

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 9:30 AM, 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 9:30 AM.

EMS FINANCIAL REPORT

Nancy Coad, EMS Clerk came before the Board of Commissioners to present her monthly report. Commissioner Chesak advised they had received a Small Claims payment in the amount of \$8.40 and a payment from Attorney O'Hara in the amount of \$457.62.

BOB ALOI – SUBDIVISION APPROVAL

Bob Aloï came before the Board of Commissioners to request the approval of Pond View Estates. He advised this has gone through the approval for storm water clearance and NRCS. They will be sending the notice of intent down to IDEM. There was a covenanting commission's docket that was already recorded for this. He stated there are some additional rules for the subdivision and an offsite easement and drains as well for septic systems. After further review Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the request for Pond View Estates subdivision. 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 \$518,416.53. 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 \$273,319.26 including deductions in the amount of \$73,205.57 for pay period ending 09/03/2022 and payroll date of 09/09/2022. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes for September 6, 2022. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Short Term Track Lease Agreement was presented to the Board of Commissioners. Attorney Schramm advised he was satisfied with the agreement and our Liability Insurance carrier had notified the Auditor that they too were in agreement with the Lease Agreement. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Short Term Track Lease Agreement as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Council will be taking the Cumulative Bridge tax rate to zero for 2023 and although the Board of Commissioners do not technically need to approve this item the DLGF has requested their approval. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Highway Superintendent does know about the change in rate for 2023 as well. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the reduction to Cumulative Bridge. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak brought up the 3rd Reading of the Solar Ordinance. Commissioner Gourley said it would technically be the 2nd Reading still since they tabled it at their last meeting. Commissioner Gourley advised the ground cover section does match what is recommend in the State recommendations. Bob Aloï said when he met with the Planning Commission they are waiting for a response from the Board of Commissioners and what changes they want to make. Commissioner Gourley advised that one of the biggest differences from the State recommendations is the setbacks from the roadway. Commissioner Gourley advised he does have an issue with the wording of "have to maintain a two foot high tree every twenty feet" as well in the buffer section. He does not understand why they have to be so specific in the distances. Bob Aloï stated he was not trying to be specific but the solar companies wanted

him to be specific. Commissioner Cavender asked Bob Aloï if the Amendment is written in a way he agrees that it should be amended. Bob Aloï agreed. Commissioner Gourley would also like to discuss more the section regarding the all reasonable attorney fees/consultant fees and what we may expect to be all responsible and what they may expect to be all reasonable. Commissioner Chesak stated he feels the Amended Solar Ordinance as presented is well written and does not need any changes. After further discussion Commissioner Cavender made a motion to make this the 3rd reading and to approve the Amended Solar Ordinance as presented by the Starke County Planning Commission. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 2 ayes and 1 nay.

Commissioner Cavender advised he is resigning from the Starke County Planning Commission and he would like to make a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak for the remainder of this year to the Starke County Planning Commission as the Commissioners appointment. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the 2023 Holiday schedule as presented with the exception of removing January 2, 2023. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Auditor Oesterreich received the following email from Michael Reese regarding the Bass Lake Project: On Friday I received pricing from the contractor for paving in the amount of \$33,600. For reference, the bid amount for this work (Alternate 2A) was \$21,870. So, it increased almost \$12,000 and that includes what should be a deduction for the concrete ADA parking (they had \$3,600 for the ADA parking in their bid). I know asphalt prices have gone up some since bidding, but that is higher than I was expecting. If the county wanted to pave this through their resources, it would have to be done after the project was 100% complete at all three locations. I asked the contractor on Friday for an explanation of the cost increase but haven't heard back yet. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the \$12,000 increase pending the change order that will be reviewed when submitted. Commissioner Cavender 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 10:31 AM.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Charlie Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners