

**November 17, 2014**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Marvin McLaughlin, Bryan Cavender, Robert Sims and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Pearman. Councilman Semans was absent for the beginning of the meeting.

#### **MINUTES**

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER REQUESTS**

EMS Director Keith Emigh and Clerk MaryLynn Ritchie appeared before the Board to request the following transfers within the County General EMS Department 020 Budget : transfer \$3,000.00 into 20302, ambulance repair, and \$7,000.00 into 21100, gas, oil and lube, and to be taken out of budget line item 10216, full time paramedic. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes. Clerk Ritchie advised the Council the County had received the Medicaid reimbursement in the amount of \$122,326.53 for the years of 2011 and 2012. She noted the funding was receipted into a different revenue number to keep it separate from the regular EMS payments.

County Extension Director, Elisabeth Smith, appeared before the Board to request the following transfer from within her County General Department 021 Budget: \$302.40 to be transferred into budget line item 20202, repairs and maintenance; budget line item 30404, computer contract be reduced by \$205.00 and budget line item 20100, office supplies be reduced by \$97.40. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes.

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to request the following transfers within the Highway Department Fund, # 1176 Budget: reduce budget line items 10209 of Department 0530, bookkeeper/clerk \$130.89, 10210, truck drivers of Department 0531 \$1,125.80, 10211 of Department 0533, mechanics \$5,586.12, and 10903 of Department 0533, Unemployment \$6,000.00 and increase budget line item 11400 of Department 0531, overtime \$4,594.33, 10218 of Department 0531, part time mower, \$5,000.00, and 10121 of Department 0531, general foreman, \$3,248.48. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler then requested the following transfer: \$500.00 to be placed into budget line item 20100, Department 0530, office supplies and reduce budget line item 30204 of Department 0530, travel expense in the amount of \$500.00. The transfer request was also from Fund 1176. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

(At 5:50PM Councilman Semans arrived to the meeting.)

#### **APPROPRIATION OF CREDIT FUNDING**

Starke County Economic Developer Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board to request the appropriation of \$80,152.33. He advised that was the remaining balance of 2014 CREDIT revenue which had not yet been appropriated by the Council. He noted he was requesting the amount of \$75,147.63 in order to pay into the Hamlet Grant Fund which currently is still showing a negative balance of \$75,147.63 and of which the SBOA has noted in the County's last few yearly audits. He noted the remainder of the appropriation requested, \$5,004.70, would be placed into the Knox Industrial Park Road Intersection Project, budget line item # 30510. President Pearman inquired as to the status of the Sysco Site. Director Weaver advised he had spoken with Gary White of Sysco who stated there is a pending merger between Sysco and US Food which could recreate the need for the development of that Sysco Site. Director Weaver advised Sysco owns 320 acres in that area. He noted Sysco has continued to do work on that land. In regard to the Knox Industrial Park Road Intersection Project, Director Weaver noted they will be widening the intersection of CR250E and Pacific, and also the intersection of Division Road and CR300E. He also advised the City of Knox, who will be providing the 20% local match, along with funding provided through Kankakee Valley REMC and the USDA, will be building a shell building located in the Knox Industrial Park of approximately 50,000 square feet. He noted the building will be only four walls and a floor and whichever company decides to locate in that building will be responsible for the improvements to the building. He noted the City of Knox will also have the expense of expanding the utilities services out to the site of the building. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the appropriation request of the CREDIT funding--\$75,147.63 to pay the balance of the Hamlet Grant Fund and \$5,004.70 into the Knox Industrial Park Road Intersection Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Semans and passed with all ayes.

SCEDF SCILL Director, Ron Gifford, appeared before the Board to present an update on the programs available at the SCILL Center. President Pearman inquired as to the status of the Stelerema Building on US35 north of Knox. Director Weaver advised they have an owner for the building and that is how the County was able to obtain their collection of the delinquent property taxes out of the Company's bankruptcy, but at this time the owner does not have an end user for the building.

#### **IU-HEALTH STARKE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CAPITAL ASSET REPORT**

Craig Felte of IU-Health Starke appeared before the Board to present their 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Capital Asset Listing Report. He advised the reports included those assets purchased during the third quarter of this year. He also noted the secondary report is a listing of all their capital assets showing the net value of each piece of equipment, net of the depreciated balance on each asset. He advised the total net value of their capital assets is dropping by approximately \$300,000.00-\$400,000.00 per quarter due to their depreciation schedule. He advised the total net value of the listed capital assets as of 9/30/14 is \$5,877,001.74.

#### **2015 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE, 2014-11117C**

County Attorney, Marty Lucas, spoke of changes to this coming year's proposed salary ordinance. He advised the ordinance has been modified to reflect the salaries of elected officials and some qualifying department heads, but the remainder of the pay is based on an hourly wage. He noted in 2015 the proper name of the ordinance will be the "2015 Salary and Wage Ordinance". He also noted the suggestions that were made by the recent SBOA Auditors in this year's County audit the ordinance includes any Commissioner's supplemental pay from serving on the Planning Commission Board or on any of the Ditch Boards. He advised also included in the ordinance is the amount of car allowance that is documented in the pay of any county employee who receives the benefit of driving a County vehicle after work hours. Auditor Chaffins advised the Board the salary and wage ordinance was based on the proposed County Council approved 2015 budget, and may need to be modified if the State does not approve 100% of the proposed County budgets. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the 2015 Salary and Wage Ordinance, 2014-1117C. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

President Pearman advised the information has still not been forwarded to the County from Morgan and Stanley in regard to the 2014 balance of the County's contribution to the Sheriff's Department Pension Plan. Councilman Semans made a motion to table the issue until the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Terry Turner, the County Veterans' Service Officer, advised the Board his department is in need of a dedicated fax line and has the IT Director looking into his request.

Commissioner President Jennifer Davis suggested the Board review the listing of capital assets as was presented by Craig Felte of IU-Health Starke as there appears to be items on the listing that may be questionable capital assets. She suggested the Board asks Mr. Felte to appear at their December meeting to answer questions in regard to some of the assets listed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Debbie Mix inquired as to the status of the Innkeepers in the County submitting their innkeeper's tax directly to the County instead of to the State. Attorney Lucas advised the Indiana Department of Revenue was notified in regard to the change implemented by the County. He also advised the State has been transitioning into the electronic payment of that tax by the state's innkeepers and asked to give the State until the beginning of the year to get this change worked out.

President Pearman reminded the Board of the December 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> scheduled Council meetings.

With there being no further business, Councilman Semans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53PM.

**November 17, 2014**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Mitch Semans, Vice President

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Bryan Cavender

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Marvin McLaughlin

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Tony Radkiewicz

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Robert Sims

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Freddie Baker

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Katherine Chaffins, Starke County Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Council