

**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 9:00 AM, 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 9:00 AM.

EMS -MONTHLY REPORT/SECURITY CAMERA REQUEST/TRAVEL REQUEST

Nancy Coad, Starke County EMS Clerk, came before the Board of Commissioners to present the financial report. Commissioner Binkley advised they have received \$870.00 from AccuMed, and \$363.17 from Johnathan O'Hara for the month of May. For June, they received \$799.30 from Johnathan O'Hara and \$32.40 from Johnathan O'Hara.

EMS Director Garner came before the Board of Commissioners to give the department's monthly report. Operations: Currently we continue operating 4 out of 6 ambulances, 1 at ALS level 100% with 2 operating ALS when ALS staffing permits, along with full time Paramedic chase car staffed daily and 1 Paramedic/EMS Director car running as a backup as well. 1 transfer truck also when available as an additional ambulance when not doing transfers. Minimum of 1 ALS staff member at all times scheduled at medic 3, Knox base, compared to June staffing is 2 or more ALS staffed ambulances at 94% which is an increase of coverage from 87%.

Transfers: 49 as of monthly report in June, which is an increase of 3. We also have been promoting and have picked up 2 new accounts that call for transfers and currently working on more.

Personnel: We have at this time no full-time openings for EMT's with 2 applications on waiting list, 4 new part-time EMT's hired for the transfer truck along with 1 part time Paramedic. 3 of the drivers have taken their EMT test with 1 successful attempt and 2 have to retake the test. 3 new applications received, all full-time paramedics hired have been cleared 7 out of 8 current full-time and 1 unfulfilled paramedic full-time opening. 14 part time paramedics.

Safety: Last injury reported was 3/5/2024, original chase car accident.

Base Maintenance: Routine maintenance at this time new flags for 4th of July were needed. Memorial patio is currently in preparation.

Director Garner advised he will bring quotes to the next meeting for the generators that are needed for the Knox base and North Judson base. Director Garner presented an estimate to the board for security cameras for the bases. The estimate is for \$10,944.84. IT Director Budd will be doing all of the installs of the cameras. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the security camera estimate. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Director Garner came before the Board of Commissioners to request approval for travel to the Michael Wilcox Memorial Ceremony. Director Garner requested permission to pay for airfare. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the special travel request. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

SOLAR DOCUMENT UPDATE- ROBERTA LEE

Roberta Lee came before the Board of Commissioners to ask for an update on the missing paperwork concerns regarding the solar projects. Commissioner Binkley advised the paperwork could be obtained in the auditor's office by filling out a public request form. There was also a discussion regarding flood plain permits and the battery storage for the solar projects. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to impose a six-month moratorium on the solar projects. There was no second to the motion and the motion died for a lack of second.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT- MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Rachel Oesterreich presented the Boards of Commissioners with her monthly report. Paving operations will begin next week due to the storm. The county auction was a success for the highway department. They collected a little over \$60,000 with equipment sales. Quotes for the highway department's salt shed roof were presented and discussed. Commissioner Gourley made a

motion to move forward with the \$21,400 roof quote from Rick Ben. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Superintendent Oesterreich advised that there are two roads that need to be added into the county's road inventory. Oesterreich would like to add 1,135 feet of Forest Ave in Koontz Lake and 800 feet on 880 E north of 150 S. The county has been maintaining these roads but they were not added to the INDOT inventory list. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to add both road footages to the county inventory. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

Work began this week on preparing Bridge 137 on 300 E between 50 N and the Knox Industrial Park for new construction in spring of 2025.

Oesterreich gave an update on the pug mill at the highway department. She advised that the pug mill will need to be replaced if the county wants to continue to make their own asphalt. Superintendent Oesterreich also added that the Boom Truck has many issues and will need replaced in the near future.

FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE- PLANNING COMMISSION

Mary Beever from the Planning Commission presented an updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The ordinance was approved at the July 10th Planning Commission meeting. The most significant changes were pertaining to fresh water lakes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to accept the payroll claims for a total in the amount of \$332,447.58 including deductions in the amount of \$87,316.28 for pay period ending 07/06/24 and payroll date of 07/12/24. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket in the amount of \$257,717.65. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to accept the minutes from Monday, July 1, 2024. Commissioner Gourley seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board of Commissioners received a new Park Board job description for a part time mower and maintenance position. After discussion, it was decided to table the job description for the next meeting.

The Board considered a KIRPC Board Appointment. Commissioner Mark Gourley made a motion to appoint Brandy Ecker to the KIRPC Board. Commissioner Charles Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

The Board considered a leave extension request for a county employee. The Board approved an additional two-week FMLA leave. Commissioner Gourley made a motion to approve the leave request. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed 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 10:40 AM.

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

Don Binkley, President

Charles Chesak, Vice-President

Mark Gourley, Member

Sara Dingman, Chief Deputy Auditor