

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 5:00 PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman (via zoom), Anthony Black, Kay Gudeman, Howard Bailey, Cassandra Hine, Todd Leinbach, and Norman (Bruce) Bennett present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President, Kay Gudeman at 4:30 PM for the Starke County Council Special Session.

Councilman Bailey made a motion to approve the Minutes from May 18, 2023. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SCILL- DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ

Jim Hernandez, SCILL Director, came before the Starke County Council to discuss programs at SCILL. Councilwoman Gudeman explained that at the last Council meeting Director Hernandez attended it sounded like the CDL program was going through but now they have heard that the CDL program will not be happening. Councilman Bennett asked if Director Hernandez has the latitude to come to the SCILL board meeting to announce they will not be partaking in the CDL program because it is too expensive, or should these decisions be made by the SCILL board entirely. Director Hernandez advised they only had one person signed up that was interested in the program and the liability cost alone is going to be \$20,000. So, he had made the decision to not move forward with the program for one person. Councilman Bennett advised that he feels like the council should have been a part of that decision because the council funds \$70,000 towards the SCILL program every year and if the costs of the CDL program needs to come from that \$70,000 the council should have a say in that as well. Director Hernandez advised that liability insurance for SCILL to have a CDL program would be \$20,000, trailer \$12,000, a truck would be \$35,000, instructor salary would be \$50,000, the total cost would be \$117,000. Councilman Bailey asked if they could possibly get an instructor on a part time basis. Director Hernandez stated he could look into that. Director Hernandez advised the EMS program has been dropped but that was not his decision. Further discussion was held regarding how much it would cost individuals to attend a CDL class if they would like to pursue creating the program. Director Hernandez advised he will bring up the CDL discussion again at the next SCILL meeting.

SHERIFF – GRANT DISCUSSION

Sheriff Rosa came before the Starke County Council to discuss one of his grant positions. He explained that one of their employees is in a grant funded position that is funded by Healthlinc. He stated the prior administration had tasked her with two separate jobs and a lot of the OT she has accrued is doing the two other jobs. He would like to ask for the OT money they have expended. He advised the grant says she is not allowed to receive OT money. The rub is that the prior administration tasked her with two different things. They are asking for \$2900, and at this point they will not ask for OT anymore this year. They may come back next year to ask for an OT line. Councilman Leinbach asked if the other jobs could be funded somewhere else. He also mentioned that the county does not have a compensation time policy. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the OT amount of \$2,924.65 would need to be repaid to the grant fund if OT was not authorized in the grant. She also advised that there are no other fund lines that this money could come from. She advised that the position that Ms. Mayhew holds right now is a grant funded position it is not paid for by the county which is allowing her to be deputized and paid from the grant. Any work that is being done under being deputized would need to be done under a reserve status, which is volunteer work. There was no such position for what she went into. When you are funded by the grant funded position you are doing that position Monday through Friday.

Councilman Black advised that with grant funded position that employee would not receive a raise along the lines as other employees unless the MOU specifies that they would provide an increase in pay when the county does raises as well. Ms. Mayhew advised that the OT has been paid in the grant funds. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the grant fund is still negative and she has spoken with Steven Butera he advised that they do not allow for OT. Councilman Bailey asked Ms. Mayhew when she was asked to take on these extra duties was she told how she would be paid for those extra duties or was she just told to take on these extra duties or asked to take on these extra duties. How did she become responsible for

these duties. Ms. Mayhew advised when she worked for the Prosecutor's Office Leslie had sworn her in to help with the investigation that Coppins was doing so that there would be someone from the Prosecutors Office and also someone from the Sheriff's Department doing the investigation on the evidence room. That started in February of 2021, June 2022 is when she started in the grant funded position and John and Pam asked Mimi, who was in charge of the grant at that time, and she said it was ok to work in the evidence room as well as in the grant funded position. Ms. Mayhew advised that she spoke to Senators and Congressman about the dual positions as well. Auditor Oesterreich asked for an updated MOU in which Healthlinc gives the blessings for the dual positions. Ms. Mayhew stated she would get that in writing from Healthlinc. After further discussion it was asked that Ms. Mayhew have Steven Butera present at the next council meeting to clear up some of these questions that are going unanswered. Councilman Black made a motion to table the discussion until they have proper documentation and possibly an updated MOU. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

TRIAD ASSOCIATES

Stu Savka from Triad Associates came before the Starke County Council to let them know what his company does. He was in San Pierre earlier in the week talking to them about their water/sewer issues. He advised that his company does a lot with grant funding and they keep up on all the federal grants that are available. They do a lot of architecture work for fire departments, community centers, police stations, town halls, and city halls. They have been in business since 1975 and they do business development and project management. Councilwoman Hine advised that she brought him in today because there has been a recurring topic regarding fire stations and this is something that Triad Associates may be able to help with in the future.

SURVEYOR – TRANSFER REQUEST

Councilman Bailey made a motion to approve an additional appropriation for 1000.10107.000.0023 in the amount of \$1500.00 and a reduction in appropriation in 1000.10550.000.0006 in the amount of \$1500.00. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PRETRIAL FUNDING - MATTRAW

Shawn Mattraw, Director of Circuit Court Services, came before the Starke County Council to discuss future pretrial funding. He advised that the statue for pretrial funding will be changing and how they interpret is is that there are fees assessed for pretrial services but it is not to exceed \$30 per month that is charged to the defendant. He is requesting deferring the cost for anyone who is on electronic supervised monitoring because they currently charge a rate at \$10 per day for the equipment. However, the defendant, as of July 1st, 2023, cannot be charged more than \$30 per month. He is asking the county to pick up those fees at a rate of \$8 per day. Director Mattraw advised that for the year of 2022 they had a total of 39 people on pretrial electronic supervised monitoring. However, GPS monitoring cannot go over 180 days. To date they have had 7 individuals who has been on this level of GPS monitoring. After further discussion Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve \$25,000 of funding from CEDIT to go toward the costs of GPS monitoring for 2023 due to the state mandate. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion, discussion was held regarding the state mandating that this has to be done, and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER DISCUSSION

BOARD REPORTS

Councilman Bailey advised that the Planning Commission is going good, they have been working with Attorney Schramm with the fee collection process. They are putting more teeth in some of their laws regarding code enforcement. They are moving ahead with enforcing ordinances and they are moving ahead.

Councilman Bennett asked Auditor Oesterreich to have the Northern Indiana Community Foundation come give a presentation about the possibilities of investing the Save the Hospital Fund Money.

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 PM. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

JUNE 19, 2023
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dave Pearman, President

Kay Gudeman, Vice-President

Todd Leinbach

Norman (Bruce) Bennett

Howard Bailey

Anthony Black

Cassandra Hine

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor