

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 8:30AM via Zoom, Knox, Indiana, with Kathryn Norem (via Zoom), Bryan Cavender (via Zoom and In Office), and Charles Chesak (via Zoom) present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charles Chesak at 8:30AM.

### **MOBILE FOOD DELIVERY**

Auditor Oesterreich presented the Board of Commissioners an example of the Mobile Food Delivery form that would be used for residents to request grocery and hot food items. This form would be posted on the Starke County Government's website. Health Nurse Lynch advised they had also talked about calling a phone number and an employees of the Clerk's Office could take their information as there are some people without internet access. Auditor Oesterreich asked if there would be no charge for the residents for these mobile food delivery requests. Commissioner Norem advised that she thought Attorney Lucas stated 51% of the participants would have to meet the poverty level guidelines. She advised that if this is for the poor folks we should give them the food for free. Attorney Lucas stated that he believes the rule calls for that at least 51% of the people who are being served are low to moderate income. He also advised that how he understands about the funding of the supplies would be included as well. Edwin from the KIRPC advised that he spoke to Jerry White yesterday and there were two ways this grants would be submitted. One way would be limited cliental, this would be where we would need to take income verification from each person and at least 51% of those who are participating cliental would have to be low to moderate income. He stated or you could go in under a second option which would qualify the whole county and we would not have to verify income of each person that applies. The county could just need to set up guidelines on how and who they disperse those supplies too. Attorney Lucas explained that Jerry White from OCRA advised that we make need assistance in the grant application process which is where Edwin from KIRPC would come into play.

Edwin explained that when OCRA set up this COVID-19 response program, they said the local communities did not have to have a grant administrator, where it usually would be required, if you choose to have a grant administrator they would. The grant allows for 2.5% of admin fees. However, KIRPC is only charging 2% to cover their expenses. Commissioner Norem advised that knowing OCRA this is always more difficult than it seems and we would be far better served with the help of KIRPC. Edwin advised that he has already started the application process and just needs a few more details to finish. Commissioner Norem advised she would rather use the income survey and have the entire county eligible rather than asking for income information from every individual that would request assistance. She asked if we had an income survey completed recently. Edwin advised the last come survey was done in 2018 and is still good. Commissioner Norem made a motion to obtain KIRPC for the processing of the OCRA grant. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Edwin explained that one thing we have to do is have a public hearing. Commissioner Norem asked what the soonest it would be that they could begin this program. AS she understood it would could possibly get some reimbursement as long as we do not use our stimulus money toward this. She is wondering if we could start the program next week with another revenue stream pending the public hearing and reimbursement. Edwin advised he will have to check on that. Commissioner Norem advised that we need this program now not when we jump through all the red hoops and the tape. Edwin said he would check into this, he know OCRA is trying to streamline the process, but he would still have to check into how soon we could start incurring costs.

Attorney Lucas advised we could begin incurring costs with local funds but not federal funds. Local funds can be reimbursed 100% but federal funds cannot be reimbursed. Attorney Lucas also stated that we could arrange for some funds from the Community Foundation to be used, that would qualify as local funds. However, we have not secured these Community Foundation Funds yet but it does look promising. Commissioner Norem advised that CREDIT funds are considered local funds as well, but we would have to get council approval. However, the council does not meet again until a week after the public hearing for the OCRA funding. Edwin asked what was the pending date would be for the public hearing. The Commissioner's agreed on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. Some discussion was held regarding the use of the CREDIT funds as long as they will be reimbursed. Auditor Oesterreich advised the request for the use of the CREDIT funds would have to be published in the paper. The Board of Commissioners agreed

to publish for the use of \$100,000 from CEDIT. Attorney Lucas had advised that the Community Foundation has crafted their grant to cover some costs of administration as well.

## **SEARCHER DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Chesak advised that he feels the searchers should not be allowed in the building yet. Commissioner Cavender agreed and Commissioner Norem agreed.

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

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2020. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19AM.

**APRIL 22, 2020**

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

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Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners