

DECEMBER 17, 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 Vice President, Dave Pearman at 5:30PM. Councilman President Brad Hazelton would be late for the meeting. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19th meeting. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

COUNTY GENERAL 2019 BUDGET CUTS

There was a lengthy discussion as to how to handle the \$833,803.00 that needs to be cut from the 2019 County General Fund's Budget. Auditor Chaffins stated she had been advising for quite a while about the poor cash flow in County General and that was the reason the DLGF stated as to why the budget was cut. Councilman Pearman stated he would still like to hear from all departments about departmental cuts. The Auditor advised she had received budget cuts from 10-12 departments at that time. Councilman Pearman stated the cuts should be mandatory. Also in discussion was if the employees should receive a 3% pay raise, or any pay raise in 2019. Highway Department Superintendent asked if the Highway Department, who has sufficient cash in their fund, could receive their 3% pay increase. Councilman Pearman stated he felt that would be something that could be done. Auditor Chaffins advised it wasn't just the Highway Department who had their budget approved but it was also the Health Department and the Assessor's Department's budgets. Commissioner Norem stated she was comfortable with the majority of Auditor Chaffins' idea of how to handle the budget cuts but she was uncomfortable with the transfers to both of the CEDIT Funds as that would be "robbing Peter to pay Paul" and they need to be cautious using that money. This was a lengthy discussion with no solution. (Councilman Brad Hazelton arrived to the meeting at 5:48PM.) Councilman Pearman stated he would really like to see the County employees receive some type of a pay raise in 2019. He noted that Councilwomen Stalbaum and Dembowski, and Councilman Cavender would be leaving the Council at the end of 2018 and would like to see the new Council members to have some input as to the 2019 budget. Councilman Pearman suggested the budget approval and payroll decision be postponed until the Council's February meeting. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to table the 2019 budget decision and the 2019 payroll raise until their February meeting. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. They advised if the payroll increase is approved the employees would receive their retro-active pay. At this point in the meeting Councilman Hazelton took over as President for the remainder of the meeting.

TRANSFERS REQUESTED

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Office Manager Pam McDonald appeared before the Board to present some transfer requests. The Sheriff stated he wanted to transfer \$10,566.15 out of 1000.10502.000.0027, Jailers, to pay \$715.45 into 1000.31102.000.0027, garbage; \$5,778.11 into 1000.10300.000.0027, Extra Help; \$3,197.02 into 1000.10705.000.0027, Office Manager; \$805.48 into 1000.10901.000.0027, Clothing; and \$70.09 into 1000.20100.000.0027, Office Supplies. Councilwoman Dembowski made a motion to approve the transfers. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Sheriff then requested a total of \$7,606.40 be transferred out of 1000.10502.000.0027, Jailers, and \$907.50 be put into 1000.20208.000.0027, Laundry; \$567.81 into 1000.30600.000.0027, Utilities; \$125.43 into 1000.30605.000.0027, Building Maintenance; and \$6,005.66 into 1000.30804.000.0027, Meals. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfers requested. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Sheriff Dulin then requested that \$9,500.00 be transferred out of 1000.10620.000.0005, Detective Sgt.; \$5,000.00 be transferred out of 1000.10402.000.0005, Detective; \$780.00 be transferred out of 1000.31206.000.0005, Copy Machine; and \$10,402.46 be transferred out of 1000.10502.000.0027, Jailers; and be transferred into: \$216.00 into 1000.10300.000.0005, Extra Help; \$16,875.09 into 1000.10601.000.0005, Patrolmen; and \$8,591.37 into 1000.11400.000.0005, Overtime. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Coroner had requested to be present at the Council Meeting with a transfer request but he did not show for the meeting.

Judge Kim Hall requested \$2,450.00 be transferred in 1000.40102.000.0029, Equipment; to be transferred \$1,000.00 out of 1000.30906.000.0029, Jury Meals; \$800.00 out of 1000.30204.000.0029, Travel; \$300.00 out of 1000.30707.000.0029, Service Agreement; and \$350.00 out of 1000.30903.000.0029 out of Official Bonds. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfers requested. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Clerk Vicki Cooley appeared before the Board to request a transfer of \$1,000.00 out of 1000.10605.000.0001, First Deputy and transfer it into 1000.20100.000.0001, Office Supplies. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the Clerk's transfer. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Recorder Lisa Minix appeared before the Board to request \$897.47 be transferred out of 1000.10200.000.0002, Deputy Auditor and placed in 1000.10300.000.0004, Extra Help. She advised she did have permission from Auditor Chaffins. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Extension Officer, Julia Miller, appeared before the Board to request \$73.15 be transferred out of 1000.20202.000.0021, Repair and Maintenance and put into \$9.08, 1000.30204.000.0021, Travel and \$64.07, into 1000.30600.000.0021, Utilities. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfers requested. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. EMS Director Travis Clark and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to request \$7,200.00 to be transferred into 1000.10205.000.0020, Full Time Employees with \$5,000.00 coming from 1000.10101.000.0035, IT Director; and \$2,200.00 from 1000.10217.000.0035, IT Assistant Director. They advised they had received permission from IT Director Franks. Then Director Clary asked for a transfer \$3,288.10 into 1000.20800.000.0020, Ambulance Equipment; \$766.29 into 1000.20700.000.0020, Ambulance Supplies; and \$12.42 into 1000.20205.000.0020, Building Maintenance with \$2,750.00 out 1000.10300.000.0002, Extra Help; \$500.00 out of 1000.10400.000.0002, Meeting; \$327.13 out of 1000.20100.000.0002, Office Supplies and \$489.68 out of 1000.30100.000.0002, Postage. They advised they did have permission to use the Auditor's Budget. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the transfer requests. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Director Clary advised they had damage to a garage door of Medic Base 1 in North Judson. The cost of the replacement garage door was \$1,379.66. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the purchase of the door of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board and advised throughout the year they had received approximately \$174,000.00 in misc. revenue and has applied for an additional appropriation from the State. He advised he would like to add \$122,587.23 in appropriations to 1176.21600.000.0531, Bitumenous and \$51,850.65, 1176.21100.000.0533, gas, oil and lube. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the appropriations request. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Supt. Ritzler then requested a transfer of \$18,710.38 into 1176.10218.000.0531, part time worker from 1176.40104.000.0533, trucks. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Supt. Ritzler then asked for the transfer of \$232,060.88 from 1176.40201.000.0533 and transfer that into 1176.21100.000.0533, gas, oil & lube, \$7,771.98; 1176.21400.000.0531, stone and gravel, \$116,949.02; 1176.21800.000.0531, road signs, \$9,086.78; 1176.21201.000.0531, calcium chloride, \$8,033.40; 1176.30405.000.0531, service contract, \$4,632.51; 1176.31304.000.0531, drainage assessments, \$2,014.15; 1176.31405.000.0531, uniforms, \$506.57; 1176.31603.000.0531, drug testing, \$373.50; 1176.31305.000.0533, repair trucks and tractors, \$13,000.00; 1176.31406.000.0533, repair road equipment, \$12,000.00; 1176.10804.000.0533, health insurance, \$57,692.61. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

2019 SALARY ORDINANCE

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the 2019 Salary Ordinance as is, with no pay raise at this time. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. It is with the understanding that the salary ordinance could be amended at any time.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Dembowski made a motion to approve the appropriation of the Regular CREDIT Fund 1112 in the amount of \$28,000.00 to pay the cost of having security staffing in the Annex Building in 2019. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem

stated that would not qualify for an appropriation to the Sheriff's CEDIT Fund since the Annex Building does not house a court.

Councilman Baker stated the Coroner has experiences some problems at the Coroner's Building with temperature control of the morgue cooler. Commissioner Norem stated she thought an alarm could be used when the temperature starts to rise.

Starke County Economic Foundation Director Larry Wickert appeared before the Board and distributed a copy of the November Report. He advised in the month of January they should be advised if someone purchased part of the SYSCO property outside of Hamlet. Councilman Pearman stated he believes someone should write a letter to SYSCO with a firm proposal because he feels that the County was used by SYSCO. Director Wickert stated he feels he should meet with the Board of Commissioners to discuss SYSCO.

Commissioner Norem stated she would also like to submit a request for transfers: transferring out of health insurance, 1000.10804.000.0025 and put \$1,853.64 into tax sale costs and \$17,317.39 into liability insurance. Councilman Cavender made a motion to approve the transfer request. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised he had proposed a Resolution of the Starke County Council that deals with the code of conduct of Councilmembers. He advised a usual issue with Boards is dealing with board members who typically miss numerous meetings. He stated he also provided actions to be taken on the code of conduct. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the Council Resolution noting that it read well and follows Indiana Code 36-2-3-9. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem then brought up the possibility that a Council Elect member does not actually reside in Starke County. She addressed Tom DeCola who was in attendance for the meeting and asked him where he lives in the County. He advised he resides at 7410 W 250S, North Judson and has property at 7310 W 250S also. She advised the Sheriff had Officers call on those locations and the house advised they were renting from Mr. DeCola and the same thing occurred at the Barn. Mr. DeCola advised he resides in the Barn and he does have an occupant's permit from the Building Commissioner to reside in that building. Commissioner Norem stated a resident on that road stated he has Mr. DeCola stating on his answering machine that he is living in Jasper County with his Father. Mr. DeCola advised it was a false investigation. He stated she had based her decision on heresay. Commissioner Norem stated it is a felony to falsify your election application. Mr. DeCola advised people should look into how much the County has paid for an attorney out of Plymouth to defend fraud. He advised that case was at the Supreme Court right now and will be made into a case law. He stated Commissioner Norem was acting like an investigator. Councilman Pearman advised he had met with Mr. DeCola and Republican Chairperson Brenda Stanojevic that day and advised Mr. DeCola is living in the district; saying he resides at 7410 W 250S.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A gentleman from the audience asked about recycling in the County. Councilman Pearman explained that the recycling containers were picked up because other items were being placed in those containers. He advised the containers were contaminated. He stated there is not enough income from recycling at this time. He noted that the Starke County Emergency Management District is in charge of recycling and the County is currently constructing a site at the Highway Garage for them. Councilman Baker advised they hope to have the building site opened early in 2019 and it will be gated and the site will be manned five days a week. Commissioner Norem advised the next meeting for that Board is on December 27th at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room; noting the public was invited.

With there being no further public comment and no further business, Councilman Pearman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

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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