

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 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 Don Binkley, Charles Chesak, 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 Don Binkley directly at 5:00 PM.

NIPSCO – EASEMENT REQUEST

Paul Robinson from NIPSCO sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners requesting an easement for the installation of utility poles. After some discussion Commissioner Chesak made a motion to accept the Right-A-Way request from NIPSCO as presented. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

KOONTZ LAKE TRUSTEE REQUEST

Mark Allen, Oregon Township Trustee, came before the Board of Commissioners to request help in paying for some small upgrades to the fire station. They are putting a new digital sign at the station and they are also looking at upgrading their kitchen. He presented a quote to the Board of Commissioners regarding the digital sign they would like to get. He is requesting \$20,000 for the sign and \$5000 for the upgrades to the kitchen cabinets. They are hoping to get a Stellar Grant in the future to upgrade the entire community building. He did advise that he may be getting a \$5000 grant from the Northern Indiana Community Foundation. After further discussion Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the request for the digital sign and cabinet project in the amount of \$15,000 to Oregon Township and to take his request to the council. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

THERESE PUGH – PUBLIC STATEMENT

Therese Pugh came before the Board of Commissioners to make a public statement. She spoke to the Board of Commissioners about the non-compliance of the Road Usage Agreement between Starke County and Next Era Solar Project. She advised that 12 miles of good paved roadways have been turned to gravel and have not been maintained as expected according to the Road Use Agreement.

HIGHWAY BID ACCEPTANCE – CCMG 2024-01

Interim Highway Department Superintendent Oesterreich advised VS Engineering has review the bids received from both Reith-Reily and Milestone Contractors for the CCMG 2024-01 project both bids are in order. Interim Superintendent Oesterreich advised she would like to recommend the lowest bid being Milestone Contractors. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the bid as presented by Milestone Contractors in the amount of \$899,900.00. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Chesak advised Kraft Auction Services will be cataloging county assets on June 5, 6, and 7. They will then have a preview at each location on June 26th between 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. They sale will be June 27 at 5:30 PM the online auction will close. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the County Auction Contract with Kraft Auction Services. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$315,353.76 including deductions in the amount of \$84,124.28 for pay period ending 05/25/2024 and payroll date of 05/31/2024. 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 \$357,120.61. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Gourley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

Don Binkley, President

Charles Chesak, Vice-President

Mark Gourley, Member

Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor
And Secretary to the Board of Commissioners