

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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, 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 9:30 AM.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

Nancy Coad, Starke County EMS Clerk, came before the Board of Commissioners to hand out the monthly financial report. Commissioner Chesak advised that EMS has received \$131.40 from Johnathan O'Hara. Nancy then handed out the Monthly Operations Report as Director Garner was not able to attend today due to a training. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the new wraps for the ambulances. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT

Dan Dipert, Starke County Highway Superintendent came before the Board of Commissioners to present his monthly report. He advised they are still fully staffed. He does have one part time driver out running the brush mower. He stated they have contacted the work release program but they have not gotten a good follow up yet. Superintendent Dipert advised Community Crossings has not been announced yet. He advised the two Western Star tandems have been ordered and they have received their new John Deer mowers that were ordered last year. He stated Bridge #7 has been completed on schedule. The final walk around will be tomorrow at 9 AM. He has been working with the Surveyors Office, they have removed five beaver dams this month. He stated he had completed 26.8 miles of single layer chip seal, 9.3 miles of grindings in which they sealed with chip seal, 3.3 miles of cold pug, 2 miles of hot asphalt, and the with community crossing money they laid 18.25 miles of double layer chip seal as well as 9 miles of single layer chip seal.

Superintendent Dipert stated that they had a fire extinguisher training on October 10th, 2023. He advised for Mammoth all modular should be delivered by the end of December and installed in February of 2024. After this they will have a consultant come in and do a post Paser Rating for the mammoth roads. They are looking at Spring of 2025 for road repairs. Superintendent Dipert stated that Town & Country are supposed to be grading all the solar roads this week. He also gave the Board of Commissioners two different quotes for cameras. The quotes are as follows: \$28,000.77 from Verkada through APTEK and \$24,895.18 from Avigilon through Vermillion. IT Director Budd explained several aspects of each system. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley would like Director Budd to look into the contract terms, future licensing terms, and financing options for their next meeting.

BLPOA EASEMENT REQUEST

The Bass Lake Property Owners Association requested the following easement from the Board of Commissioners.

An easement located in section 24, township 32 north, range 2 west of the second principal meridian, California township, starke county, Indiana being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of lot 27 in Scoville's subdivision of original lot 4 according to the perfected plat of said subdivision as recorded in plat book 1, page 117; thence westerly on the north line of said lot 27, a distance of 46.0 feet; thence northerly, parallel to the west line of lot 28 of said subdivision, a distance of 56.0 feet, more or less, to the southerly right of way of state road # 10 (formerly lakeside avenue) ; thence easterly on said southerly right of way, a distance of 46.0 feet, more or less, to the northwest corner of lot 28 of said subdivision; thence southerly, on the west line of said lot 28, a distance of 55.0 feet more or less to the point of beginning.

Easement contains **0.06** acres more or less.

To whom it may concern:

1. Easement is subject to a public roadway off the entire west and north sides.
2. Parcel is subject to all legal easements, covenants, restrictions, and governmental rules and regulations.
3. Above description was composed from recorded instruments and was not based on a boundary survey.
4. Easement is subject to encroachments, overlaps, gaps, boundary line disputes or other matters that may be disclosed by a current boundary survey.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the easement as presented. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PLANNING COMMISSION – AMENDMENT TO RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Starke County Planning Commission requested an amendment to the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. Commissioner Gourley advised he is still leery about passing the amendment he feels they maybe targeting a certain area. Commissioner Chesak advised he had gotten several complaints in one particular area on State Road 10. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the requested amendment to the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. After further discussion Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with 2 ayes and 1 nay.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$264,889.99. 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 \$284,768.51 including deductions in the amount of \$74,516.40 for pay period ending 09/30/2023 and payroll date of 10/6/2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for September 18th, 2023 and October 2nd, 2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to update the handbook to make the Sheriff's Department employees at a paid lunch status. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adopt the State Holidays with the addition of President's Day on February 19, 2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Auditor Oesterreich requested that an additional office be built within her office. The office is needed for the protection of privacy of the individuals who will be completing their drug testing and onboarding paperwork for the county government. She is requesting up to \$2,000, the Director of Maintenance has said he can complete the work himself no outside contractors are needed. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley advised the ramp in the Annex 1 Parking lot needs to be redone to make it an approved ADA ramp. Commissioners Gourley made a motion to approve this project up to \$2,500. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Attorney Schramm asked the Board of Commissioners approval to move forward in looking into the distillery process moving forward. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to have Attorney Schramm continue looking into the process and what the zoning needs to be for the area for the distillery. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark, a member of the public, stated that he wants the Board of Commissioners to know that he is still requesting the Board of Commissioners to take a serious look at the ordinances so they can get better protection from the solar corporations. Mark also stated that he found a paper regarding what property Owners should look for when thinking about leasing their land to solar. He presented the Board of Commissioners with a copy of his findings. Commissioner Gourley advised he is still continually receiving feedback on what was purposed for both for and against. It is not a dead issue and it is still being evaluated. He stated when both the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission deem it appropriate they will meet in a session and it will be a public session.

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, OCTOBER 16, 2023

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners