

STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 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.

2ND HEARING COVID GRANT CV-CV3-369

Shawn Cain from KIRPC came before the Board of Commissioners for the 2nd Hearing for the COVID CV-CV3-369 grant. She advised she is wrapping up this project and OCRA requires this 2nd hearing. To recap 11 businesses were served, \$100,000 went toward that and \$150,000 went toward the food program. Commissioner Chesak opened the open hearing at 5:02 PM. With there being no public comments Commissioner Chesak closed the public hearing at 5:03 PM.

STELLAR COMMUNITIES – BID REVIEW

Shawn Cain also presented the Board of Commissioners information on the Stellar Communities. She advised that in February they opened bids for the Stellar projects, as a reminder this is the second bid as they have opened them once in May and the project was way out of our budget. They made some changes based on suggestions made by the Starke County Stellar team. The engineer revamped it and she had spoken with OCRA, OCRA has allowed them to do divisions so that they could accept some but not others. They also allowed them to go with the lowest bidder, so they have two different contractors that they are considering. What it came down to is that they are still way short, the team suggested removing one of the projects and she did contact OCRA and OCRA did allow for that to happen. Therefore what they had to do in return is reallocate those additional funds that were in the grant. Specifically talking it is the Koontz Lake project that they will be removing. They took the remaining grant money that was initially allocated and by pro rata dispersed it against how much the project site cost verse how much the grant was so everything was broken down into a percentage. Based on the project cost verses the total overall cost of all the projects they are spending 31% on Bass Lake, 26% on the Knox, and 43% on North Judson. Pro rata is how OCRA requires the distribution to occur, she does have a call in to OCRA to see if there is any other way they can do it. Just to see if there is an alternative.

Commissioner Chesak stated he thinks it should stay the % wise. Commissioner Gourley asked how much total fund were budgeted originally. Shawn advised the original application for budget was \$424,213.00. Commissioner Gourley asked how much of that was going to go to the Koontz Lake project. Shawn stated \$80,914.00 was allocated to Koontz Lake. She stated there is concern about what is happening at Bass Lake. Originally the trail head with building is what was requested but they do not have enough money to support the entire project. They do not have enough money to include the building so essentially it will be a parking area. The cost of the parking area is \$110,930 and the cost of the building is \$148,000. Discussion was held regarding continuing to do the Bass Lake project even without the building. The Board of Commissioner decided to keep the project as it will be a start to things that could be added at a later date. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to accept the changes as discussed. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to accept the bids as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

USI CONSULTANTS UPDATES

Maggie Dickerson with USI Consultants came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss several updates. She advised for the 2021-2 Community Crossings Grant the PO Request has been sent to INDOT. Once they get this back they will help with the issuing of the Notice to Proceed. The 2022-1 CCMG is in the design phase as soon as they get the money for this one they will begin the bidding phase. Maggie explained that the Federal Aid Process Opportunity is a lunch and learn opportunity for ERC's as well as County Commissioners as far as what they do as ERC step by step, this will be on March 29th. She then handed out the ADA consultation plan request. Director Williams advised his thoughts with the ADA transition plan that USI prepared with the project fee, he believes this should be

tabled until 2023 where there can be a budget in place as well as exhausting our resources through the highway department and the building inspectors. Commissioner Gourley asked Director Williams if he is confident he can get through all of their requirements we need to get through this year and don't need to address what is listed on the USI template until next year. Director Williams agreed. No taken was taken at this time on the USI Consultants ADA Transition Plan proposal. Maggie then advised to the Board of Commissioners that if they need any help with ARP Funding they are available to assist in any way.

SCEDF – LEAD TRACK MAINTENANCE & REPAIR QUOTES

Lisa Dan, Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the Board of Commissioners to present the quotes she has received for the lead track maintenance and repairs. This is a three year score of work for the lead track. The quotes presented are as follows:

Ameritrack Rail	2022/\$120,000.00	2023/\$139,272.00	2024/\$167,126.00	Total \$426,398.00
RailWorks	2022/\$63,000.00	2023/\$6,800.00	2024/\$185,000.00	Total \$254,800.00
Tranco	2022/\$94,000.00	2023/\$99,000.00	2024/\$104,000.00	Total \$297,000.00

She advised Tranco currently does most of their work right now and they do a good job but they have worked with RailWorks before. Director Dan explained that several years ago the companies use to pay per car rate of \$51 and that has helped build up the cash balance in this fund to be able to do this work. However, a few years ago it was changed to \$10 per car and the companies are responsible for paying any expenses that incurred throughout the year such as REMC, NIPSCO, and everything that happens on a monthly basis. She said because the amount was dropped to \$10 per car there is not a lot going into the maintenance and repair fund anymore. Director Dan will complete more research on the amount it could change from \$10 per car, possibly around \$40 per car or more depending on if another user will be added soon as they only have two users at the moment. Larry Wickert advised that while he was Director of the SCEDF they did have some issues with RailWorks where they had said they would do some things for certain amounts but they had problems with that. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to accept the Tranco bid of \$297,000.00. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$259,610.85 including deductions in the amount of \$75,394.73 for pay period ending 02/19/2022 and payroll date of 02/25/2022. 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 \$304,155.46. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes for February 22, 2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Attorney Justin Schramm gave a review to the Board of Commissioners regarding the opioid litigation. He advised he had received a packet information about the “opt back in” possibilities. He feels that the op in is a good idea as they have handled most of the heavy work for us on that and we stand to receive a hefty settlement when they start distributing in April. He advised this would have to be approved by March 31st to be able to start getting the April payout. Commissioner Gourley advised that when we opted out the settlement was going to be based on population rather than how it has affected each community. He asked Attorney Schramm if this has changed. Attorney Schramm said he does not believe so but he was not here for the discussion as to why the county had opted out he asked about that process. Commissioner Gourley stated it was because we were a named Plaintiff rather than just a general member of the class and we didn't want to be limited in future action we could take in other parties. After further discussion it was determined that Attorney Schramm will set up a call to discuss this further and receive more information about it. A decision can then be made at the March 21st Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to table this discussion to the March 21st meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Auditor Oesterreich advised she would like to be appointed to the Community Corrections Advisory Board which is called Starke Circuit Court Services. She had met with the Board a few weeks ago and they had accepted her but she needs the Board of Commissioners acceptance as well. Commissioner

Gourley made a motion to appoint Rachel Oesterreich to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Commissioners Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Jack Rosa to the KIRPC Board. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley advised that he had met with most of the Department Heads about the county website that will be revamped soon and how their Department’s information will be accessed. He also advised that our insurance company has also made a new requirement for us being the two factor identification process. He advised Richard is working on this as well and this process was explained to the Department Heads in the meeting.

Attorney Schramm advised that the House Bill that was just passed takes in account community affect for the population.

Commissioner Gourley advised that the maintenance worker of the Court House contacted him about landscaping around the south side of the courthouse where the restrooms entrances were. After a short Board discussion, Commissioner Gourley will be heading up that project.

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss an area of flooding at the intersection of Iroquis and Topinabee in Koontz Lake. He is requesting a 4-way stop sign be put in place. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to make the intersection a 4-way stop. 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 6:01 PM.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

Charlie Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners