

# **JOINT Council-Commissioner Minutes**

**March 7, 2025**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and the Starke County Council and meet in special session at 1:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak, Cassandra Hein, Howard Bailey, Bill Crase, and Dave Pearman absent, (Dave was on zoom) and the following proceedings were held to wit: NOTE: Council did not have a quorum.

Mike VanDeMark called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

## **IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPT.**

Rachel Oesterreich, Highway Superintendent, reported that she received a letter from the state regarding the Bridge 13 grant. They are requesting more funding from the county towards the grant. Information on file in the Auditor's Office.

Rachel stated that we have the following options:

1. Tell them we have no extra money.
2. Offer the extra money for the engineer (50% instead of 20%) and use money to be used for other bridges to help with bridge 13.
3. Drop the federal grant altogether and go for a CCMG grant.
4. Do the bridge ourselves, but we would still need to hire an engineer (which would be cheaper than with the grant). If we do it ourselves we would not have to follow federal and state guidelines.
5. Offer no extra money and see if a concrete culvert could be done.

There was much discussion on the options.

Mike VanDeMark asked if there were problems with this bridge, would we be able to say that we are in the process.

Repairs to bridge 13, is on a 5-year program. Rachel is going to check to see if a cheaper route is viable.

Don Binkley moved to keep it at the 80/20 that it is currently, so we can move forward seconded by Mike VanDeMark with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: INSURANCE ON PASSENGERS IN COUNTY VEHICLES**

Dave Pearman, via Zoom, feels that Wednesday's meeting is definitely needed due to the increased cost of insurance.

There was much discussion on whether or not vehicles need to be taken home and whether or not leaving them here would be cheaper on the insurance, and regarding passengers in county vehicles.

## **IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ARCHIVING**-Stanley Budd, IT Director, passed out information to the commissioners and council regarding social media archiving for their review before the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Information on file in the Auditor's Office.

Todd Leinbach asked if it wouldn't be better to delete all Facebook accounts and Stanley agreed.

The commissioners would like more quotes on the archiving and want Stanley to check with other counties on who they use.

**JAIL CEDIT**-Todd Leinbach informed everyone that the Jail CEDIT is going before the state now retroactive through January 1, 2024, with changes on what Jail CEDIT can be used for. If passed, we can continue as we did in 2024.

There being no further business to come before the boards, Don Binkley moved to adjourn seconded by Mike VanDeMark with 2 ayes.

**March 7, 2025 Joint meeting**

**COUNTY COUNCIL (NO QUORUM)**

<u>Todd Leinbach, President</u>	<u>Bruce Bennett, Vice President</u>
<u>Kay Gudeman</u>	<u>ABSENT</u> David Pearman
<u>ABSENT</u> Howard Bailey	<u>ABSENT</u> Bill Crase
<u>ABSENT</u> Cassandra Hein	<u>Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and Secretary to the County Council</u>

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

<u>ABSENT</u> Charles Chesak, President	<u>Mike VanDeMark, Vice President</u>
<u>Don Binkley</u>	<u>Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and Secretary to the Commissioners</u>