

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President Dave Pearman. Absent from the meeting were Councilwoman Judy Benninghoff, and Councilmen Mark Smith, Marvin McLaughlin, and Mitch Semans. Present to watch the meeting was newly elected Councilman Bryan Cavender.

President Pearman announced, due to the fact there is not a quorum of the Council present, they will be limited as to the business that can be conducted; issues can be discussed, but no decisions can be made. He advised he would like to have a meeting on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30PM to discuss the balance of the unexpended portion of the County General Fund, and the amount of a possible transfer to the Rainy Day Fund.

The first item on the agenda was a request from Director Joan Haugh, of the Starke County Community Services, in regard to their request for supplemental funding of their transportation services for the fiscal budget year of 2013. Ms. Haugh advised, since they will financially be able to start out the year without any problems, she will reschedule her request sometime in the first quarter of 2013.

Starke County Sheriff, Oscar Cowen, appeared before the Council and presented a report of the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. The report documented the activity of the Commissary Fund from July through mid December, 2012. He answered the various questions from the Board. A copy of the Commissary Fund report is on file in the Auditor's Office.

Auditor Chaffins gave a brief report of the certifications received from elected county officials and appointed department heads. She advised all elected officials and appointed department heads had submitted their certifications, except the Circuit Court Judge, Kim Hall, and Probation Dept. Officer John Thorstad. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised he believed the Court is not required to be included in the certification, or even the anti-nepotism process. Auditor Chaffins have an update on the response of the departments in regard to the Monthly Financial Reporting Ordinance, advising every department had submitted their report, except for the Treasurer's Office. She noted she had emailed the Treasurer to remind her the 47TR report was due.

Annex Building Custodian, James Coad, appeared before the Board to discuss the need for additional shelving at the County Warehouse for the storage of County documents. He advised, since there is wasted space by not utilizing vertical storage, that units could be purchased by the county, 8 foot x 8 foot x 4 foot for a cost of \$441.00 per unit. He advised the whole pallet of boxes could be moved to the unit, pallet and all. He noted he estimates a need for a total of ten of those units at the warehouse, but it would not be required to purchase all ten at once. President Pearman advised maybe the Highway Department could pay a portion of the expense of the shelving since they also utilize the storage facility. Commissioner Davis inquired if some of those documents, the ones that have been marked for destruction, could be taken to the shredder. President Pearman advised he would talk to Highway Department Superintendent Siddall about assisting with the moving of the documents. Jim Coad advised it is important to verify those records have been properly documented for destruction, through all the proper procedures.

Elizabeth Smith, the County Extension Officer, appeared before the Board. She had submitted a request for a transfer that now won't be addressed until the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and she noted she would not be able to attend that meeting. The Board reviewed her request and had no questions for her.

Councilman Sims inquired about the pay the Sheriff receives, and expressed concern about the amount of compensation he is receiving from the collection of State tax warrants. He inquired as to the amount the Sheriff has received from the collection of tax warrants. The Sheriff advised he would have to check with his Office Manager, Chris Smith. Councilman Sims stated his concern is that the County paid for 1/2 the cost of the software that was purchased by the Sheriff's Department to assist in the collection of tax warrants. The Sheriff stated they have not yet seen a bill for that software.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kenny Wallace, who was present at the meeting, stated his concern with the lack of attendance by the County Council, and the poor representation they have at the meetings, noting it does not look good when month after month there is no quorum. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The meeting adjourned at 6:18PM.

**DECEMBER 17, 2012**

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Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Semans, Vice President

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Benninghoff

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Marvin McLaughlin

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Radkiewicz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Sims

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Katherine Chaffins,  
Starke Co. Auditor & Council Secretary

