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**STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025**

2025000946

MANDY THOMASON, RECORDER
STARKE COUNTY, KNOX, IN
RECORDED AS PRESENTED

04/09/2025 10:53 AM
meet in Regular

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 9:30 AM, in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak, Don Binkley, and Mike VanDeMark, present and the following proceeds were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charles Chesak directly at 9:30 AM.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

Nancy Coad, Starke County EMS Clerk, came before the Board of Commissioners to hand out the monthly financial report. EMS Director James Garner handed out the Monthly Operations Report. Discussions were held regarding quotes for a new chassis for an ambulance with no decision made at this time.

STARKE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

Amie Flora, Starke County Parks Department Superintendent, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the donation of land to Starke County by Walter & Rita Fritz for the purpose of a kayak launch. She advised that the English Lake kayak launch would have a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 26, 2025 at noon. Superintendent Flora discussed the Bass Lake Beach & Campground renovation project asking for approval to go to the Council for a change of scope to the project asking to use Parks Department funds for projects that were not included in the original plans. Don Binkley made a motion to proceed to the council, seconded by Charles Chesak and the motion was approved with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Mary Beever, Planning Commission Administrator, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the salary for the BZA Secretary. She advised at budget time she was emailed to budget \$37,087 for the salary however the salary ordinances states \$38,200 due to the 3% approved salary increase. Mike VanDeMark made a motion for approval to go to the council for an additional appropriation of \$1,113 due to a clerical error seconded by Don Binkley and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Administrator Beever provided quotes for tablets to be used at Planning Commission & BZA meetings & requested the Commissioners pay for them. After further discussion a motion was made by Don Binkley to pay for the tablets using the Planning Commission & BZA penalty funds upon approval by the council, seconded by Mike VanDeMark, and approved with all ayes.

Administrator Beever provided information from Keramida. She advised the Planning Commission reached out to them regarding getting a new solar ordinance drafted. She advised the quote was for \$10,000. Discussion was held about the scope of service that would be provided. Mike VanDeMark made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 in the event that they come in and do a presentation, seconded by Don Binkley and approved with all ayes.

Administrator Beever also discussed the pending renovation of the Recorder/Planning Commission office and hopes the Commissioners find the best solution to eliminate the tension between the departments.

STARKE COUNTY CVC BOARD

Kathy Norem came before the Board of Commissioners to provide a report on the activities and financial disbursements of the CVC board and the Innkeepers Tax Fund, along with an update on current and past projects. She advised the board is currently set at nine members and they have a hard time obtaining a quorum for meetings. She advised per Indiana Code the Commissioners could reduce the number to seven and requested they consider that. The request was tabled until Attorney Schramm can research the Indiana Code further and make a recommendation.

MARSHALL STARKE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Jessica Gilley, Vice President of Mission Advancement, came before the Board of Commissioners to provide information on current programs they have, along with thanking the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Mikie Stogsdill, Executive Director, came before the Board of Commissioners for signatures on the Contract for Support that was approved at the last meeting once amended from a two-year contract to a one-year contract.

STARKE COUNTY MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Rick Green came before the Board of Commissioners advising the renovation of Annex 2 was awarded to EAM Construction and is awaiting council approval for \$240,624. Don Binkley made a motion to move forward with the project being paid out of Cum. Cap. Seconded by Charles Chesak. Mike VanDeMark abstained as he is not clear on the project specifications.

Mr. Green advised the bison plans place the bison on the northeast corner of the courthouse & provided a sketch of the proposed layout. Discussion was held regarding security cameras for that area and if the camera from Annex 2 could be angled to pick up that location & IT will look into that. No motion was made until quotes for the concrete work are obtained.

Mr. Green discussed the quotes for gutters & leaf guards for Annex 1. Quotes were received from HB Gutters, \$5400; J&B West \$9,858; A&M Home Services \$8,736 & Northwest Seamless Gutter \$6,445. Mike VanDeMark made a motion to proceed with HB Gutters for \$5400 including the leaf guard, seconded by Don Binkley and approved with all ayes.

Mr. Green gave an update on the county auction. Govdeals.com would be taking photos on March 20, 2025 & the date of the auction will be set after that.

STARKE COUNTY RECORDER

Mandy Thomason, Recorder, discussed the Elected Officials Training fund & what is being paid from the fund. She requested that due to the low balance we reduce what is being paid out of the fund until the balance is built back up. Discussion was held regarding the number of employees attending training and if there should be an approval process for attending training. Discussion was held regarding procedures for deposits made to that fund and other departments budgeting for training. Recorder Thomason suggested having a training for elected officials regarding the use of that fund. Discussion was then held regarding the renovation of the office to make room for additional books. Rick Green advised he would need to determine if the floor in that office can handle the additional weight. He will look into it and report his findings at the next meeting.

COUNTY WIDE TIME CLOCK

Discussion was held regarding the status of the county wide time clock. There has been no further advancement however the commissioners would still like to see it happen. A discussion was held regarding possibly getting a PO system at the same time. The IT director advised that would be something to be discussed with out current software company. Treasurer Kelly Graham said she would contact LLOW about their purchase order system and return with information at a later meeting.

IT

Stanley Budd, IT Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss additional security cameras. It has been determined that after discussion with security, four additional security cameras need to be purchased. Two for Annex 1 for the upstairs & downstairs lobby, one for the small claims office and a newer model for the main courthouse entrance were quoted with an amount of \$2,824.48. Don Binkley made a motion to proceed with the amount being paid out of Cum. Cap., seconded by Mike VanDeMark and approved with all ayes.

Director Budd then discussed quotes for Social Media archiving with Smarsh being the recommended vendor with a quote of \$5345. Don Binkley made a motion to table the discussion until Director Budd can get a price for archiving SMS messages seconded by Mike VanDeMark passed with all ayes. Director Budd also advised that YouTube videos would not need to be archived if the county makes the decision to turn off public commenting on the meetings. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to disable comments seconded by Mike VanDeMark and passed with all ayes.

EMA

Tori Chessor, EMA Director, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the TextMyGov services that would be provided upon approval. Mike VanDeMark made a motion to proceed with the quoted amount of \$6500, seconded by Don Binkley and approved with all ayes.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Rachel Oesterreich, Highway Superintendent, came before the Board of Commissioners, along with Eric Fier representing Starke County Co-Op, regarding the renewal of the contract for diesel fuel. Reports were provided regarding past deliveries and amounts. Don Binkley made a motion to approve a one-year contract beginning in May 2025, seconded by Mike VanDeMark and approved with all ayes.

Superintendent Oesterreich provided multiple quotes for air compressors, both used & new, as the current compressor is a 1985 that is having multiple issues and is hard to find parts for. She advised she would like to purchase the used air compressor from MacAllister at a price of \$17,750. Commissioner

VanDeMark advised he would like an amount for a new Caterpillar and to determine if the used air compressor has a warranty before the next meeting.

Superintendent Oesterreich advised WTH has created a layer for GIS for the 2025 paving operations and once complete it will be placed on the Starke County website. Once a chip seal plan is in place that will be placed on the map as well. Discussion was held regarding the bucket truck and Terex's recommendation that the truck be replaced. She advised she spoke with Kankakee Valley REMC regarding the trucks they will be replacing and the possibility of purchasing one of their trucks after October of this year.

AUDITOR BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve payroll claims in the amount of \$346,030.87 including deductions in the amount of \$92,907.61 for pay period ending 3/1/2024 and payroll date of 3/7/2024. Commissioner VanDeMark seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner VanDeMark made a motion to approve the vendor claims in the amount of \$436,647.83. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes for 3/3/2025 seconded by Commissioner VanDeMark and approved with all ayes. Commissioner VanDeMark made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/12/2025 joint session seconded by Commissioner Binkley and approved with all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the BZA and Planning Commission appointments needed. Clarification was given on requirements for each appointment. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve Nina Fredianelli to the Planning Commission but died for lack of a second. Commissioner VanDeMark advised he would like to reach out via telephone call to touch base with her prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to table the BZA appointment until he can reach out to someone regarding that appointment, seconded by Commissioner VanDeMark and approved with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Chesak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025



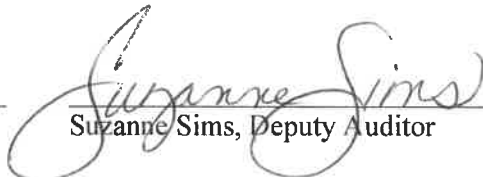
Charles Chesak, President



Mike VanDeMark, Vice-President



Don Binkley, Member



Suzanne Sims, Deputy Auditor