

**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Charles Chesak and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley at 7:07PM due to the lateness of the County Council Meeting.

#### **RESPONSIBLE BIDDING ORDINANCE**

President Binkley opened a Public Hearing at 7:08PM for the Responsible Bidding Ordinance. There was no one present with any comments for the passing of the ordinance. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:09PM. Commissioner Norem made a motion to adopt the Responsible Bidding Ordinance, 75-01-2017. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Ordinance was signed by the Board.

#### **STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION 5 YEAR PLAN**

SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver and the Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to discuss the SCEDF's 5 Year Plan. Director Weaver advised since all the Commissioners were present when they had presented the plan to the County Council at their meeting at 5:30 he thought now he could answer any questions they may have on the plan. Commissioner Binkley inquired about the plan to expand the railroad crossing in the industrial park. Director Weaver advised eventually Knox Fertilizer would be developing but other land would be acquired for the railroad. Commissioner Norem stated she had some comments and some questions on his report. She stated she wanted to recognize the Highway Superintendent for the great job he has been doing especially in his planning of the bridge and road portion of the 5 Year Plan. She noted she can see he is taking the reins to move the County forward. In regard to the 5 Year Plan she asked if there shouldn't be a change to the order of plans to make Hamlet a priority. Director Weaver stated he would like to address Division Road and CR300E first and then address the 750E & 500N widening intersection in Hamlet next. Commissioner Norem inquired about purchasing Sysco land and building a Spec Building on that location. Director Weaver advised he has been tossing about the idea but on the Sysco Land the wetlands need to be relocated but believed it wouldn't be that difficult to do. She then asked about the acquisition of land in North Judson. Director Weaver advised they do not have any present plans to buy land in the North Judson area but they are looking for an agreement close to the existing infrastructure inside the town limits. Superintendent Ritzler advised he is scheduling an assessment and he will share the cost with the SCEDF. Director Weaver noted he doesn't have a problem with making Hamlet first as he is the Treasurer of the US 30 Coalition making US30 a Freeway. He advised they should schedule a time in June or July, bring in a Consultant and have a combined meeting with the Commissioners, County Council and the Planning Commission. Commissioner Norem advised he should let Supt. Ritzler take the lead on the road projects to prepare for the future. She then asked as to why the County should contribute to SCILL. Director Weaver advised they are getting into robotics and robotic training. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see the SCILL Financial Reports to assist in future discussions.

#### **SHERIFF DULIN'S REQUEST TO PAY DENTAL INVOICES**

Sheriff Bill Dulin advised he has approximately \$13,512.50 of past due dental invoices from the years 2014-2016 that have not yet been paid. County Attorney Marty Lucas stated he could not recommend the approval of their payment as they do not state who they have worked on or the type of work that has been performed. He stated the invoices need to specify who they are servicing and what the service is to have it in our history as documentation that specific inmates were treating and what the treatment was that they received. The Sheriff thought when the Dentist is at the Jail he could send in an officer to record who is being treated and what the treatment is that they received. He noted the Dentist charges by the hour and not by the patients. He also noted he has spoken with his health group and was told at least 47 other counties use this same Dental Company and no one else has any complaints on their work. The Board advised they will need to see better billings.

Sheriff Dulin advised the grinder has arrived for the septic system. Commissioner Norem advised there will be a construction meeting tomorrow morning and she asked if Phil Cherry could be present so they can work out a schedule for the departments that will need the inmates assisting with the move. Sheriff Dulin asked for the dates and how many inmates would be needed.

#### **PARK BOARD REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR**

Park Board President, Debbie Mix, appeared before the Board. She advised the Park Board is requesting an independent inspector to inspect the Bass Lake Beach and Campground to see if the Leasee is in compliance with the Lease. She advised the County's Inspector didn't work out and neither did the City's Inspector. Ms. Mix stated she is looking for someone who has nothing to do with the whole deal. The cost of the inspector would be \$300.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the \$300.00 to be paid from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund to pay for an inspector with a contract written by Attorney Lucas. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem asked if Debbie has been posting the meetings as they do need to comply with the open door law which is that they need to be posted at least 48 working hours prior to the meeting. She stated she has been putting a notice on the window. Auditor Chaffins asked for her to email in the notice to the Auditor one week early for it to be posted on the County's website also. Commissioner Norem stated then if the agenda is updated to send in the updated version. Ms. Mix asked that the 5 Year Plan be posted on the website. Attorney Lucas stated the County is waiting on the final version of the 5 Year Plan. Once that is received it will be posted on the County's website.

Ms. Mix also stated the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum wants the County to lease the Trails. She advised they will be presenting more information at a future meeting.

#### **EMA DIRECTOR AND THE COUNTY'S RADIO SYSTEM**

Jacob Lippner, the County's EMA Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the County's radio system. He advised the 800 radio system will be cut over to the P25 System on March 22 & 23 and he still have 7 counselettes and one K-9 radio that need to be completed.

He advised in regard to the Koontz Lake radio project it appears they need an antenna with an approximate cost of \$4,000.00. He stated if the County was to take down an antenna and move it to Koontz Lake the cost for that would also be approximately \$4,000.00. He noted Koontz Lake is not happy with the work completed by J & K Communications. They are saying their radios are spotty; they aren't working and they used to communicate better with the older radio tower. The Board advised Director Lippner not to pay the J & K invoice that they had required only be paid if the work was an improvement. Lippner advised the EMS Director Keith Emigh and he tested the radio in the Koontz Lake area and believed it sounded much better. Sheriff Dulin stated he was having problems with the Jail's radio system also. Brad Hazelton stated Hamlet was experiencing issues with their service. The Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler also advised they were having problems with their radio service also. Commissioner Norem asked for another company to look at the radio system; and the radio tower in Hamlet was no longer working for Koontz Lake. Commissioner Binkley stated Director Lippner should get two more quotes for the whole County system starting at dispatch and working out or starting at Koontz Lake and working in. Director Lippner stated he would like to see better communication between departments to report all their radio problems. Commissioner Norem made a motion to invite Bartronics and Miner to look at the whole radio system, to see what the problem is and what it will take to fix it. The works needs to be completed ASAP and needs to include also the Sheriff's and Highway Department's issues. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Director Lippner asked all departments with radios to report any radio issue to Jacob. He would like to inventory the entire radio system in the county.

#### **AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, AND VENDOR CLAIMS**

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chesak and passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll claims voucher with a pay period ending on March 11<sup>th</sup>, a pay date of March 17<sup>th</sup>, in the total gross amount of \$227,438.04. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$248,820.03. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a brief discussion in regard to the Memorial Day flags placed at the County's cemeteries by the American Legion Posts. Veteran Officer Mark Gourley spoke of the situation and stated he felt it best if the money was divided equally to all three posts. He advised the American Legion in North Judson will be covering the Round Lake Cemetery also. Commissioner Norem made a motion to send out each one of the American Legion's three posts a check for \$2,000.00 to each separate Post. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Township Trustee Mark Allen inquired if they distribute flags to the cemetery on CR700N off SR23. Veteran Gourley advised he personally handles that cemetery.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Cheask asked Superintendent Ritzler about culvert drainage on CR900S, east of US35. He stated he was advised it was asked to be lowered and was told the culvert ends were smashed. He advised he would like to see the Highway Dept. supply the culvert and stone. Supt. Ritzler advised he will look into the matter.

Commissioner Norem announced the Open House of the Old Jail and County Courthouse Remodeling Projects which will take place on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. The Dedication Ceremony will begin at 11:00AM.

Trustee Mark Allen advised he will attempt to speak to Bartronics in regard to the radio system.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

**MARCH 20, 2017**

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Donald Binkley, President

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Kathryn Norem, Vice President

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Charles Chesak

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