

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a joint session with the Starke County Board of Commissioners at 9:30AM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Don Binkley, Todd Leinbach Charles Chesak, and Bryan Cavender, Mark Gourley present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Charles Chesak at 9:43AM.

### EMS MONTHLY REPORT

Nancy Coad, Starke County EMS Clerk came before the Board of Commissioners to give their monthly financial report. She presented the Board with a report showing all the money they had brought in within the last six weeks. She explained that Accumed has finished up setting up the billing procedures but they have not collected any money yet. They expect to begin receiving money from Accumed soon.

Commissioner Chesak read of the Johnathan O'Hara collection amounts being \$336.25 and from Small Claims \$325.28. Eric Wood, Starke County EMS Director came before the Board to give his monthly report:

Operations: I have appointed 3 Paramedics as Captain who officially start their positions as of 12/26. Jerry Smith is handling the daily medical supplies request. Zach Higgins will be in charge of all EMS education. Sarah Collins will be in charge of the scheduling. We still utilize 4 ambulances out of 3 stations in our county. He advised they are still short 3 medics but he does have interviews scheduled today for both medics and EMT's.

Personnel: Staffing is still an issue. We had a part-time Paramedic resign. The full-time Paramedic who had been deployed had stepped down to PRN for now while on deployment. There was a full-time employee who resigned her position to take a job at a doctor's office. I have that position filled already. I have 3 interviews today.

Training: We held our monthly Audit & Review. There are classes already scheduled for January to help create Starke County as a training center for NAEMT.

Safety: There are no safety issues as of right now.

#### Vehicles:

3308 (2021 Ford – Gas - North Judson) – Oil change

4230 (2019 Ford – Gas – Knox) – Front tires and alignment, oil change.

0514 (2015 Chevy – Diesel – Grovertown) – Oil change, new brakes, tires and alignment. Auto Park is handling the DEF system issue. The vehicle is back in service.

0086 (2009 Ford – Diesel – Backup) – No issues.

0085 (2013 Chevy – Diesel – Medic 2) – Deep cleaned the driver's area after an employee was sick while driving the vehicle.

0084 (2012 Chevy – Diesel – Backup) – Vehicles returned fixed from Auto Park. On 11/30, the battery that was replaced malfunctioned. The battery had been replaced (Patrick's).

4149 (2013 Ford – Gas) – No change.

Base Maint.: We had no major base maintenance issues for the month. I have plans to replace the cabinetry as of January.

PPE: - No change.

Director Wood advised it has been two years since they have gotten a new ambulance, the last one being a 2019. He would like to know if he could start the process of looking at an ambulance and bidding them out. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the last time they paid out for an ambulance was in 2020.

Councilman Pearman stated it does not hurt to bring them the prices and they can look at the mileage and inventory at that time, but they had never said they would be replacing ambulances every year.

Commissioner Gourley advised it is not a bad thing to look into since they have an older fleet but it depends on how they are running. The 2009 may have less issues than the 2012 or 2015. He would like to have it in the back of their minds on how much it will cost because eventually it will come around.

This year on their slate of vehicles is EMS, EMA, and Building Commission. Councilman Pearman stated they could still look into the possibility if the highway department gets rid of another pick-up then giving that pick up to EMA and then possibly give the Durango to the Building Commission.

Councilman Binkley asked if we still look into the government bidding. Councilman Pearman asked if he was talking about the DRMO ones. Councilman Binkley stated yes the ones that they will let us have

without a cost. Sheriff Dulin advised they are part of that program. Councilman Binkley asked Sheriff Dulin to keep an eye out for a few trucks or SUVs for those departments in question.

## **HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT**

Superintendent Dipert came before the Board of Commissioners to present his monthly report. He advised they have 5 open positions for drivers, he has rezoned the driver's area and marked the primary roads, if they get hit heavy secondary roads may have to wait for a day. They have been running ads last month for CDL drivers with no responses. They did get 2 applications for the asset manager position, they did do an interview this morning and will do a second interview Wednesday morning. He advised the average age of his drivers are 50 years and 2 months. The average seniority is 6 years and 1 month (5 out of 10 drivers have less than 2 years seniority). They did have plow training last week and there is more training set up for the end of the month. Superintendent Dipert advised that first call for CCMG 2022-1 will open January 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be submitting for hot asphalt projects, 600 E from Robbins ditch to Hwy 30 and Range Road from 250 N to 300 S. he advised that truck 66 has a different motor installed and close to being put in service. The average age of his truck fleet is 14 years and 2 months. They have 6 tandem trucks, average age is 16 years and 2 months. They have 13 single trucks, average age is 13 years and 3 months. Truck & tractor repair in 2020 was \$64,785 and \$122,654 in 2021. Road equipment repair in 2020 was \$55,508 and in 2021 was \$93,896. He advised a lot of equipment was put away in 2020 that was in need of repair and he believes this has attributed to the difference.

A discussion was held comparing single axes and tandems. Councilman Pearman stated that it was discussed to have Superintendent Dipert look into pricing for a tandem truck. Superintendent Dipert advised that the last 3 or 4 trucks have been purchases through Sourcewell and the advantage of going through Sourcewell is that you can pick the make of the truck, the box, and the plow; they have the ability to set up the specs. He advised they just spent money for a laptop that has diagnostic software on it. A lot of the maintenance issues that they have had, they have been taking the trucks to Plymouth to have the codes read they should be able to do that on their own now and save money there. He advised Bridge #7 currently has an RFP out for the construction inspection. Councilman Pearman stated that they use to do their own inspections with our own employee. Why are we not utilizing this anymore, as he has heard some numbers floating around such as \$150,000 for Bridge #7, is that realistic? Auditor Oesterreich advised construction inspection costs are 15% of the total project cost. Superintendent Dipert stated that Bridge #7 total cost is \$1.4 million and construction inspection would be \$140,000 but it is on an 80/20 match so we would pay 20% of the costs.

Councilman Leinbach stated that the construction inspection is not paid for by the grant. Councilman Binkley asked if Bob was certified for that position. Councilman Pearman agreed. He stated it would make sense if they could look back into hiring another employee who is certified in this area rather than paying a percentage per project. Superintendent Dipert advised they have spoken to Bob and he is not interested in coming back part time. It was decided that Superintendent Dipert is to advertise for the position of a construction inspector. Superintendent Dipert advised that they are putting together a chip seal list and they are at around 55 miles so far. He advised they continue their 5S cleaning project in the shop. They have purchased 145 led bulbs and will be getting a refund from REMC for installing these bulbs. They need to run an electric line along the fence where we are currently parking the trucks, so they can plug in the trucks. He stated that they are finishing up their list of patching roads, they started using the hot box for patching. They are finishing up brush cutting on 700E, for the past couple weeks they have been trimming trees with the bucket truck on 700E, this is where they were awarded money this year from Community Crossings.

Superintendent Dipert advised that last week they had Bliss McKnight come in talking to the guys about flagging and snow plow safety. On December 29<sup>th</sup> they will be doing LTAP snow plow training, Marshall County will be hosting the training. He advised for the solar project they attended a meeting with White and Pulaski County about road use agreement and other things to look for. They also took a tour of a job site. Commissioner Gourley asked Attorney Lucas if we have a time line for Barnes & Thornburg and the Road Usage Agreement. Attorney Lucas advised that they stated they have the contract and acknowledge they have been retained by Starke County. They have some things they need to finished up before the end of 2021 but will begin with up within the next two weeks. He also gave the Board results of the PASER rating that he has submitted to LTAP. Lisa Dan, Director of the SCEDF advised that SCILL is working on a CDL class and hopefully they will get that in place very soon.

## **MIKE AND ELDONNA RISNER- EASEMENT COMPLAINT**

Mike and Eldonna Risner came before the Board of Commissioners with an easement complaint. They own property at 5278 S. CR 210. Their property is next to an access. Eldonna handed out maps showing the access they are talking about. Commissioner Chesak asked what was going on at the access. She advised she submitted a letter to the Commissioners back in May of 2014, she provided a copy of the letter to the Commissioners. She provided a copy of the Commissioner meeting minutes from May of 2014 to the Board. Attorney Lucas advised that this easement has been in litigation for 8 years. Eldonna then handed out the Commissioner meeting minutes from June 2, 2014 and minutes from June 16, 2014 to the board. Eldonna stated the minutes state they were allowed a pier and 1 boat. She also provided the board with a photo of what the easement looked like this past summer, it had 2 piers and 2 pontoons. She advised after the Commissioner meetings in 2014 a family in the back on Maple Street filed a lawsuit against the Risner's and the McCormick's on September 16, 2014 for sole ownership of the easement and adverse possession. On September 11, 2015 the family amended the complaint adding quiet title and adding slander to the original lawsuit. Attorney Lucas advised that he believes the court ruled against the adverse possession and was clearly not a valid claim. Eldonna stated the Judge ruled against them in both complaints on October 31, 2017. Now this family has formed a homeowners association and now they are trying to acquire a title to the property.

Eldonna stated they are now being forced into mediation, by the Judge, with this association as to how they can use this access. Their lawyers tell us this is contingent on the fact that the county has to sign off or abandoned this access. The misconception seems to be is that the county does not want it. They would request that the commissioners do not do this. Commissioner Cavender said they do not have any intentions on signing off on it. Attorney Lucas gave a summarized opinion on the matter of easements in general, the dedication of this easement, and a history of the litigation of this easement. Attorney Lucas advised that the court has now ordered them to go into mediation and it was his thinking that the Commissioners would like to see a proposal that was based on all these things happening; that they would have a homeowners association, that was a legal homeowners association. He advised that the court could rule that the back lot owners own that property as a right of pertinent or the court could rule that it was actually intended to be a public dedication and used for that purpose. It is not a slam dunk for anyone, at this time, for who actually owns the property. Commissioner Gourley asked if it is in question that this body actually controls that postage stamp. Attorney Lucas advised that currently, in his opinion, this body does control the easement. Commissioner Gourley advised his first inclination is to go back to refer back to the decision made by the Commissioners back in 2014 being the 1 pier 1 boat but then the question becomes the enforcement of this.

Commissioner Gourley asked what mechanisms the county has in place for enforcement. Attorney Lucas stated from the evidence he has heard in court the easement become a party scene on holiday weekend and become annoying to the Risner's and disturbs their peace and quiet. Attorney Lucas suggested that after the change in attorney in this litigation procedure, the Board of Commissioners go back to court and advise that since there has been no settlement in these procedures that they will be the ones controlling this property for the time being and these are the rules that we want to see in place and if anybody does not like that then they need to explain to us why they don't think we have the authority to do that. The board would need to give this information to the next attorney so that they could bring that forward in court. Councilman Pearman asked if there was a way to structure an ordinance to define rules for all these properties and include fines. Attorney Lucas stated this would be a 2-step process, first they would need to inventory all the sites. He believes if they did an ordinance the ordinance should catalog the sites and state the basis for each one and if someone wanted to challenge it they can challenge it then the court would have to decide. Commissioner Gourley asked who the Risner's would call if they want to call someone and complain if it were to get noisy and uncontrollable. Attorney Lucas advised that if these individuals are disturbing the peace then there is a basis to call the Sheriff's Department and let them handle that, it is a position of maintaining order. Councilman Pearman asked if this position would cover if they have more than 1 pier or more than 1 boat. Attorney Lucas advised that that portion of it would still be in litigation. Commissioner Binkley advised that during the last meeting they had it was determined that with the boats that would be a DNR issue. Attorney Lucas agreed.

## **2022 ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

Attorney Justin Schramm came before both boards as requested. Councilman Pearman advised that Attorney Schramm is here today as they had started with a short list and that list has been narrowed down to him. Councilman Hazelton stated that he, Councilman Pearman and Commissioner Chesak met with Attorney Schramm last week to go over some things. Councilman Pearman would like to start off

with the concerns that were brought up with Attorney Schramm also working for the Town of North Judson and that they had talked about the retainer approach for 2022. Attorney Schramm advised he does have a long standing relationship with North Judson and just as 2 or 3 years down the road he would not look at us and say hey someone is going to pay me more I am dropping you. They are willing to work with him on scheduling and he does not want anyone to have to jump through hoops for him based on his scheduling. Councilman Pearman stated that in regards to the scheduling part of it with the council, they are looking at possibly 4:30PM or 5:00PM. Councilman Pearman advised that if something came up between North Judson and the county then the county may have to involve another attorney to handle the case. Attorney Lucas agreed but also advised that is not too common but it could happen. Auditor Oesterreich stated he now has the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month for the Council at 5:00 PM and the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month for the Commissioners at 9:30 AM. She asked the Board of Commissioners what they would like to make as their second meeting of the month. After some discussion it was decided that the Commissioners will have their second meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 5:00 PM. Councilman Pearman advised that the retainer amount would be \$48,000. He asked Attorney Schramm if that is something he needs to talk over with his firm but is would be willing to give us an answer by Friday.

Attorney Schramm advised he would let them know his final decision by Friday after speaking with Attorney Lucas to discuss what all Starke County Government has going on. A discussion was held regarding putting a protocol in place for department heads for contacting the county attorney. Councilman Hazelton made a motion, that contingent on Attorney Schramm accepting the \$48,000 retainer fees, the council appoints Attorney Schramm as their attorney for 2022. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion, that contingent on Attorney Schramm accepting the \$48,000 retainer fees, the commissioners appoint Attorney Schramm as their attorney for 2022. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **SCEDF- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

Lisa Dan, Director of the Starke County Economic Development foundation came before the Board of Commissioners to provide a copy of the purposed upcoming economic development agreement and MOU for SCILL. She advised that last year they were asked to reduce the size of their board, last year at this time they had 28 board members and are currently down to 19 board members with 12 of those being representative members and 7 at large. She explains what she has purposed in her draft agreement is removing the part about their board make up but she did leave the representation of the county on the executive committee and board of directors in the agreement. Currently, 2 members of council and 2 commissioner member is appointed to the board of directors and 1 commissioner on the executive committee. Councilman Hazelton asked with the council was removed from the executive committee. Director Dan stated that it was in last year's agreement. Director Dan said she can update the agreement to add 1 council member on the executive committee. Councilman Pearman stated that he believes that through the consultant it was and understanding that there was going to be more of a substantial reduction to the economic development board but it was never intended to reduce our government membership. Director Dan advised she does not mind cutting out some of the representative members. Commissioner Gourley does not want to tell the SCEDF who they can have as their representative members.

Councilman Pearman stated they were not trying to limit their board representatives they were limited their funding based on what the consultants had said in their report and the functionality of the SCEDF itself. Councilman Hazelton advised you can't get productivity done when you have 21 people on the board. Director Dan stated that in the agreement she does have the amount to be funded. Last year with this amount they were directed to give SCILL \$80,000. This year, she advised SCILL has more students and their budget is up a little bit more. She had talked to the outgoing SCILL Director and he suggested giving SCILL \$40,000 instead of \$80,000 so that is how she outlined it within the contract. Commissioner Gourley stated instead of an MOU he would like to see two separate contracts were we pay SCILL (\$40,000) directly and SCEDF (\$119,000) directly. Councilman Leinbach asked how much they paid SCILL last year. Director Dan stated they paid them \$80,000. Councilman Leinbach then stated so they will be paying them only \$40,000 this year. Director Dan advised yes as their budget is up by \$47,000 this year. Councilman Leinbach stated then the SCEDF would be getting \$40,000 more from the county than they received last year. Director Dan stated that is correct based on the total amount. Councilman Pearman advised that they have talked in the past that the council was supposed to start reducing the numbers.

Auditor Oesterreich agreed that it had been talked about in the past to reduce SCILL funding. Councilman Pearman stated that even though they may be reducing SCILL funding nothing was said about the SCEDF receiving the funding they are saving either. Councilman Pearman then discussed other options that could be done with that money such as scholarships, revolving loans, and other programs that could be funded. A discussion was then held regarding the MOU with Mammoth regarding the solar projects and why Economic Development was not included in that agreement. Commissioner Gourley advised that he would like added in the contract a section stating the SCEDF would be required to give a report on what they spent the counties money on every year. Director Dan advised they are working on their annual report and they plan on presenting that in February before the current contract expires. She advised that both of these contracts, the SCEDF Agreement and MOU for SCILL, are just drafts and any changes that would need to be made just let her know. Director Dan stated she has sent a survey to surrounding industries and the starting wage for those industries in Starke County has increased 14.3% since November of 2019 and currently every one of them are having difficulty filling positions but this is a national crisis not just a Starke County crisis. The current average starting wage among manufactures is \$16.71. She advised that there are about 60 open positions within Starke County, starting average wage is \$17.00 per hour, 14% increase, and average wage is \$22.00 per hour. Director Dan advised she would prefer to provide to separate contracts. One for the Economic Development Foundation and one for SCILL. She would prefer that SCILL be funded separately than the foundation as well.

Director Dan advised that the SCILL budget is up and their budget is awful. Compared to SCILL's because SCILL has an excess of \$47,000 this year in revenue than they had last year because of more students. Commissioner Gourley asked if next year she will come back and say their revenue has decreased by \$40,000 due to not being funded the extra \$40,000 in 2022. Director Dan stated yes potentially, they do not know until about October what SCILL's numbers look like as far as enrollment and what their budget numbers will be. Commissioner Gourley had a discussion with Director Dan regarding the number of individuals on the SCILL board and how many of those are also on the SCEDF board. Councilman Hazelton asked why they do not have any representation on the SCILL board. Director Dan stated that they could definitely have representation on the SCILL board and she will look into writing that into the contract with SCILL. Director Dan advised there will be a new SCILL Director as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. They are going to post the position and until they hire someone Dr. Reichhart will be Interim SCILL Director. She advised it sounds like they want to hire a SCILL Director as soon as possible. Councilman Hazelton advised from his stand point he would be more apt to give money to the SCILL board if they had representation and they know what it is going for. After further discussion it was decided that Director Dan would make the purposed changes to each contract and come back to the Board of Commissioners for further negotiations including adding a council member to the SCILL board.

## **AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$400,373.99. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$246,614.53 including deductions in the amount of \$72,070.39 for pay period ending 12/11/2021 and payroll date of 12/17/2021. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes from December 6, 2021. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Attorney Lucas explained that INDOT is requesting a Resolution for Execution of INDOT Agreements. Which basically says that the Commissioners have authority over county roads and it authorizes Commissioner Chesak as President of the board to sign documents for the whole group. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Execution of INDOT Agreements. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **SHERIFF COMMISSARY/TRANSFER REQUEST**

Pam McDonald, Matron of the Starke County Sheriff's Department came before the Starke County Council to discuss the Semi-Annual Commissary Report and a Transfer Request. Matron McDonald handed out the semi-annual commissary report. Councilman Pearman advised there was some contention of the hiring of a consultant that was working as also a Deputy and also for a special investigation. He stated that person has been retained from the commissary fund for an investigation and he is continuing to help clear cases out and there has actually been a lot of benefit with this activity. Councilman Hazelton mentioned that this individual has also been training other employees.

Councilman Pearman stated that Attorney Lucas has agreed that this is an allowable expense through the discretionary funding the Sheriff has. Councilman Pearman advised that he did participate in the audit review with Commissioner Chesak and the State Board of Accounts. There were a couple minor findings but there was nothing that was improperly done. Attorney Lucas stated the statute says that the commissary funds can be used for basically anything the Sheriff thinks is necessary in controlling crime and the hiring of the investigator clearly falls into this discretion of the funds. Councilman Hazelton stated that another thing that was brought up during the last meeting was that no one had a report regarding the special investigation. Today, representatives of both boards received that report. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to accept the semi-annual financial report for the commissary funds as presented by Matron McDonald. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1114.30600.000.0027, Utilities, in the amount of \$5500.00  
1114.30605.000.0027, Building Maintenance, in the amount of \$600.00  
1000.20202.000.0027, Repair & Maintenance, in the amount of \$600.00  
1000.20208.000.0027, Laundry, in the amount of \$1850.00  
1000.30600.000.0027, Utilities, in the amount of \$2300.00  
1000.30605.000.0027, Building Maintenance, in the amount of \$300.00  
1000.31102.000.0027, Garbage, in the amount of \$200.00  
4919.30804.000.0000, Prisoner Meals, in the amount of \$1300.00  
4919.31405.000.0000, Uniforms, in the amount of \$3100.00  
1222.11400.000.0000, Overtime, in the amount of \$10,000.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1114.40275.000.0027, CAD, in the amount of \$4300.00  
1114.30804.000.0027, Prisoner Meals, in the amount of \$1200.00  
1114.31415.000.0027, Inmate Medical, in the amount of \$600.00  
1000.10300.000.0027, Extra Help, in the amount of \$5350.00  
4919.20214.000.0000, Inmate Dental, in the amount of \$2900.00  
4919.30150.000.0000, Jail Supplies, in the amount of \$1500.00  
1222.10300.000.0000, Extra Help, in the amount of \$3000.00  
1222.20100.000.0000, Office Supplies, in the amount of \$1500.00  
1222.32101.000.0000, Service Contract, in the amount of \$5500.00

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **WIC NEGATIVE FUNDS DISCUSSION**

Lisa Dunfee, Starke County WIC Coordinator came before the Starke County Council to discuss her negative funds in FY20. She advised the State will not make this payment to the county, once the fund closes they will not reopen the case. After discussion regarding holding the Department Heads responsible for charges like these and how we just had a finding from the State Board of Accounts this year for negative WIC funds Councilman Pearman asked Attorney Lucas how this could be put in place. Attorney Lucas advised we would not need an ordinance but a written policy for these situations. It was decided that the attorney appointed in 2022 will handle looking into creating this policy and/or resolution. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to make an appropriation out of Starke County general and pay \$45.96 to WIC Breastfeeding and \$2371.14 to WIC. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 5 ayes and 1 abstention from Councilman Leinbach.

## **EMS TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Addition Appropriation in:

1000.20205.000.0020, Building Maintenance, in the amount of \$1549.21  
1000.20302.000.0020, Ambulance Repair, in the amount of \$10927.14  
1000.20601.000.0020, Sanitation, in the amount of \$470.35  
1000.20700.000.0020, Ambulance Supplies, in the amount of \$12888.97  
1000.21100.000.0020, Gas Oil Lube, in the amount of \$8330.00

1000.30600.000.0020, Utilities, in the amount of \$3400.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10750.000.0020, Shift Captain, in the amount of \$34165.67

1000.10205.000.0020, Full Time Staff, in the amount of \$3400.00

Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **CLERK TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.20100.000.0019, Office Supplies, in the amount of \$243.84

1000.20401.000.0019, Election Supplies, in the amount of \$305.26

1000.30200.000.0019, Mileage, in the amount of \$226.00

1000.30204.000.0019, Travel, in the amount of \$293.00

1000.30405.000.0019, Service Contract, in the amount of \$3105.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10204.000.0019, Clerical, in the amount of \$4173.10

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **SOIL AND WATER TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.10550.000.0031, Longevity, in the amount of \$518.26

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10803.000.0018, EMA Director, in the amount of \$518.26

Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **COUNCIL TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.30713.000.0033, Attorney, in the amount of \$602.50

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10405.000.0025, Attorney, in the amount of \$602.50

Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **CEDIT TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1112.10205.000.0000, Full Time Staff EMS, in the amount of \$17500.00

1112.10704.000.0000, Part Time Staff EMS, in the amount of \$2500.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1112.30610.000.0000, County Bridge & Roads, in the amount of \$20,000.00

Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **RECORDER TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.20100.000.0004, Office Supply, in the amount of \$9.26

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10300.000.0004, Extra Help, in the amount of \$9.26

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **PROSECUTOR TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.10411.000.0008, 2<sup>nd</sup> Clerical, in the amount of \$2373.00

1000.12500.000.0032, Social Security, in the amount of \$450.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.30411.000.0008, Trial Preparation, in the amount of \$2373.00

1000.10804.000.0025, Health Insurance, in the amount of \$450.00

Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **COMMISSIONER TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1000.31203.000.0025, Liability Insurance, in the amount of \$23799.05

1000.31501.000.0025, Juvenile Detention, in the amount of \$420.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1000.10804.000.0025, Health Insurance, in the amount of \$24219.05

Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **HIGHWAY TRANSFER REQUEST**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following transfers:

Additional Appropriation in:

1176.31305.000.0533, Repair Trucks & Tractors, in the amount of \$16700.00

1176.30103.000.0533, Fuel Pump Maintenance, in the amount of \$580.00

1176.20100.000.0530, Office Supplies, in the amount of \$2700.00

1135.20202.000.0530, Repair & Maintenance, in the amount of \$400.00

1176.31406.000.0533, Repair Road Equipment, in the amount of \$3900.00

Reduction of Appropriation in:

1176.21100.000.0533, Gas Oil Lube, in the amount of \$21180.00

1176.30204.000.0530, Travel Expense, in the amount of \$2700.00

1135.30913.000.0000, Bridge Maintenance, in the amount of \$400.00

Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **HIGHWAY PAY INCREASE REQUEST**

Superintendent Dipert came before the Starke County Council to request a pay raise for Part Time CDL Drivers. He advised the part time pay was designed for the summer help, being the part time mowers. Due to the shortage of drivers they are trying to find part time CDL drivers. Councilman Pearman asked



if a part time CDL line could be created to keep that separate from mowers. Auditor Oesterreich agreed. Superintendent Dipert is requesting the pay for the part time CDL drivers to be \$18.50 per hour. Councilman Hazelton asked how much the full time drivers is making now. Superintendent Dipert stated they make \$18.66 after one year and start at \$17.66. Councilman Hazelton stated he does not want to pay the part time staff more than the full time staff. After further discussion Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the range of \$8.50 to \$17.50 for part time at the county highway with the discretion of the Highway Superintendent. Within the motion it was also added that this would apply to part time winter drivers and the Auditor is to create a line reflecting that within the budget. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2021. Councilwoman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the cost of the audit was a little over \$32,000 and we could use ARPA money for the payment of the audit if they wanted to. Councilman Hazelton asked how short we are in county general. Auditor Oesterreich advised the Cash Balance is \$379,000 and we still have one payroll and 2 utilities processes to go through but she is not sure how “short” or how “close” we will be to having a zero balance on December 31<sup>st</sup> because payroll fluctuates. Councilman Hazelton stated that is what they have the ARPA money for is if entities have shortfalls this is to help the revenues losses from COVID. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to accept the State Board of Accounts Bill and the last payroll of the year for 2021 for the EMS department which will be put into the resolution that is created for the usage of ARPA money. Councilman Pearman asked if all three Commissioners agreed. They agreed. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and both boards voted all ayes. Auditor Oesterreich also notified the Council that she had a mistype in numbers in the EMS budget and she shorted them by \$80,000 for 2022. The line that was shorted was the Part Time EMS line. This can be made up through county general, CEDIT, or ARPA funds. Councilman Pearman’s recommendation is to use ARPA fund for this situation as well. Councilman Hazelton made a motion accept the payroll of Part Time EMT into the resolution that is created for the usage of ARPA money. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 5 ayes and 1 nay from Councilman Leinbach.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

**DECEMBER 20, 2021  
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

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Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Gudeman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don White

Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Howard Bailey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Binkley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Leinbach

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Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Council

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Bryan Cavender, Vice-President

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Mark Gourley

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Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners