

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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 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 Vice-President Mark Gourley directly at 5:00 PM.

CIRCUIT COURT SERVICES

Shawn Matraw, Director of Starke County Circuit Court Services, came before the Board of Commissioners to request the use of restricted opioid money. He explained that they would like to utilize \$50,000 of restricted funds for CY24 to allow Court Services to continue with the evidence-based treatment services of Mr. Tim Gearhart, LCSW and associate. They provide counseling services to justice involved individuals with SUD/MH conditions, and are under community supervision, specifically community-corrections, and probation. After further discussion Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY – LEASED VEHICLE REQUEST

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent, came before the Board of Commissioners to continue the discussion on Leased Vehicles for his department. He advised that the chase price is guaranteed if paid within 30 days of being delivered to Lindco. Superintendent Dipert advised that on the build of the truck option #1, guaranteed equipment pricing is locked in if we pay for the equipment purchase within 30 days of the day of purchase. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley made a motion to accept the quote for the chase and option 1 of the equipment. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to go with option 2 from Republic Financing. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

SURVEYOR – JOB TITLE CHANGE

Thomas Schouten, Starke County Surveyor, came before the Board of Commissioners to request a title change for his employee. That position is currently titled Deputy Clerk and is requesting it to be changed to Deputy Surveyor. After further discussion Commissioner Binkley made a motion to accept the job title change as requested as long as they add the wording “all other duties as assigned”. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$176,966.84. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$291,603.62 including deductions in the amount of \$76,731.14 for pay period ending 09/16/2023 and payroll date of 09/22/2023. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley advised that they are taking quotes for the remodeling of the second floor of the courthouse in different zones.

Commissioner Gourley received a notice from one of the chairmen of Starke County for the appointment of the California Township Advisory Board. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Leslie Kraft to the California Township Advisory Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Auditor Oesterreich advised Commissioner Binkley and herself met with the Sheriff regarding paid lunch hours. She believes this would benefit that department. Attorney Schramm will look into this further and it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An individual from the public wanted to reiterate the request for the joint meeting between the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission. They would also like a moratorium in place.

Councilman Pearman spoke about the LEPC exercise that they had this past Saturday. He also had solar discussion with a few of the public members that was present.

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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners