

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 9:30AM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak, Bryan Cavender, 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 9:30AM.

**EMS REPORT**

Travis Clary, Starke County EMS Director and Clerk MaryLynn Ritchie came before the Board of Commissioners to present their monthly report. Clerk Ritchie represented the collections report to Commissioner Chesak. Commissioner Chesak advised that EMS has received \$1,883.58 from Ohara and \$50.00 from small claims. Clerk Ritchie advised that they are still at 30% of the runs per month from the hospital in transfers. They are still up in revenue, when compared to May collections of 2020 they are up \$14,723.25. Director Clary presented his operations report, he advised they have had no changes in our operational status. They continue to operate 4 ALS ambulances out of 3 stations throughout our county. They are nearing the completion of the transition between Marylynn & Nancy within our office. Marylynn has now retired, and Nancy is moving into the role that Marylynn held as office manager. Marylynn has remained on helping with the transition at the part-time level. He will be hiring a permanent part-time secretary to assist Nancy in the future. I have hired a new full-time Paramedic to our staff, and she has been assigned to the Medic 1 station for now. She comes with multiple years of experience as a Paramedic, and we are happy to bring her on board. She has been with us part-time for several years. We brought her on to fill the vacancy of another long time Paramedic who had moved out of state to pursue a different opportunity.

Director Clark advised they held our monthly audit & review with Starke/Laporte Hospital. They held a 16-hour Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals (PEPP) course for our Paramedics. It was 8 hours of online education, and then 8 hours of in-person skills with a written final exam. They held a training with Blue Ag just south of Bass Lake to go over their crop-dusting operations. They wanted our crews to be aware of the chemicals they carry, and other emergency operations involving the airplane in the event of a crash etc. We are working out the details of a PHTLS course with Lutheran Air in July. It is another 16-hour course that focuses on trauma patients. We have two upcoming mandatory trainings this week to continue training our paramedics on new equipment. They had an injury free month in May.

**Ambulance Maintenance:**

3308 (2021 Ford Gas Engine) No repairs needed.

4230 (2019 Ford Gas) No repairs needed.

0514 (2015 Diesel) Had front end work completed, and DEF system issues resolved at Auto Park GMC/Chevy of Plymouth. We then had air conditioning issues resolved at the Starke County Highway Department.

0086 (2009 Ford 6.0 Diesel) is back in service after the electrical issues were finally repaired. It was not receiving any power to the rear of the ambulance, and had no working emergency lighting. Kenny from Signal 10 emergency lighting/equipment in Knox was able to track down the communication issues with the electric to the rear. It was out of service for an extended period of time due to the part being completely obsolete. He was able to find a different part option to fix the problem.

0085 (2013 Diesel) Has been in-service at Medic 5. It will be going in for service this week at our county highway department. We will get that scheduled in with them when they get back into their original ambulance.

0084 (2012 Chevy Diesel) Had several items inspected. Crews were noticing that the rear end seemed to be slipping, and the front end was also having some issues. They also advised of a possible turbo issue. It had a gasket that needed replaced in the turbo causing the noise issues. They changed the rear differential fluid, but they are confident that the rear end is solid. The transmission was solid, and they think the "slipping" they were feeling was actually due to the turbo lag from the bad gasket. They also found a leaking steering gear box which was fixed, and they believe that might have been playing a role with the play in the steering wheel. It was serviced while it was there.

4149 (2013 Ford Explorer) No repairs needed.

Director Clary advised they had no major base maintenance issues for the month of May.

He have for the most part completed all of my duties to help Frank at the health department with vaccinating those who are home bound. We have closed up the clinic here at the Knox Community Center after vaccinating children above 12 years of age with the Pfizer vaccine. Director Clary stated he will be applying for a grant for more community paramedicine options in our county \$15-\$25,000.00 no match grant through the Indiana Dept. of Health.

**AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$285,601.22, including deductions in the amount of \$86,577.99 for the pay period ending on 06/12/2021 and pay date of 06/18/2021. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$280,474.93. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes from June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve building key to Hannah Lueth. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve building key to Dave Pearman. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to hire and appoint Karl Swihart as the Starke County Highway Superintendent. Motion dies for the lack of a second. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to fire and appoint Daniel Dipert as the Starke County Highway Superintendent. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion. Commissioner Chesak and Commissioner Gourley voted as aye and Commissioner Cavender voted as Nay. Motion was approved.

Commissioner Gourley advised that the drafted ordinance for ARPA has to include a plan in how the funds will be spent. He advised he would like to expand the Grovertown and North Judson EMS bases so that we can keep two rigs out there so that if there is a need for it to come out of service to be sanitized it came be. This way they will have a backup if they get another call. Director Clary agreed and stated that the bases in general need some attention. Auditor Oesterreich advised that they should have the ordinance completed by the end of July as the reporting for the ARPA money opens August 1<sup>st</sup>. She also stated that the ordinance can be changed and revised at any point in time. After further discussion is was decided that Auditor Oesterreich will advertise for the next meeting to include public input for the ARPA funds.

Auditor Oesterreich is requesting to have an Employee Appreciation Event on December 3, 2021. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve an Employee Appriciation Event on December 3, 2021 which includes closing Government Buildings from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 AM.

**MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021**

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Bryan Cavender, Vice-President

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Mark Gourley, Member

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Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Bo