

FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order at 7:49pm by President Dan Bridegroom. He requested the addition of the representative from Weaver and Boos be added to the agenda. The request was granted.

IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIM

Commissioner Davis made the motion to approve the payroll claim from Feb. 5, 2011 in the amount of \$164,366.68; seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with three ayes.

IN RE: MINUTES

In reference to the minutes from the Feb.7 meeting, Ms. Norem advised she had stated during that meeting, that both the current burn ordinance and the burn ordinance under consideration had "met the states statute". With the correction noted, Ms. Davis made the motion to pass the minutes of the Feb. 7, 2011 meeting; seconded by Kathy Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

In reference to the minutes from the Feb. 15 meeting, which was an informational meeting with representatives of 1st Source Insurance, and CIGNA, Kathy Norem stated the minutes should read, in the 8th paragraph, the employee contribution should be 16 – 18%, not 13 – 14% as stated. With the correction noted, Ms. Norem made the motion to pass the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bridegroom, since Ms. Davis had not attended that meeting. The motion passed with two ayes.

IN RE: WEAVER AND BOOS

A representative from the Weaver and Boos company appeared before the board to give an update as to the progress being made with the environmental compliance issues at the Starke County Landfill. He advised IDEM is requesting quarterly monitoring of the ground water at the landfill. He presented to the board a proposal to complete the ground water testing. He recommended a drilling company that they have experience with: Rob Morrison of Hebron to complete the work. He stated it would be most cost effective for the county to contract him directly. The driller should be contacted after the gas probe was completed. Marty Lucas advised they did have permission of the landowner, Mr. Cieski to go ahead with the testing. He advised that Weave and Boos should contact him directly and he will be forwarding the contact information to them via email. Weaver and Boos stated surveying should be completed anytime to locate the gas probes, probably during the first two weeks of March. Mr. Bridegroom advised there should be a copy of the SAP, the Sample Analysis Plan, on file in the Auditor's Office. The commissioners are not taking bids for the drilling work, since the drilling fee is below the set amount to require opening the work up for bids. It will cost approximately \$5200.00 for the survey portion of the work. Mr. Bridegroom advised they are ten years into this project. The project would need to go before the council to receive the appropriation approval. Weaver and Boos submitted a bill for payment in the amount of \$9515.50 which is part of the total fee of \$13,994.41. Kathy Norem made the motion to approve the proposed contract of water tesing; seconded by Jennifer Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: PICTOMETRY

Rhonda Milner, the Starke County Assessor, appeared before the Board as a discovery session. She advised the aerial views of the improvements to property, which is attached to the property record cards, needs to be updated. The last aerials were completed in 2005. She stated she has been in contact with a software vendor about a program named Pictometry. The company supplies aerial digital

photos of property in the county. The cost of the program is \$48412.50 which would include one flight in three years. She advised the State will be completing aerial views in 2013 and the county could participate in their project. She stated it could be implemented with the current GIS system. Implementing the Pictometry program could reduce the upcoming reassessment costs by \$38,000.00. Ms. Milner was inquiring if she had permission to set up a meeting with the Board of Commissioners, the Starke County Council and the software company. She advised the project could be completed in the fall of 2011. The photos would be 3D in the area of more dense improvements. Jennifer Davis made the motion to set up a meeting to have a demonstration of Pictometry in two to three weeks; seconded by Kathy Norem. The motion passed with all ayes. Rhonda also reminded the Board of an upcoming meeting in Indianapolis on Friday, Feb. 25, regarding the GIS system.

IN RE: RECORDER'S SOFTWARE

Lisa Minix, the Starke County Recorder, appeared before the Board to discuss a possible software update. She advised her office is currently using Manatron to do its redacting, but she is not satisfied with their cooperation in resolving issues that occur with their software. She is interested in a new software company, a program named Fiddler. She advised for a three year contract, the costs would be \$17,000.00 a year for three years, and a one-time fee of \$19,000.00 for conversion and installation. She advised there is currently \$27,000.00 in the recorder's redact fund. The balance would be paid from the recorder's perpetual fees fund, which can be used without appropriations. There is currently a balance of \$42,000.00 in that fund. Marty Lucas stated he does have some questions regarding the company's proposed contract. Ms. Davis made the motion to allow the purchase of the software, pending Mr. Lucas' review of the contract. Ms. Norem stated she did not like the portion of the proposal where there are user fees for the online services. She advised maybe if there is a big demand for the online services, to revisit the idea in the future. She would like to see how the public access portion compares from vendor to vendor. Lisa advised most companies are going with online services. Marty is concerned that they could be creating a monopoly on supplying the data to the public. He advised he would like to check into the contract further and discuss it with the Recorder and the software company. Jennifer withdrew her motion. Kathy made the motion to table the approval for two weeks while Mr. Lucas investigates the situation further; seconded by Jennifer Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: ED TRUTY FMLA EXTENSION REQUEST

Ed Truty, a jailer for the Starke County Police Department, appeared before the Board to request an extension of his FMLA which will expire on Feb. 27, 2011. He had a statement from his doctor which stated he will be able to return to work on April 30, 2011. Ms. Davis inquired as to how the work was being completed now, and he stated they are using two part time workers. Also asked if the request was denied, would the Sheriff fill the position. Sheriff Cowen was not present at the meeting. Ms. Norem stated regrettably she makes a motion not to extend his leave. Doing so could set a precedent. He could also be eligible for rehire if the Sheriff wishes to do so. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion for denial of the request, passed with all ayes.

IN RE: STARKE COUNTY BURN ORDINANCE

Dan Bridegroom advised the Starke County Environmental Agency was in support of the proposed burn ordinance. Jennifer Davis made a motion to pass the proposed burn ordinance. Kathy Norem stated, regrettably she could not second the motion. She stated, even though this ordinance meets the state's statutes, so does the current county burn ordinance, and since the county already has a burn ordinance she didn't see the need for another. Dan Bridegroom disagreed, stating he was in favor of the new ordinance and therefore seconded the motion. The motion passed with two ayes, Kathy Norem voted no to the ordinance. Jennifer requested that Marty update the county's current ordinances and get them in synch. She advised maybe Mr. Lucas and Bob Smith could work together to find a company that could index them, update the language, and then post online. It could possibly be funded through the cumulative capital fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Bridegroom asked Charlie Weaver, the director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, about the Rockwell property that was going up for sale at the county's certificate tax sale on Tuesday, Feb. 22. Mr. Weaver advised there is actually four different parcels and the name on the property was SCP Building Products LLC. The taxes were last paid in 2009 and the amount of the taxes in arrear was \$93,000.00-\$96,000.00. He advised the Starke Co. Econ. Dev. Foundation was interested in the property, and he was attending the sale. They would like to see that property remain as an industrial building.

Robert Smith, the county IT Director appeared before the Board to request their signatures on a copier agreement for the Starke County Corrections. Jennifer made a motion to sign the papers, seconded by Kathy Norem. The motion passed and the papers were signed.

Dan Bridegroom advised in reference to the Bass Lake State Beach, the DNR should change the wording of their pier proposal, from Group Piers/Moorings Station to Pier's only. A copy of the correction should be sent to the county.

He also requested the subject of Mr. Lausten's request to vacate a county road, be added to the next Commissioner's Agenda. He advised Marty should look into the matter.

Commissioner Davis reported on the Starke County Health Board's recent meeting. The Health Board would like to see the septic fees be lowered from \$200.00 to \$60.00 for a new installation and \$60.00 for septic repairs. The fee for copies of birth and death certificates be set at \$10.00. Councilman Mark Smith advised the Board that lowering the septic fees could affect the revenue stream which would affect the health department's budget. Ms. Davis also reported that the position left vacant by the retirement of Dave Singleton will be filled with a part time person. She advised the State will now be conducting the soil survey positions, since no one locally is certified. The health board also discussed possibly combining the food and septic inspectors, but for now they will remain two separate people. In reference to the \$250.00 fee the health board would like to fine establishments that do not have a current food permit, Marty Lucas advised he doesn't believe the health board can set the penalty, only the county commissioners could. He will check into the situation. Food inspections hadn't been done in 18 months, but are now starting again. It is believed 1/3 of the food establishments have expired permits or none at all. Commissioner Davis requested the Health Board be placed on the March 21, Commissioner's Meeting Agenda, which is a night meeting and therefore, Dr. Alexander would be able to attend that meeting.

Commissioner Bridegroom announced he believed the Sheriff's Department was working on a plan to add a fee to the amount of bonds set on the prisoners in the jail. He believed they wanted to place those fees into the police pension fund. Commissioner Norem stated she was not interested in seeing the bond amounts be increased, since they had already requested the Judge set the bonds at a lower amount, which would enable the prisoners to bond out easier, and quicker. Since no one was present at the meeting from the sheriff's department, at that time, the discussion ended.

Marty Lucas stated he would like to add Bruce Wakeland to the next meeting's agenda.

Commissioner Norem advised Carl Goodrich, maintenance person at the courthouse, has been receiving bids on replacing the elevator shaft. So far bids received have been \$64,000.00 and \$72,000.00. The repair expense will be taken from the cumulative capital fund. Also the furnace at the jail needs to be replaced, with an estimate cost of \$12,000.00, which would also be taken out of that fund. She also stated Sheriff Cowen might be asking for additional squad cars.

Also discussed was the Juvenile Detention Contract, which was also added to the next meeting's agenda. Currently the county is paying \$129.00/ night to house a juvenile. The Muncie Detention Center is willing to house juveniles for \$89.00 / night and also provide the transportation. The difference is that

the \$89.00 charge would have to be pre-paid. Marty Lucas has the contract, and will be reviewing it before the next meeting.

In reference to the costs to the county for animal control, Mr. Bridegroom announced they could be out of money by the end of the month, that was budgeted for that expense. He stated maybe they should write out more specific criteria for the sheriff's department dispatcher, before the animal control officer is called out. Also they are still looking into seeing if the county has an agreement with the Starke County Humane Society.

There being no new business, Commissioner Norem made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51pm.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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