

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MAY 15, 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 and Mark Gourley 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. Commissioner Chesak advised they have received \$254.98 from Johnathan O'Hara and \$777.60 from Merchants and Medical.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to terminate the employment of Larry Brock as EMS Director. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**HWY MONTHLY REPORT – BID OPENING**

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent, came before the Board of Commissioners for his monthly report and bid opening. Commissioner Chesak commenced the Bid opening for the 2023-01 CCMG Bids for the Starke County Chip Seal Program. Attorney Schram opened and read off the following bids.

1. Milestone Contractors North  
1700 E. Main Street  
Griffith, IN  
Bid Amount \$1,268,192.40
2. Central Paving Inc  
PO Box 357  
Logansport, IN  
Bid Amount \$1,071,899.25

Superintendent Dipert will review these bids with VS Engineering. Superintendent Dipert advised that they are one driver short currently. The mowers wet out today. They have seven part time employees that will be mowing the roadways. Reith-Riley is going to start on May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the 2022-02 CCMG project. They had rented a sheet pad roller for the next two weeks, they are out on 50 S grinding up the roadway and they will be putting that right ack on the roads. This is 50 S between 700 E and 1025 E. Bridge 7 is under construction, they will be doing some preventative maintenance on the bridges work over the next couple months. He advised they have been watching the gravel roads closely. They do have one road closed due to the rain, that is 900 E. Superintendent Dipert stated that he sent three employees to bucket truck training a couple weeks ago. He advised that for the Mammoth Project, the panels are still coming in and they are currently on 600 E. They have had some issues with Next Era and driveways and roadways. During the first week of production they busted through the 700 S and they had to close the road for a while. Then, they moved to 650 S and busted through that roadway as well. Commissioner Gourley asked what the plan is about getting the roadways open. Superintendent Dipert advised that will be grinding the roads up and concrete stabilizing them.

Superintendent Dipert advised that Hoosier Solar is getting ready to bring in paperwork and he would like to get together as a group and go over the solar ordinance. He advised they are talking about doing transmission lines above ground in the right-a-way and the current ordinance does not discuss this. Commissioner Gourley advised this would need to start with the Planning Commission. He asked if Mammoth wanted to start another project in Starke County would Mammoth have to reapply. Commissioner Gourley and Commissioner Chesak agreed that yes, they would need to reapply. Superintendent Dipert stated that they have roadway permits that REMC submitted for broadband and on the permit, they advised that it was a \$0. Attorney Schramm will be looking into the Broadband Ordinance to see what the ordinance reads. Superintendent Dipert asked for signatures on their Annual Operations Report for LTAP. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Annual Operations Report. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **SHERIFF – VEHICLE QUOTES**

Chief Deputy Jack Hudgens came before the Board of Commissioners to provide them with vehicle quotes for his request of two new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Chief Deputy Hudgens advised that he is having trouble being able to get quotes. Ford is telling him that it is to be determined and he is also unable to get a quote from Chevy Dealerships. Commissioner Chesak asked if any of the vehicles are in stock from the quotes he had presented. Chief Deputy Hudgens advised that they would be able to get the Durango without a wait. Commissioner Gourley asked if the vehicles he wants to replace are too the point where we are losing out of days of service due to unscheduled maintenance and repairs. Chief Deputy Hudgens advised they are not out for weeks but the cost of maintenance on those vehicles outweighs the purchase of a new vehicle. He has two vehicles with over 200,000 miles on them. Commissioner Gourley asked how the maintenance on the vehicles has increased over the last three months. Chief Deputy Hudgens advised that he will work on providing the Board of Commissioners with their vehicle inventory as well as the maintenance of those vehicles. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to table this discussion pending the inventory and maintenance of the current vehicles. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **RECORDER – WAREHOUSE INFORMATION**

Mandy Thomason, Starke County Recorder and Rick Greene, Maintenance Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss warehouse issues. They are looking to purchase a walk behind forklift for the warehouse. They provided the Board information on what they are looking for. Recorder Thomason is asking this to be purchased from the cumulative capital development fund when they do get more information and quotes on different pieces of machinery. She advised that the records commission does not have money for this purchase but this piece of equipment is going to be used for moving around pallets of records that the county maintains.

## **AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$474,653.20. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for May 1, 2023. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the reestablishment of the Cumulative Bridge Fund for 2024 at the rate of \$0.0160. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Lestinsky Auction contract. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the updated Starke County Employee Handbook. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the Tax Sale Services Support Addendum. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Superintendent Dipert came before the Board of Commissioners with the bid results. He advised he has reviewed the contracts and would recommend going with Central Paving Inc. in the amount of \$1,071,899.25. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the bid from Central Paving in the amount of \$1,071,899.25. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Attorney Schramm advised that he has reviewed the Ordinance the County put in place for the Broadband Plan and according to the ordinance we are not allowed to charge a permit fee.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 10:40 AM.

**MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023**

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Charles Chesak, President

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Mark Gourley, Vice-President

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Don Binkley, Member

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Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to  
the Board of Commissioners