

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 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.

**MAINTENANCE-QUOTES FOR HEATING AND COOLING**

Ricky Green, Starke County Government Maintenance Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to present heating and cooling quotes for different areas in the courthouse. The quotes are as follows:

Comfort Express Bids were as follows: Clerk Area \$22,950.00, Records Area \$22,950.00, Commons Area \$18,700.00, Child Support Area \$22,950.00, Small Claims Area \$22,950.00

J & K HVAC Service were as follows: Clerk Area \$20,985.00, Records Area \$21,000.00, Commons Area \$18,700.00, Child Support Area \$23,685.00, Small Claims Area \$24,670.00

Director Garner did say he received a quote from McGrath Refrigeration but it did not meet the specifications as requested. He also suggested going with the Comfort Express quotes because they included the electrical wiring in all their quotes were as J & K HVAC did not. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the following bids: Comfort Express Bids were as follows: Clerk Area \$22,950.00, Records Area \$22,950.00, Commons Area \$18,700.00, Child Support Area \$22,950.00, Small Claims Area \$22,950.00 contingent upon a satisfactory start date by the contractor. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Director Garner also advised he has quotes for tree removal. He stated that he has one tree leaning into another white oak at the warehouse, one that is leaning into the warehouse itself, and another one that is starting to rot. He called five different companies but only received two quotes back. Those being from RC Tree & Stump Removal in the amount of \$2000.00 and one from C & J Affordable Tree Service in the amount of \$2500.00. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the quote from RC Tree & Stump Removal in the amount of \$2000.00. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**HWY-JOHNSON SUBDIVISION**

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent, came before the Board of Commissioners to provide an update regarding the roadway in the Johnson's Subdivision. He stated that he was told he could use cold pug for the asphalt but after doing some research there is a subdivision standard that he has to follow and it calls for hot mix asphalt. He estimates the cost of this project to be \$175,000. He hopes to start on this towards the end of August. Attorney Schramm advised that he spoke to Lonnie Boley who is the City Planning Commission Director and the City is requesting a waiver of liability for the county since the assessment for the cost of pavement was already collected awhile ago. A discussion was held regarding the city's request. The Board of Commissioners agreed to the request and Attorney Schramm will create a letter for the waiver of liability and the city (Lonnie Boley) agreeing to waive the inspection from the city.

**AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$645,260.06. 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 \$289,791.17 including deductions in the amount of \$75,741.13 for pay period ending 07/22/2023 and payroll date of 07/28/2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes for July 17, 2023. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for July 17, 2023 joint session. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes

for July 3, 2023. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Stanley Budd, Starke County IT Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to provide an update regarding the jail camera system. He advised that the server 1 had been installed and inspected, everything is working accordingly. However, when the technician was out he identified some concerns with server 2 and possibly start thinking about replacing that server as well.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the leave of absence request from Kelly Graham. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Pearman advised that the Celebration of Life Service for Mr. Wilcox will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the San Pierre Fire Department. He asked the Board of Commissioners for a proclamation to make August 19<sup>th</sup> Michael Wilcox day. The Board of Commissioners agreed to the request. Councilman Pearman also advised that for the Next Era project there will be a fire safety class for first responders, this will happen in April of 2024. A discussion was held regarding batteries and the solar fields. However, it was said as of today, there are no plans for batteries at any of the site locations in Starke County.

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.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 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