

STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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 Charles Chesak directly at 9:30 AM.

EMS – MONTHLY REPORT

Nancy Coad, Starke County EMS Clerk came before the Board of Commissioners to present the monthly financial report. She advised that through Accumeds collection department they did receive \$150, which was from Merchants & Medical. Commissioner Chesak advised we had also received \$273.75 from Attorney Johnathan O'Hara. Larry Brock, Starke County EMS Director came before the Board of Commissioners to present his monthly operation report. He advised they are in a slow area as they have had 152 requests for ambulance and of those 152 requests, 60 were paramedic calls, 6 paramedic non-emergency calls, basic life support emergency's 52 calls, basic life support non-emergency 12, and 22 refusals. Director Brock stated that they had \$40,000 in expenditures last month and they had collected \$45,000 in revenue. He advised they hired two Part Time EMT's and one Part Time Paramedic. They are having trouble-recruiting paramedics at this time, which goes back to the wages. However, we are not the only ones having trouble-hiring paramedics. He advised all of the trucks are staffed and running, they are not having trouble having to shut anything down, everything has been running. Director Brock advised that their 2013 Chevy Diesel went in for service and it is going to need a new rear end. He does not have the cost of this yet. There has been no issues at any of the buildings as far as maintenance. Commissioner Binkley asked if we are still doing transfers. Director Brock advised they do emergency transfers and he is still working with the hospital on a contract, as the hospital has not agreed to a contract at this time.

HWY – MOWER DECK, LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PLAN, BID OPENING FOR CCMG

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent came before the Board of Commissioners for discuss his monthly report, mower deck quotes, Local Road Safety Plan, and bid opening for CCMG project. Superintendent Dipert advised they are one driver down but other than that, he has a full staff. Today they will be opening up bids for CCMG 2022-2 Project and are waiting to hear back for the 2023-1 project that they submitted. He advised they did an engineering assessment for #125 and #127 to put new decks on them but when the quotes came back they were so high that they don't have the funds in 2028 to complete them as they have a bridge letting the same year. However, the engineering assessments will be good for the next few years. Superintendent Dipert advised that he has a couple quotes with him today for a mower deck. This would be for a 5-foot deck for one of their mowers, it is a mid-mount deck. They are both source well bids. The Tiger bid came in at \$43,233.38 and the Kalida Truck Equipment bid came in at \$37,083.00. These costs include the install as well. Commissioner Chesak advised that Tiger mowers have been around a little longer than Diamond mowers. Superintendent Dipert did advise that they checked dealers in Starke County and they do not deal with any big equipment like this.

After further discussion, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to purchase the Tiger Mower Deck in the amount of \$43,233.38. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Superintendent Dipert advised all the dump trucks have been issued orange safety seat belt protectors so that they can see from a distance that the driver is wearing seat belts like they are supposed to be. The bucket truck has not been inspected and they are looking at sending it to Bourbon to get it inspected. He advised they submitted for Bridge #13 project in November and are still waiting to hear if it has been accepted. Due to the nice weather, they have started hauling in recycled concrete to put on gravel roads. He advised they have had two patching crews out every day to different townships for patching potholes. They have also had both of the boom mowers out mowing. He advised his employees recently went through a safety training in how to safely operate the hot boxes for patching. On February 13th they had joint training with LTAP and Pulaski County on drainage and different aspects of drainage. On February 14th they had about 12 people from Miami County come up to take a tour of the ongoing solar projects Starke County has. Superintendent Dipert advised regarding the Mammoth Solar Project, they should be delivering the solar panels around April 15th, 2023. They were hoping by February of

2024 to be done with all the heavy truck work. They are looking to wrap up in May of 2024. Next Era in San Pierre area they are going to start putting up fencing in March and they are starting to request driveway permits. There is nothing to report for the Hoosier Solar project.

Starke County Community Crossing Matching Grant 2022-2 Project Bid Opening:

Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
PO Box 1828
LaPorte, IN 46352
\$305,511.60

Milestone Contractors North, Inc.
24358 SR 23
South Bend, IN 46614
\$364,740.10

E&B Paving, Inc.
310 Blacketer Dr.
Rochester, IN 46975
\$327,603.10

Superintendent Dipert took all three bids to review the bid specs.

SCEDF – CONTRACT

Lisa Dan, Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the Board of Commissioners seeking their contract approval. She advised the the Starke County Council did approve the contract Friday with the understanding that they will email out the financials every year just to give a rundown of what the county’s money has been spent on. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the contract as presented by Director Dan. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SCILL – CONTRACT

Jim Hernandez, SCILL Director came before the Board of Commissioner seeking approval of the SCILL contract. Director Hernandez advised the council approved it on Friday night. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the contract as presented by SCILL. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PLANNING COMMISSION – ARPA FUNDS, ZONING AMENDMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC NUISANCE AGREEMENT

Mary Beaver, Planning Commission Office Manager came before the Board of Commissioners for ARPA Funds request, Zoning Amendment, and an Environmental Public Nuisance Agreement. Mary gave the Commissioners a quote for the index imaging she is requesting the use of ARPA Funds for, the index cabinet is a card catalog for any permits they have taken since 1955. Up until 2012 none of the information is backed up digitally. This would be a starting point in getting their office up to date digitally. All the information would be backed up in docuware. The total quote is for the amount of \$14,072.68 from US Imaging. Commissioner Goulrey made the motion to approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$14,072.68 for the scanning project as requested by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Mary then presented the zoning Chart #1 as being amended by Changing the District Restrictions to change lot dimension requirements in Agriculture zoned areas without public sewer to 2 acres and 150 feet of road frontage and to remove the wording of Major Subdivision from the R-1 column, and Minor Subdivision from the Agriculture Parcel Colum and to have these requirements in effect for only new splits from the date of approval by the Starke County Commissioners. After further discussion, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Ag Zoning Amendment.

Mary then presented the amendment to the 2020-002 Environmental Public Nuisance ordinance. They have been working with the code enforcement officer and tech committee. The previous ordinance did not have any teeth into it as to where they could do anything with it. The update to the ordinance will allow them to do more things with complaints they receive about Environmental Public Nuisance

complaints. She advised she also changed how this position is funded and the amendment will allow more funding to come in. Commissioner Gourley asked about the wording as far as who we classify as a code enforcement officer and how would that affect current operations and how would this expand that definition to include. Mary advised that it would be anyone who would be appointed by the Planning Commission. They currently have a code enforcement officer but if that person was not available, they could appoint another individual. Commissioner Chesak asked if they have to have a public hearing because the fees are changing. Attorney Schramm advised they do not have to have a public hearing but they will need to publish the amended ordinance in the newspaper and then wait for 30 days for it to take effect. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the requested amendment as presented. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HWY – CONTINUED BID OPENING

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the bid from Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. PO Box 1828, LaPorte, IN 46352 in the amount of \$305,511.60. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$747,069.81. 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 \$286,443.71 including deductions in the amount of \$77,152.87 for pay period ending 02/04/2023 and payroll date of 02/10/2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes for February 6, 2023. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Chesak brought up the hospital board and CVC board appointments they still need to do. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to reappoint Bernadette Manuel to the CVC Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Kathy Norem to the CVC Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 2 ayes and 1 nay. The discussion regarding the hospital board appointments began and Attorney Schramm advised he has not received anything from the hospital yet regarding their internal policies regarding the hospital board. Attorney Schramm advised the Board of Commissioners can do 1) go along with their request for appointment, 2) use the same standards they used to evaluate it and pick somebody else, 3) kick their recommendations back and tell them to give 1-3 new names for the position because they disagree with their position. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Attorney Martin Lucas to the Hospital Board and this will still leave them one position that is open. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 2 ayes and 1 nay. Commissioner Chesak advised there was an issue with an officer being appointed to the board. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Kenneth Johnson to the Alcohol Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Annex Key request to Deputy, Treasurer Kelly Graham. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak presented the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Release. Councilman Pearman gave the Board of Commissioners a rundown of the process he has been involved in with Sysco and the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Release. They have reached a cash settlement of \$675,000 and he would recommend allowing Hamlet to access a portion of that money as well since they have been majorly affected. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Release. Commissioner Binkley 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 Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners