

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
1-30-2025**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council to meet in an executive session at 5:00 PM in the Annex Building #1 meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to Wit:

I, Michaelene J. Houston, Starke County Auditor, do hereby certify that no business was discussed other than what was covered on the below statute:

IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B): "For discussion of strategy with respect to litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing."

Michaelene J. Houston, Starke County Auditor
And Secretary to the Starke County Council

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
1-30-2025**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at approximately 6:00 PM in the Annex Building #1 meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to Wit:

IN RE: SURF INTERNET

Scott Franko with Surf Internet needs to finalize the BEAD Grant and would like a letter of support/collaboration from the council for a possible abatement. Much discussion ensued.

Cassandra Hine moved to approve having Justin Schramm, County Attorney, draft a letter stating that the council is in support of Broadband expansion in the county and that they will consider Surf Internet's request for an abatement, making it clear that this is not approval or pending approval, but that it will be considered as any other application for abatement, with said letter being submitted to the council for review before Monday, February 3, 2025's special meeting seconded by Kay Gudeman with 7 ayes.

IN RE: PARK BOARD APPOINTMENT

Jerry Okely appeared before the council to request a position on the Starke County Park Board. He stated he has been here his whole life and reported on his military and work experience.

Teresa Trout had also requested the same position, and Bruce Bennett moved to appoint Teresa Trout to the Park Board seconded by Dave Pearman with 4 ayes and 3 nays (Kay Gudeman, Cassandra Hine and Bill Crase).

The council asked Jerry Okely to please consider applying for other board positions that have openings.

IN RE: 2025 BUDGETS

Due to an error when submitting the budgets to the DLGF our budget was approved at \$256,885 less than what the council adopted. Per the DLGF's suggestion, Bill Crase moved to lower County General's Health Insurance line item by the \$256,885 and ask for an additional appropriation in March seconded by Kay Gudeman with 7 ayes.

IN RE: MAMMOTH/DORAL SOLAR

Chris Kline with Mammoth/Doral wanted to remind the council that tours of their facility are still available at their convenience.

IN RE: RECORDER'S OFFICE SPACE

Mandy Thomason, County Recorder, wanted to inform the commissioners that she needs more space. She would like the council to come and look for themselves.

There being no further business to come before the board, Bruce Bennett moved to adjourn seconded by seconded by Bill Crase with 7 ayes.

STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL
1-30-2025

Todd Leinbach, President

Norman (Bruce) Bennett, Vice-President

Kay Gudeman

Dave Pearman

Howard Bailey

Bill Crase

Cassandra Hine

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