

STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 5:00 PM, 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 5:00 PM.

CIRCUIT COURT SERVICES – OPIOID COMMITTEE

Shawn Matraw, Director of Circuit Court Services Community Corrections, came before the Board of Commissioners to ask about the creation of an opioid adhoc committee. Director Matraw advised he has Megan Johnson with him who is a Case Manager with Starke Circuit Court Services and is also employed with Porter-Starke Services. He would like to purpose an adhoc committee to look at requests for the opioid funding that is coming into the county. He advised that it could be a small committee made up of different people and not to discredit any people or organizations it could go on a rotation basis including Community Corrections, Sheriff's Department, Circuit Court, EMS, treatment services. This committee could look at the proposals and recommend to the council on where they can appropriately spend the funding. After further discussion, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve Director Matraw to form a list of potential committee members for the Commissioners review and approve the creation of an adhoc committee to evaluate the use of opioid settlement funds at their next meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Director Matraw also requested approval of support for the grants for the Community Corrections Department. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the letter provided by Director Matraw which reads in part: Included in this application are funding requests for Starke County Community Corrections, the Starke County Justice Center and Starke County Circuit Court Probation Department. In accordance with IC 11-12-2-3 the advisory board has also approved the application and budget. The total amount of the request is \$483,377.58. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

EMS – DONATION

Larry Brock, Starke County EMS Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to continue the discussion regarding the donation of the ambulance to the Knox City Fire Department for the Dive Team. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Resolution Providing for the Donation of Equipment Owned by Starke County, Indiana to the City of Knox, State of Indiana and the Equipment Donation Agreement. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SHERIFF – ARPA REQUEST

Jack Rosa, Starke County Sheriff, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the use of ARPA funds on a server they need repaired at the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Rosa explained that they initially needed a new server in the amount of \$32,094 but now they believe they will be able to get the old one repaired for significantly less money. They are also looking into getting some locks that are messed up repaired but the server should be done quickly. Councilman Pearman explained the locking mechanisms and the troubles they have been running into getting them replaced. Commissioner Binkley advised Sheriff Rosa would also like to upgrade a few cameras soon and when the server is fixed, they will be able to do this. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$32,094 of ARPA to address any material deficiencies Sheriff Rosa finds at the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PLANNING COMMISSION – WAPPEL REZONING

Larry Wappel came before the Board of Commissioners to request a rezoning at 650 S & US 421 & NW Corner US 421 & 650 S., San Pierre, IN 46374 from residential to agriculture. Commissioner Binkley

made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 2 ayes and 1 nay. Commissioner

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$280,029.93 including deductions in the amount of \$75,221.12 for pay period ending 03/18/2023 and payroll date of 03/24/2023. 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 \$275,612.47 including deductions in the amount of \$74,244.69 for pay period ending 04/01/2023 and payroll date of 04/06/2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$303,598.68. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. . Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for March 20, 2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to affirm the appointment of Dolores Bennett to the Hospital Board. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed all of the roofing quotes that came in for the Annex Building. Commissioner Gourley advised his concerns on the quotes is that none of them addressed the towers. The Board of Commissioners have requested that the Maintenance Director Green to get quote on having the towers done as well, they will then decide on a contractor at their next meeting.

Commissioner Gourley advised he had an inquiry about another Commissioner owned property being purchased. He would like Attorney Schramm to explain the process of selling Commissioner owned property at their next meeting.

Auditor Oesterreich advised after speaking to Commissioner Chesak earlier this week the Board of Commissioners have formally applied to receive another round of COVID Relief Funding. This would be managed through KIRPC. It would be a total of \$250,000, so potentially up to 25 small businesses could receive \$10,000 each. Auditor Oesterreich advised that she would like to request \$10,000 to be issued to the Starke County Community Services food bank from the ARPA funds. After further discussion the Board of Commissioners requested Auditor Oesterreich to have the Community Services Director come to their next meeting on April 17th to request the funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rhonda Stacy and her daughter Elizabeth came before the Board of Commissioners to express her dissatisfaction with interactions she has had with Treasurer Venckus regarding her property tax bill.

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners