

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 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 Charles 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 Charles Chesak directly at 5:05 PM.

**EASEMENT CONCERN WESTERN AVE & CR210**

Janice Jarboe came before the Board of Commissioners for Melissa Schwab about the easement concern at Bass Lake near Western Ave & CR210. She presented a petition and other documents to the Board of Commissioners. She advised that she lives at 5027 East Woodland at Bass Lake. She collectively with the neighbors that live on Western, Woodland, and Summerholme. The purpose coming before the Board of Commissioner is to seek help from the board to have them use the easement that they have use for over 30 years. She advised that they have maintained the easement by mowing it and cleaning up the trash. She advised they do put their boats, piers out there, and let their children play their but now the individuals who live right next to the access have impeded their access. They are asking for help in getting the piers moved or finding out the proper distance. They have 19 signatures from the individuals around that area. She advised another issue came up this week with Mr. DeMarko who lives at 6190 S. CR 210 at Bass Lake who is on the east side of the easement. He dug up his lake side and piled it all across the easement about 2.5 feet high. She provided photos regarding this issue as well. Mrs. Toth from the audience advised that this has been addressed because her and her husband came before the Board of Commissioners on May 9<sup>th</sup> and submitted photos as well. Western Ave. was brought to the attention of the Commissioners at that time as well.

Commissioner Chesak asked if what they piled there was right on the easement and Janice agreed that it was on the actual easement and not in the water. Attorney Schramm asked if this was a private easement or an easement owned by the county. Commissioner Gourley stated it was one of the many easements owned by the county. Attorney Schramm advised he would need to look into the metes and bounds of the county easement. He advised this will take a little time to remedy. April Addison stated she lives at 5095 Summerholme Dr., Bass Lake. She stated she was told by her realtor that they had lake access in those easements. If you go just east of the location in question, there is a Park Ave easement and they were told it was the Mayor who made them cut those down. The frustration is that on Western nobody is able to do anything and everyone just wants to get along especially since the Marina is up in arms. Commissioner Chesak advised the starting point would be to find the lines of the easement. Commissioner Gourley advised we need to find out about how close an individual can put a pier at the property line as well. Discussion was held between Attorney Schramm and Commissioner Gourley about the photos provided. Attorney Schramm asked the individuals who brought this to the attention of the Commissioners what they have historically used the property for. They advised that they usually have a pier and have anchored their boats on the pier. They have also had a shore station as well. They do remove it every season, it is seasonal equipment that is placed in that location. After further discussion it was decided that Attorney Schramm would look into the rules and regulations of the pier placements and further remedies. He will try to have an answer by the Boards first meeting in July.

**HWY- BRIDGE 7 DOCUMENTATION**

Superintendent Dipert came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss Bridge 7. He presented the other parcels for Bridge 7 for the right-of-way acquisition. He has requested two signatures for parcels 1 and 3. Superintendent Dipert advised he found a piece of equipment he would like to purchase. A 2018 hot box same make as their current hot box. He advised this machine is used for \$24,599. He received other quotes but this was the lowest quote he received. The Board of Commissioners agreed to allow Superintendent Dipert to purchase the piece of equipment.

**SCILL – JIM HERNANDEZ**

Jim Hernandez came before the Board of Commissioners to introduce himself as he just took over the Executive Director of SCILL position. He advised he is also here tonight to request an additional amount for SCILL from the \$40,000 that was set aside earlier this year. He explained they would like to

replace their old promethean boards, air conditioning units, and provide additional student security for the automotive technology building. He stated he is applying for a grant through the Department of Homeland Security for this as well. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the request for \$20,268.18 for additional SCILL funding. Commissioner Cavender 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 \$262,207.38 including deductions in the amount of \$75,640.84 for pay period ending 05/28/2022 and payroll date of 06/03/2022. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$255,842.85. 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 \$272,662.83 including deductions in the amount of \$77,795.04 for pay period ending 05/14/2022 and payroll date of 05/20/2022. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes for May 16, 2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for April 18, 2022. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Matron Pamela McDonald came before the Board of Commissioner to present the potential new Body Camera Ordinance. She explained this ordinance for anyone in the public that would need a copy of the body camera recording. This ordinance would establish a fee and what the fee would go toward. Commissioner Gourley asked if there was a policy in place as far and when the cameras will be used. Sheriff Dulin advised they are still putting that together. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Ordinance Regulating Requests for Law Enforcement Body Camera Recordings for the County of Starke, State of Indiana. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the issue regarding hotel rooms being purchased for the AIC Conference this year as it is located within 50 miles and according to the travel policy hotel rooms are not permitted without Commissioner approval. They decided not to approve hotel rooms for the AIC Conference as it is within 50 miles of our location.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the issuance of keys to Gwendolyn Rentz, office clerk in the Surveyor's Office. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Bernadette Manuel to the CVC Board. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A Koontz Lake individual made a comment about a lawsuit regarding public access in Koontz Lake. Attorney Schramm has not gotten notice about it yet and will be making his appearance in that case.

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 5:50 PM.

**MONDAY, JUNE 6, 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