

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

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.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD/2024 APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to make Commissioner Binkley President of the Board for 2024, Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak as Vice-President of the Board for 2024. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to retain Justin Schramm as their county attorney. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner to Contact

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gourley as the Commissioner to contact for the Jail. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak as the Commissioner to contact for the Courthouse and Annex. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Binkley as the Commissioner to contact for the Highway. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to make Commissioner Gourley the contact for EMS. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to make Commissioner Chesak the contact for the Landfill. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Economic Development Board

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gourley to the Economic Development Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

KIRPC

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Binkley to the KIRPC Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Arrowhead

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gourley to the Arrowhead Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Workforce Development

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak to the Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Planning Commission

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Library Board

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Joanne Gappa to the North Judson Wayne Township Library Board. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Aviation Board

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Carl Goodrich to the Aviation Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Hospital Community Board

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Dr. Fritz to the Hospital Community Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Alcoholic Beverage Board

Commissioner Gourley would like Auditor Oesterreich to get a hold of the excise department and get the official response as to why they are not able to appoint officers to the board. They will then discuss this at the next meeting.

PTABOA

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Victoria Chessor and Phil Olinger to the PTABOA Board. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

LEPC, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD, FEMA BOARD

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gourley to the LEPC, Emergency Management Board, and FEMA Board with Commissioner Chesak as his proxy. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

CVC

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Mary Perren, Mark Allen, Bernadette Manuel, Kathy Norem to the Starke County Convention and Visitor's Commission. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Community Corrections Board

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Emily White and Jayson Shaffer to the Community Corrections Board. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Starke County Drainage Board

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Chesak to the Starke County Drainage Board. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

DPC Board

Commissioner Gourley made a motion to appoint Dave Pearman to the DPC Board and Commissioner Gourley as the proxy. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PURDUE EXTENSION - CONTRACT

Julia, Director of Purdue Extension, came before the Board of Commissioners to ask for approval of their 2024 Purdue Extension contract. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the 2024 Purdue Extension contract. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

EMS – JOB DESCRIPTION APPROVAL REQUEST

Jim Garner, Director of Starke County EMS, came before the Board of Commissioners to ask for approval for a part time job description for the EMS office. He handed out the job description for review. He advised he would like to have a part time position created for administrative assistant to assist in getting the Accumed billing correct. Short term solution to increase their review immediately he needs to do the exception reports but the exception reports at times takes 45 minutes to complete. He advised it would fall within the budget as part time and he has enough there. Discussion was held as far as getting out of the Accumed contract as they are not fulfilling their part of the contract. Director Garner will get the contract to Attorney Schramm for review. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley made a motion to table the part time position request. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Director Garner advised the transfer truck is back up. He is sending his two drivers to EMT school and he is going to need two additional drivers to cover while they are in EMT school to cover the transfer truck. He would like to hire two full time driver positions because it is cheaper than paying the EMT's overtime. Auditor Oesterreich advised for part time there is not restrictions on how many part time individuals he can hire, he would just need to stay within his budget. Auditor Oesterreich advised there are currently 11 full time paramedics and 11 full time EMT's. They could take 2 of the paramedic positions and make those into driver positions rather than creating new positions as the county is still under a hiring freeze. After further discussion Commissioner Binkley made a motion to table the two temporary full-time position requests. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Discussion was then held regarding the training program and contracting with employees that are going through the training program.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$278,250.50 including deductions in the amount of \$72,973.41 for pay period ending 12/23/2023 and payroll date of 12/29/2023. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$1,167,049.05. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the minutes for December 18, 2023. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve keys for the new full time Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to accept the bid from Central Paving as presented for the CCMG 2023-02 chip seal project. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Interim Superintendent Oesterreich asked for approval to purchase a truck that we sold at the 2020 county auction. This truck will be used to fix Truck #17 and Truck #30. Foreman Kinney from the Starke County Highway Department explained what he observed when he went to look at Truck #16. He advised of the new parts that were put on Truck #16. After further discussion Commissioner Binkley made a motion to purchase the truck as requested in the amount of \$7,500. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Discussion was held regarding the Next Era Road Use Agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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 6:38 PM.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice-President

Don Binkley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor and Secretary to
the Board of Commissioners