

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 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.

HWY – FUEL CONTRACT

Superintendent Dan Dipert came before the Board of Commissioners to ask about a possible fuel contract. He stated that he has been looking at the fuel budgets and he is projecting that the highway department is going to be right at budget this year as long as the price does not go up. He would like to know if the Board of Commissioners would like to contract fuel. Brad from Co-Alliance is on Zoom as well. He presented the board with two contracts, one April through August and one being September through April of 2023. He advised for diesel the spot price is \$4.30 and the contract price would be \$4.25. He advised the gas spot price is \$3.32 and the contract price would be \$3.67. The total contract price for a full year would be \$418,290. Commissioner Chesak asked if they would need to sign for a full year. Superintendent Dipert advised no as they did present two different contracts. Commissioner Cavender asked if he would be getting more quotes, such as from Starke County Co-op. Attorney Schramm advised that for purchases supplies and equipment that is greater than \$150,000 they will have to issue a retention for bids, public notice, and publish the information two times, the second time being no sooner than 7 days before they would open the bids. Superintendent Dipert advised that they could do contracts anywhere from 3 to 18 months.

Superintendent Dipert advised the contract would be a flex contract. Commissioner Gourley suggested to investigate the other vendors and work with Attorney Schramm in staying in compliance with all the rules with contract bidding. Brad from Co-Alliance advised when they do a flex contract they have to take the highest price out of those 11 months. It was better to be written as two contracts as spring prices are much higher than fall prices. Commissioner Chesak suggested looking into a 3 month contract rather than a full year contract. Attorney Schramm advised that if the prices are between \$50,000 and \$150,000 then they would just need to mail out invitations to bid, it would not need to be published. Commissioner Chesak advised he would feel more comfortable with the three month contract and advised Superintendent Dipert to proceed with a three month contract as well as working with Attorney Schramm for the proper bidding procedures.

SHERIFF – NEW CAR PURCHASES

Sheriff Bill Dulin came before the Board of Commissioners to request the purchase of two new police vehicles. He presented the Board with a list of his current vehicles. He advised Ford does not make Taurus's anymore, they went straight to Explorers and Dodge is out until 2023. He stated Chevy is almost non-existent other than getting a pick-up. He presented a quote from Bosak Ford for a 2022 Explorer 4-Door in the amount of \$40,058. Commissioner Gourley asked what the delivery date was on a 2022. Matron McDonald advised that they do not have an estimated delivery date at this time. Councilman Pearman suggested getting a quote from the new Chevy dealership in town as well. Sheriff Dulin advised he should be able to have a quote by the end of the week from them. After further discussion Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the recommendation for the purchase of the two vehicles up to the amount of \$82,000. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$544,879.99. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$265,079.97 including deductions in the amount of \$76,736.21 for pay period ending 03/19/2022 and payroll date of 03/25/2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes for March 21, 2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Oesterreich advised that Bliss McKnight has requested a policy be put in place regarding the acceptance of Certificate of Liability taken by the county. Attorney Schramm advised that Bliss McKnight wants the county to be consistent in the way we accept the contractors contract for work and to specify what amount of coverage they should have.

Attorney Schramm advised of the Grant of Easement request along 50 S. It is about .15 acres worth of easement property. The offer is about \$5900. Wabash Valley Power is asking for the easement and are believed to be in connection with REMC. Commissioner Chesak advised the permanent easement amount offered is \$5925 and the temporary easement amount offered is \$1000. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the easement transfer request. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Wickert and Steven Lucas came before the Board of Commissioners to request that the Bass Lake Trail Head restroom plan. They advised that they have one potential donor and could possibly look for more to help with the cost of the projects. Commissioner Gourley advised the smaller the cost is to the county the more likely they are to fund it. Both Larry Wickert and Steven Lucas will return at a later date with an amount of what they had received and an estimate of what they would need from the county.

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 5:48 PM.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

Charlie Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners