

**February 4, 2008**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 3:45 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Kevin Kroft was a little late and Kent Danford opened the meeting.

**IN RE: CLAIMS & PAYROLL**

Kent Danford moved to approve the claims and the payroll seconded by Mark Milo with 2 ayes.

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Kent Danford moved to approve the January 21, 2008, minutes seconded by Mark Milo with 2 ayes.

**IN RE: EMS/EMA**

Randy Abbey reported that he hasn't heard anything from the adjustors regarding the wrecked ambulance.

**IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPT.**

Pete Stanojevic reported that the Toto Road project from US 35 to US 39 that he had put in for when he first became superintendent, was finally on the state's list for consideration.

Pete further reported that he was going to Michigan to look at a conveyor for use with both the pug mill and the salt shed. It has less than 10 hours on it as the company that bought it went out of business 3 weeks after they purchased it.

Mark Milo requested that Pete check on what could be done with Yellowstone Trail.

Kevin Kroft arrived.

**IN RE: I.T. COMMITTEE**

Bob Smith, I.T. Coordinator along with the I.T. Committee requested \$4400 for offsite backups that are required by the state. Kent Danford moved to approve the request going to the council seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: SENIOR SERVICES**

Joan Haugh, Senior Services Director, informed the commissioners of increased costs and submitted a summary which is on file in the Auditor's office. She stated that she has been the director for 23 years and that 2007 was the worst year they ever had financially. She reported that they may have to close their meal sites.

Joan asked the commissioners if they could help with a donation of \$28,000. Mark Milo moved to approve asking the council for \$28,000 out of county general seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

Kevin is going to check and see if the county can sell them gas from the county tanks.

**IN RE: TOURISM AND INNKEEPERS' TAX**

Jenny Carter reported on the tourism and the Starke County Visitor's Committee. She reported that they have received approximately \$7500 from the Innkeepers' tax to date. She informed the commissioners what the committee is pursuing regarding tourism.

**IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUND**

Rich Wiczorek asked about the certificate of insurance from the Spiewaks, and the Auditor reported that it still had not been submitted.

Rich requested that the county auction off the septic system in order to get it out of there.

The commissioners informed him that they have 3 letters from people willing to take over the Bass Lake Beach and Campground.

The county attorney, Martin Bedrock, sent the certified letter to the Spiewaks per the lease letting them know that they had only 30 days to vacate the premises. Mark would like Martin to notify the vendors that the county is not responsible for anything left by the vendors and that whatever contracts that were made with the Spiewaks are not the county's responsibility, but between them and the Spiewaks.

Mr. Callahan is willing to take over the beach and campground, paying all the Spiewaks legitimate bills on the beach and campground along with putting up a security deposit.

Mark Milo would like to have a total game plan in place beforehand.

Rich Wiczorek and Jenny Carter wanted to know if the Visitor's Committee could be an oversight committee for the beach and campground. Mark Milo moved to authorize the Starke County Visitors' Committee on behalf of the Commissioners as an oversight committee for the beach and campground subject to legalities of the county and both parties' attorneys seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to have the county attorney send letters to people letting them know that until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, everything is between them and the Spiewaks, and not the county seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

Rich asked if the commissioners would drill a hole in the unused septic so it doesn't keep filling with water. Dave Singleton stated that it had to be tested first.

#### **IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CONCERNS WITH E.M.S.**

Mike Meadows, CEO of Starke Memorial Hospital, wanted to discuss some concerns they have with EMS. He submitted information for the commissioners, which is on file in the Auditor's office. The commissioners gave Randy Abbey, EMS/EMA director, acopy to look through and report on.

#### **IN RE: ALLEY VACATION**

Kent Danford moved to research further the alley vacation Bill Caldwell had previously submitted seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: DATA SHARING OF G.I.S.**

Mark Milo moved to approve data sharing of the G.I.S. information seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: FRINGE BENEFITS, USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES**

The commissioners said to allow those who drive a county vehicle home and have a further distance to go to be charged \$1.50 each way rather than by the mile.

#### **IN RE: BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY LAWSUIT**

Mark Milo moved to allow the Bass Lake Conservancy to turn off the sewer as long as there is no charge to reinstate seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: INCREASE TO SKILL CENTER FUNDING**

Kevin Kroft feels that the SKILL Center contribution should remain at \$70,000 as they need to come before the commissioners and ask for an increase and explain why they want the increase.

There being no further business to come before the board Mark Milo moved to adjourn seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

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Kevin Kroft, President

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Kent Danford, Vice President

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Mark Milo, Member

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners