

STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

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 Don Binkley, present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Mark Gourley directly at 9:30 AM.

2023 REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Commissioner Gourley read the following minutes from the last meeting: Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Mark Gourley as President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Charles Chesak as Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to appoint Don Binkley as Secretary of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak advised he believes the Board needs to be reorganized. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Charles Chesak as President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with two ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to appoint Mark Gourley as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to appoint Don Binkley as Secretary of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY – MONTHLY REPORT/TRUCK PURCHASE

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent came before the Board of Commissioners for his monthly report. He advised that they currently have 17 full time CDL drivers, 1 part time CDL driver/brush mower, and 3 mechanics. He stated CCMG 2022-2 is getting ready to advertise the project and CCMG 2023-1 he needs a signature for the financial commitment letter. He advised the preventative maintenance closes on January 31st for the bridges. They are going to submit bridge # 125 & bridge # 126 for new decks. Superintendent Dipert stated he is working on getting a quote on a new mid mount mower deck and that they are still in the process of adding tool boxes to every plow truck, this will be a sow project as every truck was built different. They need to get the chainsaws out of the cab, along with other tools. He stated that bridge # 13 has been summited for replacement; they have a meeting with INDOT to discuss funding issues. Superintendent Dipert advised that due to the warm seasonal weather, they got most of the gravel roads graded last week and they have put several loads of stone down. He rented a 3rd patching hotbox last week so that they could have three crews out all last week and this week to get the potholes taken care of.

Superintendent Dipert stated they have picked up the boom mower from Fulton County that they bought and have it out cutting along the roadside, along with their other mower. They have also been sending the bucket truck out every day to cut trees over hanging the roadway. He advised they are looking into hazmat training with Bliss McKnight as well. He stated that for the Mammoth project, they continue to grade and put stone down as needed, for Next Era project Chris Neff will be in tomorrow to introduce the project manager, and for Hoosier Solar there has been no movement. Superintendent Dipert advised he has sent out, by mail, requests for bids for his new truck purchase. He stated he only received on back from Wiers International for a 2009 International 7600 6X4 in the amount of \$98,520.00. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to made a motion to approve the purchase of 2009 International 7600 6X4 in the amount of \$98,520.00. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

Nancy Coad, EMS Clerk came before the Board of Commissioners to provide the monthly financial report. Commissioner Chesak read the collections report: \$210.00 from Merchants & Medical and \$484.35 from Attorney Jonathan O'Hara. Larry Brock, Starke County EMS Director, came before the

Board of Commissioners for his monthly report. He advised that in December they had 116 requests for ambulances and out of that 26 people refused treatment or transfer. They were able to save \$79,000 out of the 2022 budget and returned that to the general fund. The total collections from Accumulated for 2022 was \$933,000. They have a paramedic that is going to resign and she will be going to a fire department in the South Bend area. He advised that he would like to bring up and talk about wages. He said paramedics around the area are making \$70,000 or more but we are around \$50,000 for paramedic salaries. He will go around the area and get numbers for the Board of Commissioners to look at. Director Brock advised he believes they are currently ok with staffing and should be able to pull through as long as a pandemic does not break out. Director Brock advised the fleet looks good, everything is up, and running and the buildings all look good as well.

SCEDF – 2023 CONTRACT

Lisa Dan, Starke County EMS Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to present the 2023 Starke County Economic Development Foundation Contract. One of the major things discussed with her Board of Directors was making the contract a three-year contract since they are beginning their strategic planning process. Director Dan advised that she reaches out to Norton weekly regarding the Firewell in Hamlet and whether or not they are going to be building their own Firewell or if they will take over the lease of the existing Firewell. She advised the current Starke County Economic Development Foundation contract is good through the end of February. She stated she could come back in a month if the Board wants to review the proposal of the new contract. Commissioner Chesak advised he would like some time to review the proposed contract.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$1,070,281.04. Commissioner Binkley 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 \$297,198.13 including deductions in the amount of \$79,790.89 for pay period ending 01/07/2023 and payroll date of 01/13/2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for January 2nd, 2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Phyl Olinger to the PTABOA Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Travis Schieber to the Alcohol Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the tire purchase for the conference vehicle in the amount of \$661.00. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve a warehouse key that will be kept in the Auditor's Office with a sign out sheet for Department Heads. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Randall Minix as the Courthouse Custodian. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley advised he would like to ask the council to look into part time wages. He would also like the sidewalks looked into regarding ADA accessibility and he would like the Maintenance Director to get quotes on the sidewalk ramps.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 AM.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners