

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

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 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 6:18PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting. Commissioner Charles Chesak was absent from the meeting.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE KNOX BOX UNIT

Maintenance Director Jim Coad and Chief of the Knox Fire Department, Kenny Pfof, appeared before the Board to present what they are wanting to purchase. Director Coad advised it was a Knox Box. He advised a Knox Box is a surface unit attached near the front door of a building which stores the keys to the building in the event of a fire. Director Coad noted that in the past a fire department would need to wait at the building until a janitor arrived at the scene and unlocked the building for the fire department. He stated now the fire department will unlock the Knox Box and obtain the keys to get into the building. He stated the approximate cost of a box is \$318.00 each for a dark bronze box. Director Coad advised he would like to purchase three boxes, one for the Annex Building, one for the Annex 2 Building and one for the County Courthouse. They would be paid for out of the building's three budgets. Kenny Pfof noted that the box would hold the front door key which would be the master key for the building. He stated that only Knox in Starke County could use the Knox Box and no one else in the County is using the same principle. Only larger cities have them. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the purchase of the Knox Boxes through the budgets of Director Coad. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IT DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

IT Director Richard Franks appeared before the Board of Commissioners and submitted a written report. He stated he was not certain as to what information that they were requesting. He showed what he does on a daily basis; and showed the results of the survey that were returned. He advised he had emailed out the survey to all department heads and then it also is attached to the ending of the Help ticket. He also noted he is working on updating the web server. He advised he does not need any extra parts at this time; it just requires extra time. In regard to finding an IT Assistant he stated he has received four applications at this time and will be setting up two interviews later on this week and hopes to do two more next week.

REPORT FROM STARKE COUNTY CORONER

Starke County Coroner Dannie Hoffer appeared before the Board. He advised he had spoken to the Lake County Coroner who advised the charge per autopsy would be \$1,100.00 each, with a \$400.00 charge to the hospital for rental and assistant and \$260.00 in toxicology reports. The Board advised he should just continue using the program he is now using. Coroner Hoffer also advised he will have a meeting with Ms. Dickinson at the LaPorte Hospital to see if he could implement the use of a quick lab for a possible opiate OD. He also advised Starke County is one of the top five in the State in opiate overdoses. He noted because they are The State Board of Health will be paying for toxicology reports for anyone's death due to an opiate overdose.

SHERIFF DULIN'S REQUEST TO UPGRADE CAD SYSTEM & CREATE COMMUNITY SERVICE PLAN

Sheriff Bill Dulin repeated a brief summary of the purchase of a CAD system for the Starke County Justice Center. The Board advised him he will need to go through the process of getting more prices and were not certain if bids would be required. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised he will research this and advise what exactly would be required. The Sheriff spoke to the Auditor about looking for information on the present CAD system they are now using. He advised he would like to look at the other agencies that would also be using the new system to seek if they could participate in its cost; agencies such as the probation department, the Community Corrections, the fire departments and the city and town police departments.

Sheriff Dulin advised he has been working with Shawn Matraw who is the new Probation Director and the Interim Starke County Community Corrections Director (following the retirement of Robert Hinojosa). The Sheriff advised Community Services have been done away with at the County Justice Center but now he would like to utilize the low level misdemeanors who have been sentenced in the Knox City Court. He stated he would like to create a Community Corrections Workers Schedule from that group of approximately 12 to 24 who would be available on Saturdays to do community work such as garbage pickup, working in the areas parks, etc. He stated he would charge them \$2.50 per hour and they would pay up front. The Sheriff advised the money would be placed into a fund that pays for part time jailers.

AUDITOR’S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for the pay period ending on 4/7/18 with a 4/13/18 pay date in the total gross amount of \$252,801.21. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to pass the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$199,262.97. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

President Binkley advised he had received a request for a signed agreement with Community Services for 2018 which includes the \$10,000.00 yearly donation. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Community Services 2018 Agreement. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley signed the agreement. Auditor Chaffins advised they had also included the claim for the \$10,000.00 payment.

LOOSE DOGS

Commissioner Norem advised she has received several phone calls lately in regard to loose dogs. She stated the County has legislation on file but it was prepared in 2000; it talked about the Animal Control Officer and the Starke County Humane Society but that is now outdated since we no longer have an animal control officer or a contract with the humane society. She stated what we do need however is to revise the legislation to make it stricter and current. Sheriff Dulin stated the Prosecutor has stated that he will not prosecute any County Ordinances. Daniel Hillier and his wife were present at the meeting and he stated they have been experiencing problems with their neighbor’s dog. His wife had called around to the Sheriff, the Prosecutor and then to Commissioner Norem. She was frustrated that she couldn’t find anything that could be done. She doesn’t want a mean dog running loose on her property. Commissioner Norem asked if they should see exactly what the Prosecutor needs for this to work. Attorney Lucas advised he would speak with the Prosecutor, look into the past ordinances, and to see what the best solution would be.

REQUEST FOR GIS INFORMATION

Attorney Lucas advised he had received an email from Matthew Rummel asking to be able to share the GIS information they had requested with the KRBC but was not clear as to what exactly the purpose would be. He also noted he had been in contact with the LaPorte County Surveyor who advised they were asking for the GIS for their long term plans. Attorney Lucas stated he would like to ascertain exactly what their long term plans are before approval is given.

Commissioner Norem advised what they are wanting to do is to tax everyone north of the Yellow River with a river assessment.

SCEDF PASSOUT

Larry Wickert, the Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, presented information from their recent retreat they had held. He also noted he had sent out the monthly departmental report via email to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:07PM.

APRIL 16, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

ABSENT
Charles Chesak

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