

STARKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

8-18-25

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Commissioners and meet in regular session in the meeting room of the Starke County Annex #1, Knox, IN at 9:30 AM, with Mike VanDeMark absent. The following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: EMS REPORTS

Nancy Coad submitted receipts for the month in the amount of \$119,016.54 and \$2,074.25 from the Collection agency of Jonathan O'Hare.

Jim Garner, EMS Director, submitted his monthly report. See attached.

Don Binkley moved to approve the bid of \$14,518.12 for replacing the double doors at the Knox Base seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

Don Binkley asked about the sirens at Bass Lake. Jim said they were supposed to be installed last week, but the rain and lightning prohibited the installation. Jim Garner stated that he has to be there for the installation so they need to work around his schedule.

IN RE: OPIOID FUNDING REQUEST

Shawn Matraw, Community Corrections, and Chuck Phillips with Pre-Trial requested funding out of the Opioid Abatement Fund. He explained the need for the funding. Chuck Phillips is over the Pre-Trial. They need \$70,000 for personnel and training. There are restricted items only that can be paid out of this fund. They are requesting this for 2026. It used to be paid for by the state.

Chuck is one of the few people in the state certified for this program. The certification is to satisfy DOC requirements. This program used to be a state responsibility and now they are turning it over to the counties as their responsibility. Shawn stated that this does not require the Advisory Board's approval.

Don Binkley moved to move forward with the request to the council seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: MASONRY PROGRAM AT NJ-SP SCHOOL

Kelly Shepherd, Superintendent of NJ-SP School Corporation, is asking for financial assistance for a masonry program. See attached. There are already 10 kids enrolled. It is open to the whole county and Culver. This year it is for K12 only. This will soon be open to Marshall County Schools and evenings for adults.

They are asking for a portion of the start up fee of \$17,614.10 to cover tools and equipment needed. It is a one-time request to help them get started.

NJ-SP school has taken on the salary for this. Once it is going it will be self-funding and be eligible for State Perkins funds.

Don Binkley moved to fund the entire amount of \$17,614.10 out of solar funds per council approval or Cum. Cap. if solar isn't approved seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: VENDOR AND PAYROLL CLAIMS

Don Binkley moved to approve the vendor claims seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

Don Binkley moved to approve a claim for Kingsman Concrete in the amount of \$2,960 for the sidewalk at Annex 2 seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

Don Binkley moved to approve the Payroll claims seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: 8-4-25 MINUTES

Don Binkley moved to approve the 8-4-25 minutes seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: SALE OF PROPERTY AT HAMLET INDUSTRIAL PARK REQUEST BY KARI YODER

Don Binkley wants more information on this, such as what they are building and the use of the property.

IN RE: GIS ACCESS REQUEST FROM CORE LOGIC

Don Binkley moved to approve the request from Core Logic to access our GIS system seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK CHANGES

Don Binkley moved to approve the employee handbook changes as presented seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

IN RE: HAMLET LAND SWAP

The Starke County Development Foundation would like to do a land swap with the county so that their properties would be contingent. County Attorney Justin Schramm said that there needs to be a resolution. Don Binkley moved to move forward on the land swap seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

The foundation is to contact Justin with all the information if they don't have an attorney of their own to prepare the resolution.

IN RE: MEETING WITH STATE REP. KENDELL CULP

Bernadette Manuel, County Clerk, reported that State Rep. Kendell Culp would like to meet with all elected officials and taxing units on Monday, August 25, at 11 am in the Annex 1 meeting room.

Tom Bush of the Park Board asked if it was open to the public. County Attorney Justin Schramm stated that it would have to be posted as a public meeting in case there was a quorum of the elected officials.

There being no further business to come before the board, Don Binkley moved to adjourn seconded by Charles Chesak with 2 ayes.

Charles Chesak, President

ABSENT
Mike VanDeMark, Vice President

Don Binkley

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor
& Secretary to the Co. Commrs.