

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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.

**CLERK – TRANSFER REQUEST**

Bernadette Manuel, Starke County Circuit Court Clerk, came before the Starke County Council to request a transfer within her election budget. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in 1000.10403.000.0019 in the amount of \$852.80, 1000.10802.000.0019 in the amount of \$300, and 1000.30405.000.0019 in the amount of \$5205.00 and a reduction in appropriation in 1000.10204.000.0019 in the amount of \$6357.80. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Clerk Manuel also requested to encumber money from her clerk and election budget to be able to purchase new computers for her office. She advised she has six computers that are 2015 models; she also has four computers that are 2018 models. All of these models are on Windows 10. She has put all this money into digitizing records and she is now having trouble connecting to Fidler and using their software. Clerk Manuel advised that she has \$20,000 in her 2022 election budget she has not used to put towards this purchase. Auditor Oesterreich advised that it is fine to do an encumbrance but just to be advised that encumbrances will go against the 2024 county general budget, it is almost like a reduction that would be made to the 2024 budget. Auditor Oesterreich suggested using the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. After further discussion, Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve the Clerk's computer purchase up to \$9,000 from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**TREASURER – DELL QUOTE**

Lauri Venckus, Starke County Treasurer, came before the Starke County Council to request the purchase of new computers for her office. Treasurer Venckus has remaining money in her budget as well and has prepared a transfer request as well as an encumbrance for January. After further discussion regarding encumbrances and paying for the computers from Cumulative Capital Development Fund Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Treasurer's computer purchase of \$6,902.77 from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**SCEDF/LOCHMANDY**

Lisa Dan, Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation and Abbi Lochmandy came before the Starke County Council to discuss Lochmandy Ford's expansion plans. Director Dan advised that Lochmandy has purchased land Southwest of Save a Lot on US 35 for their expansion/relocation. Abbi advised that in 2019 she bought the Ford store here in town and the Chevy store in Breman. They are looking to grow and build a new facility for their dealership. Abbi stated that a large amount of individuals do go outside of Starke County to purchase vehicles but Ford has a market share of new vehicles in Starke County of 19.1% which is about 12% in Indiana in general so the 19.1% is much higher here in Starke County. In addition to being number one for new vehicles, Starke County is number two in used vehicles. She presented information to the Council regarding where Starke County residents are going to purchase their vehicles. She advised one of the biggest challenges she has is the facility they are currently in.

Another potential they have in building this new facility are the vehicles they will be able to service. She plans to design a medium volume facility. It is about creating a destination for people to come purchase and have their vehicles serviced and a top of the line facility for Ford technicians to work in. Abbi advised she would also like to add an electric vehicle-charging network. She would like to include two 24-hours public charging stations. She would like to build a store that is able to service customers for 30 years, something between 17,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet. They are looking to expand their

service department greatly from what they are dealing with now; going from a five bay star pattern to a 15 bays. Right now, they have 14 full time employees and would like to add another 10 full time employees when the facility is finished; mostly in the technicians and service department. She just wanted to share the news of expansion and to introduce herself. She also wanted to ask for any potential help the county might be able to give such as tax abatements. Director Dan is also looking into incentives for the Ford expansion as well through NIPSCO and other avenues.

## **HIGHWAY**

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent, came before the Starke County Council to discuss Bridge #13 Funding, New Tractor Purchase, and a Transfer Request within his budget. He advised Bridge #13 is on 600E over the Robbins Ditch. They have applied for federal funding for the project. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve \$450,000 from CEDIT for the year of 2028 for the Bridge #13 project. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Pearman advised they are still interested in the project of 600E coming all the way to State Road 8. Further discussion was held about the possibilities of expanding 600E, Superintendent Dan will look into an engineering study regarding the roadway. Superintendent Dipert advised that the Commissioners gave the approval to purchase a new tractor/mower. He advised he does have the money in 1169. Councilman Leinbach made a motion to encumber \$101,705.99 in 1169 LRS for the purchase of the the John Deere tractor/mower as approve previously by the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Hazelton made a motion for an additional appropriation in 1176.10218.000.0531 in the amount of \$6,100, 1176.21400.000.0531 in the amount of \$14,000, 1176.21800.000.0531 in the amount of \$1,100, 1176.30405.000.0531 in the amount of \$3,800, 1176.21100.000.0531 in the amount of \$16,300 and a reduction in appropriation in 1176.10210.000.0531 in the amount of \$25,000 and 1176.10804.000.0533 in the amount of \$16,300. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **EMS – TRANSFER REQUEST**

Larry Brock, Starke County EMS Director, came before the Starke County Council to request a transfer in funds. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in 1000.20700.000.0020 in the amount of \$2,000, 1000.30800.000.0020 in the amount of \$1,200, 1000.30805.000.0020 in the amount of \$2,000 and a reduction in appropriation in 1000.20800.000.0020 in the amount of \$2,000, 1000.10550.000.0020 in the amount of \$800, 1000.11100.000.0020 in the amount of \$400, 1000.20700.000.0020 in the amount of \$2,000. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **RECORDER – PERPETUATION FUND**

Mandy Thomason, Starke County Recorder, came before the Starke County Council to request approval of an Ordinance Establishing the Use of Recorders' Perpetuation Fund for Office Equipment. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the Ordinance Establishing the Use of Recorders' Perpetuation Fund for Office Equipment as presented. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **SCILL FUNDING**

Jim Hernandez, Starke County SCILL Director came before the Starke County Council to request funding for the SCILL center. He stated he would like to install a security system at SCILL. They do not have the capability at this time to control who comes in and out of their building. He would like to install a system with a camera and a door that you buzz in individuals. He would also like to install a few egress doors. He presented two quotes for the alarm system and two quotes for the egress doors. If he takes the two lower quotes, it would be a total of \$18,052.76. He is requesting \$16,292.74 to be funded by the county. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the request for \$16,292.74 for the installation of the security system. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with five ayes and two nays.

## **SALARY ORDINANCE**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the 2023 Salary Ordinance as presented. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**KNOX CITY COURT**

Councilman Pearman advised that what they had agreed on with the City of Knox is that we are not paying a premium for anything for City Court; it will be what it costs to run city court minus their revenues they receive for their court cases and we would house city court. Auditor Oesterreich was asked to post for a joint meeting to be held at the Starke County Sheriff’s Department for a tour of the facility and to discuss City Court matter further. This will be held January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Noon. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the InterLocal Government Agreement Between the City of Knox, Indiana and the Coutry of Starke, Indiana. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilwoman Gudeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 PM. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**DECEMBER 19, 2022  
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

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Kay Gudeman

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Don White

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Howard Bailey

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Don Binkley

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Todd Leinbach

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Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor