

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners & Starke County Council and meet in a Special Session at 3:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Commissioners Kent Danford, Kathy Norem, and Donald Binkley present along with Council Members Pam Stalbaum, Freddie Baker, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Brad Hazelton and Bryan Cavender and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The Starke County Board of Commissioners and the Starke County Council met in a Combined Special Session on Monday, December 14, at 5:30PM. Present were Commissioners Kent Danford, Kathy Norem and Don Binkley; and Council Members Jennifer Davis, Pam Stalbaum, Freddie Baker, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Bryan Cavender and Brad Hazelton. Councilwoman Jennifer Davis was absent. The purpose of the called meeting was to determine the cuts to the County's 2016 budgets per the DLGF 1782 Budget Order.

Councilman President Freddie Baker called the meeting to order and advised Auditor Chaffins had gone through the budgets and has come up with a proposal of budget cuts. He went through the County General Fund, by department and advised of the proposed cuts for each department. The following are the proposed budget cuts totals by department: 001 Clerk, \$3,600.; 002 Auditor, \$1,000.; 003 Treasurer, \$1,750.; 004 Recorder, \$1,000.; 005 Sheriff, \$18,650.; 006, Surveyor, \$2,200.; 007 Coroner, \$2,400.; 008 Prosecutor, 0; 017 Old Jail Bldg, \$9,850.; 019 Election Board, 0; 020 EMS, \$78,860.; 021 Purdue Extension, \$1,900.; 022 Planning Commission, \$6,800.; 023 Drainage Board, \$1,750.; 024 Veterans Service Officer, 0; 025 Commissioners \$121,949 (of that amount \$45,000.00 in health insurance was moved to the CAGIT Certified Shares Fund, # 1110.; 026 Courthouse, \$11,415.; 027 Jail, \$260,624. (all of that amount was moved to the Jail CREDIT Fund, # 1113); 028 Annex Building, \$500.; 029 Circuit Court, \$3,000.; 030 BZA, \$300.; 031 Soil & Water, \$400.; 032 Prosecutor, \$3,500.; 033 County Council, \$500.; and 035 IT, \$34,593. He advised the total amount of budget cuts for the County General Fund totaled \$566,541. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to accept the budget cuts proposed for County General in the total amount of \$566,541.00. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the proposed budget cuts of Fund 1188, Reassessment, President Baker went through the budget lines of the proposed budget cuts and they totaled \$170,560.00. (Of those proposed cuts a total of \$96,888.87 of the reassessment contract is to be appropriated from the CREDIT Rainy Day Fund; \$20,000.00 to be appropriated from the Sales Disclosure Fund for the software purchase; \$7,780.00 of the software purchase and \$22,868.13 of the reassessment contract is to be appropriated from the Rainy Day Fund.) In regard to the Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Fund 1138, a total of \$14,015.00 in cuts was proposed; a total of \$44,934.00 from the Cumulative Bridge Fund, Fund 1135; and a total of \$10,767.00 in budget cuts from the Health Department Fund, 1159. County Health Nurse expressed his concern when the Health Department's medical supply line was cut by \$2,000.00 and was advised in the event any type of an epidemic broke out the Council would provide assistance with the funding for medication. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the proposed budgets cuts for the Funds: Reassessment, Cumulative Bridge, Cumulative Capital Development and Health. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The total amount of all the 2016 County Budget cuts was \$806,817.00.

Councilman Pearman expressed his concern with the County's NAV and asked it be looked into as it doesn't appear to be tracking with the rest of the State. He also stated it may be time for the County to look into the process of "thawing out" their frozen property tax levy to attempt to increase the revenue into the County. Councilman Pearman also discussed the issue with the decrease in the amount of Misc. Revenue the County has received thus far in 2015 and advised of the importance the misc. revenue plays in the balancing of the county budgets. In regard to the decrease in revenue from the DOC for the housing of DOC inmates and the failure to file some of the monthly reports to the DOC he asked County Attorney Marty Lucas if someone could be held liable, as he felt they were not completing their responsibility. Attorney Lucas advised he wanted the information on the DOC billings and would like to speak with the DOC first before advising.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no further public comment and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 4:27PM.

DECEMBER 21, 2015

Kent Danford, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Donald Binkley

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the County Council