioner Jennifer Davis stated she has questions in regard to specific equipment listings but advised she will meet with Mr. Felte to discuss them.

President Pearman gave a brief summary of a meeting that took place on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, with the area funeral home directors, who are, or who had been at one time, the County Coroner. Present at the meeting were Commissioner Kathy Norem, Councilman Dave Pearman, County Coroner Kris Rannells, Doug O'Donnell, and Mark Smith. Coroner Rannells advised the County needs to begin preparing for the fact that no current funeral director will be running for Coroner in the 2014 election, since his term expires on 12/31/14. He noted when that happens the County will no longer have an area, morgue space, since this in the past has always been provided by the funeral home of the Coroner. Coroner Rannells advised the County they need to prepare for this situation, and find a location to house a morgue. Councilman Baker stated the funeral directors want a morgue built at the new jail, but noted he felt it should be located at the hospital, since he thought they already had a morgue. Commissioner Davis advised she will speak with CEO Felte of IU-Health Starke to see what the situation is at the hospital and the use or availability of a morgue.

President Pearman advised the board they need to sign the nepotism compliance form for 2013. The documents were signed by the Board. The Board was also reminded of completing a Conflict of Interest form if it would apply to them.

President Pearman advised the Board of the cuts made by the State in the 2014 County Budgets of the following funds: County General, Health Department, and the Highway Department. He advised Auditor Chaffins had worked on cutting a total of 414,186 from the County General budget which included the moving of some of the appropriations to the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the budget changes to County General, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the suggested budget cuts to the Health Department as was suggested by Auditor Chaffins and County Nurse Frank Lynch, in the total amount of \$27,404 Councilman Sims seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the budget cuts to the Highway Department in the total amount of \$261,863 as was proposed by County Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins advised she is still making contact with representatives of the DLGF to get a better explanation of how the CAGIT funding is affecting the County General Budget and as to why such a large cut in the budget for 2014 but not in 2013 when the CAGIT funds were handled in the same manner.

Attorney Lucas advised he had reviewed the proposed modifications to the current Innkeepers' Tax Ordinance. He noted in regard to proposing a tax on campsites the County can't expand the list of businesses that should charge the tax other than what is posted by the State and camp grounds is not on the State's list. In regard to creating a larger penalty, he advised the penalty proposed seemed harsh, and noted in order to change the penalty amount of the ordinance it will require advertising and holding a public hearing. He advised the request to have the County Treasurer collect the Innkeeper's Tax instead of the State was an allowable proposal. He advised he will draft a proposed amendment of the County's Innkeepers' Tax Ordinance.

Attorney Lucas presented the documentation to have the Council authorize the investing by Umbaugh Financial Company of the jail bond proceeds. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the Resolutions and the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Kent Danford submitted a brief update in regard to the County's purchasing of a new ambulance for the EMS Department. He advised the Committee reviewed the quotes received and believes the County should purchase the demonstrator model from Fire Services, St. John, IN in the amount of \$113,250.00. He noted the County will need to purchase the decals for the identification of the rig which is not included in the cost of the ambulance. Councilman Sims made a motion to appropriate the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund in the amount of \$113,250.00 to purchase the ambulance from Fire Services. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Baker made a motion to appropriate the

CAGIT Certified Shares Fund in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 in order to purchase and install the decals on the newly purchased ambulance. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

With there being 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 was adjourned at 7:19PM.

**December 16, 2013**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Semans, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Cavender

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin McLaughlin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Radkiewicz

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Freddie Baker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &  
County Council Secretary