

STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 19, 2024

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 4:30 PM in the Annex Building meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Howard Bailey, Todd Leinbach, Norman (Bruce) Bennett, Anthony Black and Cassandra Hine, Present and the following proceedings were held to Wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman, at 4:30 PM for the Starke County Council continuation of the budget session and regular meeting.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget of the following, Kay Gudeman seconded motion passes with all ayes.

1000 - County General \$8,863,822.00
1101- Accident Report Fees \$10,000.00
1112 - Cedit \$1,005,080.00
1114 – Cedit Special Jail Project \$3,158,158.00
1127 – Innkeeper’s Tax \$40,000.00
1135 – Cumulative Bridge \$230,000.00
1138 – Cum Capital Development \$300,000.00
1156 – Firearms Training \$30,000.00
1140 – Enhanced Access fund \$25,000.00
1159 – Health \$213,947.00
1161 – HFI-LHD \$508,319.00
1168 – Local Health Maint LM-174 \$229,058.00
1169 – Local Road & Street \$705,000.00
1175 – County Corrections Fund \$16,000.00
1176 – Highway Department \$3,711,314.00
1207 – Unsafe Building \$30,000.00
1216 – Co. Aud. Ineligible Ded. Fund \$10,000.00
1217 – Co. Elected Off. Training Fund \$15,000.00
1222 – 911 Fund \$453,244.00
1224 – Assessor Reassessment \$445,530.00
2100 – Supplemental Adult \$115,500.00
2105 – Supplemental Juvenile \$16,500.00
4006 – Drug Buy Money \$5000.00
4103 – SC Sheriff Narcotic K-9 Donation \$15,000.00
4110 – Farm Fund \$15,000.00
4111 – Sex Offender Registration \$15,000.00
4112 – Sysco Settlement \$500,000.00
4902 – Auditor’s Transfer Fee \$15,200.00
4907 – Pretrial Diversion fund \$56,000.00
4909 – Special Vehicle Inspect \$6000.00
4919 – Therapeutic Community Program \$353,188.00
4927 – Park Board \$241,724.00
4931 – Board of Zoning Appeals Penalt \$10,000.00
4932 – Planning Commission Penalty Fund \$10,000.00
4934 – Public Nuisance Abatement \$10,000.00
8950 – ARPA American Rescue Plan Act \$848,724.00
9112 – Tact Narco Team Rico \$15,000.00

9129 – County & Local Law Enforcement \$5000.00
9133 – LHMF/Tobacco Settlement \$150,721.00
9193 – SCCC Grant Odd Years \$825,074.00
9500 – WIC 2024-2025 \$157,253.00
9505 – WIC Breastfeeding 24-25 \$11,096.00

Councilman Todd Leinbach made a motion to approve, Tony Black seconded motion passes with all ayes.

8210 – Solid Waste - \$299,267.00

Councilman Todd Leinbach made a motion to approve, Bruce Bennett seconded motion passes with all ayes.

NJSP School - \$14,589,503.00

Dave Pearman asked if anyone had questions before closing the hearing.

Tom Busch (Park Board) asked about the \$500.00 grant match, Councilman Pearman answered that \$500.00 came from Sysco and \$75.00 from Cedit.

Justin Risner asked if a person can make a motion to approve a budget for the board he sits on. Councilman Leinbach said he would withdraw his motion but Justin Schramm answered that the motion stands as Todd is not paid. The motion stands.

Councilman Bruce Bennett moved to close the Budget Hearing, Tony Black seconded motion passes with all ayes.

IN RE: SHERIFF'S COMMISSARY FUND-SEMI ANNUAL REPORTING

April Wilhelm stated that her job is a learning experience and she has been working with SBOA. April stated that she sent the quarterly reports on July 3rd. These are the reports that are before the council.

Cassandra Hine reminds us that all monthly reports need to be submitted to the Auditors office, and those reports are to be forwarded to the Commissioners and Council. Cassandra also is concerned about the debit associated with the Commissary account.

Rachel Oesterreich advised that the Auditors office does not govern the commissary account in any way. SBOA is aware of the debit card and is satisfied, now that we have a policy in place.

IN RE: SURF-INTERNET SERVICE

Surf Internet is here for the money commitment previously approved per the Commissioners.

Todd Leinbach moves to approve the amount to Surf Internet; Cassandra Hine seconds motion passes with all ayes.

Cedit - \$500,000.00 for Surf Internet

IN RE: JUSTIN SCHRAMM – ORDINANCE TO SET UP FUND FOR RECEIPTING IN SOLAR FUNDS

Councilman Dave Pearman advises that there has been a previous discussion regarding creating an ordinance so we can start receiving solar revenue. This would involve creating a fund.

Todd Leinbach made a motion to table this until the next meeting, Bruce Bennett seconded passing with all ayes.

IN RE: MARK ALLEN OREGON TWP. TRUSTEE – TOWNSHIP SIGN FUNDING

Mark Allen had gone before the commissioners requesting \$15,000.00 for a new sign, which the commissioners approved.

Howard Bailey moves to take the money from CEDIT, seconded by Kay Gudeman, passing with all ayes.

IN RE: CITY OF KNOX PAUPER COUNSEL

City Court Judge Charles F. Hasnerl and Court Clerk Angela K Jesuit is asking for assistance for Pauper counsel. The state has changed the way the court is collecting fees, with \$50.00 going to state and \$50.00 going to county. This leaves the county with no funds to extract from. City Court is asking for an additional \$6000.00 for the remainder of the year.

Todd Leinbach moves to approve \$6000.00 from CEDIT, seconded by Bruce Bennett, passing with all ayes.

IN RE: ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING FUND

Dave Pearman advised that the elected officials training fund is depleted, as discussed in previous meetings. This is confirmed by Starke County Recorder Mandy Thomason.

Cassandra Hine has concerns regarding the claims from the Officials Training funds. Cassandra also asks that the fund 1217 be investigated.

Dave Pearman moves to approve \$5000.00 from CEDIT for the training fund, seconded by Kay Gudeman, passing with 6 ayes and 1 Opposed (Cassandra Hine).

IN RE: MINUTES

Todd Leinbach moves to approve the minutes from July 22, 2024, Kay Gudeman seconds, passing with all ayes.

Todd Leinbach moves to approve the minutes from July 15, 2024, Howard Bailey seconds, passing with all Ayes.

Dave Pearman states that only signatures are required for July 29, 2024.

IN RE: EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DINNER

The council is presented with the cost of the employee appreciation dinner. This year's caterer is Wilma Burkett and dinner will be held at the VFW on Dec 6th.

Dave Pearman made a motion to approve the dinner amount of \$2380.00, Tony Black seconded, passing with all Ayes.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT-DECOMMISSIONING AGREEMENTS FOR SOLAR

Roberta has questions regarding the decommissioning. When are we due for a new Bond with Next Era? Our last bond was almost 5 years ago. Councilman Dave Pearman advises that the information can be researched by our county government. Roberta Lee is also asking how do we make sure Mammoth and Next Era come up with a 5-year remittance? Attorney Schramm advises that if these companies go belly up then we take into consideration the salvage/resale value.

Roberta Lee also questions the oil spill from 2023. Roberta states that her source told her that the spill was at least 1 1/2 tankers. Roberta provided photos of the oil spill. Dave Pearman advised that he was only involved because he is the head of the EMA board and was at the

highway department because Tori was out of town that weekend. Tori stated that she cannot deploy herself, and when she arrived to get gas she was told it had been taken care of.

IN RE: CHECKS AND BALANCES

Bruce Bennett would like to have more communication with checks and balances.

IN RE: ELECTRONICS FREE PICKUP AND NEPOTISM AT AIRPORT

Todd Leinbach reminds us that there will be an Electronics Free Pickup event at the Knox School on Oct 5th. Todd also stated he is concerned about nepotism at the airport.

IN RE: PARK BOARD

Dave Pearman advises that Kathy Norem has resigned from the Park Board leaving a Republican seat. Mitch Columbe at WKVI will advertise that we are accepting letters for potential candidates. Councilman Pearman has previously written a fundraising policy and will share the policy when needed.

IN RE: INTERNAL CONTROLS

Cassandra Hine stated that she was previously asked to look into internal controls standards. She was told there is already an Internal Controls committee including that includes Carrie Block, the auditor, and one vacant seat. At this time Cassandra is declining this invitation to the internal controls committee.

There being no further business to come before the board, Howard Bailey moved to adjourn seconded by Kay Gudeman with all ayes.

August 15, 2024
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL

----- David Pearman, President	----- Todd Leinbach, Vice-President
 _____ Kay Gudeman	 _____ Norman (Bruce) Bennett
 _____ Howard Bailey	 _____ Anthony Black
 _____ Cassandra Hine	 _____ Teresa Trout, Auditor Pro Tem