

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 4:30 PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton, Kay Gudeman, Todd Leinbach, Howard Bailey, Don Binkley, and Don White present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 4:30 PM for the Starke County Council Regular Session.

Councilman Pearman advised that they did meet regarding City Court last Friday with some member of the County Council and the City of Knox. They are going to proceed with an inter local agreement to support City Court, the County will be paying to support City Court and City Court will be housed at the County Jail site.

CASA GRANT MONEY REQUEST

Connie Deal with Starke County CASA came before the Starke County Council to talk about the 2023 matching grant for their program. She explained that every year the county matches a certain amount towards what the state provides towards their program. She provided the council with a packet showing what their grants had been in previous years and what the state is asking as a matching grant for 2023. The reason for the jump this year is because they go off of the previous year's numbers and last year they had 134 cases come through the courts. They have to have a full time staff to oversee those cases. Already this year they have added 42 cases to the 134 cases they had last year. Connie is asking the council to match the grant that the state is offering this year which is \$32,952.00. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the Court has already budgeted \$13,000 within their budget because that is what it has been in past years but they do not have an extra \$19,952.00 remaining to add to the total amount. Councilman Pearman asked when the CASA program finds out about the grant amounts. Connie advised she received the email about this about two or three weeks ago.

Councilman Pearman asked what is the reason for the major increase in matching funds for 2023. Connie explained that the state goes off of the number of cases for the county and with the increased number of cases they are seeing this is the additional funding that is needed, they currently have 176 cases total for Starke County. Councilman Bailey asked what the matching grant was for last year. Connie advised it was \$13,191.00. Connie advised that during COVID they have seen a rise in cases. Councilman Pearman asked Connie come earlier to the board next year so that they can figure out what they can do for the 15% in kind matching funds, that way they can get rid of at least 15% of the required amount the state is asking the county to match. Connie advised she will also be trying to get the numbers from the state earlier in the year as well. After further discussion Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the additional funding request from CASA in the amount of \$19,771, to be paid from the lost revenue fund within the ARPA monies. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

CLERK MANUEL – MICROVOTE

Bernadette Manuel, Starke Circuit Court Clerk, came before the Starke County Council to present the council with what the new microvote machine with cases will look like with the new VVPAT machines, they have to be in use by 2024. The state will be paying for each VVPAT and each case as well. Clerk Manuel spoke about the primary election day how smoothly things went other than long wait times, and regarding the long wait times Clerk Manuel is asking for the possibility for purchasing some new machines to be able to offset the wait times. When the machines were purchased 20 years ago voter registration was not near as high as what it is today. She would also like a few more poll books to help with this issue as well. They also had some issues with the poll book batteries not lasting 12 hours. She advised in 2000 when they purchased the voting machines they had a little over 4000 registered voters and there are now a little over 17,000 registered voters. Microvote advised that they do have some counties moving over to the newer panel from the older panel so they may have some refurbished machines to resell when that happens. Councilman Pearman asked for a needs assessment for the purchase of more voting machines and polling pads.

MATT-CORE FACILITIES

Matthew Stechly, President of CORE Facilities, came before the Starke County Council to present an agreement for Project Administration Services. He explained his background in project and facilities management and how he got to the point where he is now owning his own firm. He advised that he had met with the Board of Commissioners about what they need to focus on over the next 3-5 years. He advised they agreed on the three roofs, concrete work at the Annex Building, the 2nd floor renovation at the Courthouse, and the Courthouse mechanical for the 3rd floor. Councilman Pearman stated that we don't usually get a project manager for painting and fixing up bathrooms except if it is over a certain amount they would take it out to bid anyways. Mr. Stechly stated he is not a certified engineer and that is why he focuses on device for device systems, alterations, and changes. He is the one who would be telling the contractors everyone is quoting apples to apples. Mr. Stechly said as an example Jay County got a quote for one broiler for \$95,000 but when he got involved he got a quote for 2 broilers for \$115,000. He stated he also got a \$600,000 video system for Jay County Jail for a total of \$280,000. He would be the one on our side fighting for us the entire way throughout the project. He stated without him who would manage the pay apps and manage the contractors.

Councilman Pearman asked what they would be getting from Mr. Stechly other than him being a project manager. He stated if the Commissioners are wanting to do certain projects then they would put these projects out for bid and Mr. Stechly could bid for the project at that time. Councilman Bailey asked that as an example in the Project Administration Services Mr. Stechly presented to the Council the Courthouse Renovation for the 2nd Floor is listed as \$62,000 for phase #1. Of the \$62,000, Councilman Bailey asked how much Mr. Stechly would receive. Mr. Stechly advised that the entire \$62,000 would be his fee. He explained the Project Administration Services he presented to the Council consists of his fees for the project management. Councilman Pearman stated that Mr. Stechly's fees are \$185,000 total so how much would the entire project be? The council can't talk about a project and approving a project manager without knowing the scope of the project. After further discussion it was decided that further discussion needs to be held regarding what their budget would even be for these projects that are listed and the timeline for those projects. Councilwoman Gudeman made a motion to table the discussion until they receive further direction from the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Purdue

Councilman Bailey made a motion for an additional appropriation 1000.30204.000.0021 in the amount of \$576.94 and a reduction in appropriation in 1000.10550.000.0021 in the amount of \$576.94. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Bailey made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1000.20100.000.0021 in the amount of \$102.00 and a reduction in appropriation in 1000.30100.000.0021 in the amount of \$102.00

Recorder

Councilman Leinbach made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1000.30200.000.0004 in the amount of \$259.51 and the reduction in appropriation in 1000.10300.000.0004 in the amount of \$259.51.

Highway

Councilman Pearman made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1176.31203.000.0533 in the amount of \$70,000 and 1176.31305.000.0533 in the amount of \$50,000 and a reduction in appropriation in 1176.10211.000.0533 in the amount of \$10,000, 1176.10804.000.0533 in the amount of \$80,000, and 1176.31406.000.0533 in the amount of \$30,000. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Pearman made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1176.10218.000.0531 in the amount of \$15,000, 1176.10222.000.0531 in the amount of \$26,000, 1176.11400.000.0531 in the amount of \$14,300, 1176.21400.000.0531 in the amount of \$32,525, 1176.21800.000.0531 in the amount of \$5,800, and 1176.31304.000.0531 in the amount of \$375 and a reduction in appropriation in 1176.10121.000.0531 in the amount of \$44,000 and 1176.10210.000.0531 in the amount of \$50,000. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Pearman made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1169.21202.000.0000 in

the amount of \$23,000 and a reduction in appropriation in 1169.30000.000.0000 in the amount of \$23,000. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Pearman made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1176.20100.000.0530 in the amount of \$1,000, 1176.30400.000.0530 in the amount of \$5,000, 1176.30700.000.0530 in the amount of \$2,500 and 1176.31901.000.0530 in the amount of \$500 and a reduction of appropriation in 1176.10209.000.0530 in the amount of \$9,000. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Parks & Recreation

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in 4927.10218.000.0000 in the amount of \$5,000 and a reduction in appropriation in 4927.30600.000.0000 in the amount of \$3,000 and 4927.20202.000.0000 in the amount of \$2,000. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve the additional appreciation for the Cumulative Capita Development fund in the amount of \$20,000. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approved Attorney Schramm’s contract as presented. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Councilman Pearman brought up the issue regarding the Surveyor’s pay regarding the IC code about paying a non-licensed surveyor 2/3 of the salary of what you would pay a licensed surveyor. Councilman Pearman advised that what they would do is make the salary appropriate for starting in 2023. He advised he does have the option to be certified and move up to the full amount. After further discussion Councilman Binkley made a motion to have Auditor Oesterreich enter \$34,000 into the 2023 salary ordinance for the Surveyor’s position. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilwoman Gudeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2022
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dave Pearman, President

Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Don White

Howard Bailey

Don Binkley

Todd Leinbach

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor