

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 5:00 PM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charlie Chesak, Mark Gourley, and Bryan Cavender, present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charlie Chesak directly at 5:00 PM.

**STELLAR COMMUNITIES BID OPENING**

Attorney Justin Shramm asked Auditor Oesterreich if all bids were received in a timely manner and where sealed upon arrival. Auditor Oesterreich agreed. Attorney Schramm read off the following bids received:

Michiana Contracting Inc. 7843 Lilac Rd. PO Box 929, Plymouth, IN

Koontz Lake – Division 1 being \$112,507.32

Division 2 being \$11,413.00

Bass Lake – Division 1 being \$172,340.00/ Alter 2 \$24,867.00 / Alter 3 \$24,572.70

Division 2 being \$134,616.90

Division 3 being \$7,568.74

Norwayne Field - Division 1 being \$158,452.94

Division 2 being \$20,303.84

Wythogan Park – Division 1 being \$134,029.30

Division 2 being \$26,238.60

Division 3 being \$11,303.00

Division 4 being \$12,543.00

Brown & Brown General Contractor Inc., 124 S. Elkhart Street, Wakarusa, IN

Koontz Lake – Division 1 being \$91,067.00

Division 2 being \$11,420.00

Bass Lake – Division 1 being \$157,615.00 / Alter 2 \$23,753.00/ Alter 3 \$25,223.00

Division 2 being \$128,528.00

Division 3 being \$7,736.00

Norwayne Field – Division 1 being \$155,987.00

Division 2 being \$19,250.00

Wythogan Park – Division 1 being \$97,580.00

Division 2 being \$43,250.00

Division 3 being \$11,500.00

Division 4 being \$7,100.00

Gariup Construction Company, 3965 Harrison Street, PO Box 64879, Gary, IN

Koontz Lake – Division 1 being \$125,500.00

Division 2 being \$10,500

Bass Lake – Division 1 being \$110,930.00/ Alter \$58,550.00

Division 2 being \$148,000.00

Division 3 being \$9,000

Norwayne Field - Division 1 being \$185,120.00

Division 2 being \$20,000.00

Wythogan Park – Division 1 being \$144,780.00

Division 2 being \$26,500.00

Division 3 being \$20,000.00

Shawn Cain with K.I.R.P.C. stated they will be taking these bids under advisement and will come back to the Board of Commissioners with recommendations.

## **HIGHWAY BIDS CCMG2021-2**

Attorney Justin Schramm asked Auditor Oesterreich if all bids were received in a timely manner and where sealed upon arrival. Auditor Oesterreich agreed. Attorney Schramm read off the following bids received:

Milestone Contractors North, South Bend, IN - \$937,181.76

E & B Paving Inc., Rochester, IN - \$844,184.60

Reith-Riley Construction, La Porte, IN - \$845,370.76

The bids were taken to be reviewed by Starke County Highway Superintendent Dan Dipert and USI Consultants.

## **AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$262,210.88 including deductions in the amount of \$75,982.87 for pay period ending 01/22/2022 and payroll date of 01/28/2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$404,748.25. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 and January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Attorney Schramm advised the ERA Resolution falls under the Councils authority to approve but he wanted to update the Board of Commissioners on this matter. ERA pertains to tax abatement and in conjunction with drafting an Economic Revitalization Area Resolution he is working with Barnes and Thornburg to develop an Economic Development Agreement which will itemized all the benefits the county is going to receive from the solar companies. He advised that when he spoke with Attorney Hall with Barnes and Thornburg he advised he has drafted probably every counties Economic Development Agreements and he also got him a copy of the Road Usage Agreement. He advised that Attorney Hall would be taking care of getting all the attorney fees paid as well by the solar companies. Attorney Schramm advised that what happens is that you have a preliminary ERA that has various exhibits and within the targeted finalized ERA. Then a public hearing is scheduled and hearing any remonstrance's from public comment. Then after the public hearing they have a second hearing which establishes the ERA plus an abatement schedule. Commissioner Chesak asked is ERA's usually go on commercial and industrial property. Attorney Schramm stated yes but an ERA fits this because you have the construction of commercial improvements to real estate.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Steve Dodge to the Starke County Library Board. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint John Wilson and James Jenkins to the City of Knox Planning Commission. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to reopen the county buildings to the public and to reduce the mandatory mask mandate down to strongly recommended. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the annex keys for Jennifer Madsen as Deputy, Recorder. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Superintendent Dipert came back with recommendations for the Board for the CCMG 2021-2. He advised that E & B Paving did not have all the required paperwork in their bid package so he would recommend going with Reith-Riley Construction in the amount of \$845,370.76. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**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 5:31 PM.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Mark Gourley, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender, Member

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Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to  
the Board of Commissioners