

JOINT Council-Commissioner Minutes

July 29, 2024

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and the Starke County Council and meet in special session at 1:30 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak and ----- absent, Dave Pearman was on Zoom, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Todd Leinbach called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm,

Rachel Oestreich submitted estimates for a new paver and explained problems with the old paver. She asked for approval of the quote from Sourcewell in the amount of \$257,478. She also requested approval to cut the check today or tomorrow out of fund #1173.

Rachel Oestreich also submitted quotes for a new aerial truck. The current one is no longer safe to operate. She prefers the LTM40 with one set of outriggers at a cost of \$200,000. Dave Pearman requested she get quotes for a used one. She stated that she could put \$75,000 out of LRS towards it, and maybe CREDIT could fund the rest.

Howard Bailey asked if the new paver has a warranty. Bruce Bennett asked what the life expectancy of the paver was, and he was told approximately 20 years.

Kay Gudeman was wondering what an auction would bring in for the old paver.

Additional appropriations will need to be advertised for the new paver.

Commissioner Mark Gourley moved to approve the paver in the amount of \$257,478 and for the check to be written today out of fund 1173 seconded by Don Binkley with 2 ayes.

Councilwoman Kay Gudeman moved to approve the paver in the amount of \$257,478 and for the check to be written today out of fund 1173 seconded by Anthony Black with 6 ayes.

Both boards want Rachel to check on used bucket trucks. Dave Pearman stated that he worried about the truck taking money out of rotation for other trucks. He further stated used ones can be recertified. Bruce Bennett stated he could not consider a bucket truck without outriggers.

Rachel Oestreich requested that they all need to come and look at the equipment. She stated that it had not been properly maintained for the last 4 or 5 years. Howard Bailey asked Rachel to make sure all machinery is maintained properly by the mechanics.

Todd Leinbach stated that he gave Rachel 3 sites where they have bought a lot of used equipment at auction.

Rachel stated that she is down to one brush chopper.

Bruce Bennett stated that they need to put pressure on John Deere regarding the equipment warranties. He further stated that John Deere gives municipal discounts and that there should be 5 year warranties. Rachel stated that the two newest mowers are constantly going down.

Mark Gourley stated that he got a request to implement LIT to incorporate the hospital. Todd Leinbach said we need to look at this, because he doesn't want to raise taxes, and that maybe something could be moved in order to incorporate it.

Howard Bailey reported that the repairs of the roads in the North Judson and San Pierre areas that are needed because of solar, will begin being repaired in the summer of 2025. The solar company will hire their own contractor and is requesting that the highway department oversee the repairs.

There being no further business to come before the board, Anthony Black moved to adjourn seconded by Kay Gudeman with 6 ayes.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Dave Pearman, President

Todd Leinbach, Vice President

Kay Gudeman

Norman Bruce Bennett

Howard Bailey

Anthony Black

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the County Council

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT
Charles Chesak, President

Mark Gourley, Vice President

Don Binkley

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners