

April 26, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Meeting Room, at 53 E. Mound St., Knox, Indiana, with two members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Joint Meeting of the Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council

**Re: Presentation of the Vision of Health Care for the Residents of Starke County
and Shared Plans of IU Health Starke Hospital**

Present were Dan Bridegroom and Kathy Norem, Starke County Commissioners; Starke County Council Members: Dave Pearman, Marvin McLaughlin and Tony Radkiewicz, and Representatives of the IU Health, IU Health Starke, and IU Health LaPorte.

Linda Satkowski, CEO of IU Health Starke, gave a brief presentation regarding the Campus Master Planning and Facility Assessment Program and Needs. She stated this was a discussion only meeting. She then listed program needs which include a fifteen patient bed facility, with an ER department and helipad, assorted clinics, and trauma/surgery. Different options were presented to the county officials:

Option 1: Greenfield Site would consist of a new facility built at a different location on approximately 15 – 25 acres. The total cost of the project would be approximately \$ 40,199,000.00 and would start the summer of 2013.

Option 2: A replacement hospital built on the existing site. A new hospital would be built and the old building demolished. The total cost of this project would be \$ 39,750,000.00 and would also start the summer of 2013.

Option 3: A major addition and renovation of the existing hospital building: This plan would consist of leaving the existing ER, and the 2nd floor would be administrative offices. The total cost of this project would be approximately \$ 42,200,000.00, with the same start time frame as the other projects.

They also advised they are planning tentatively in purchasing capital items in 2011 at \$ 1,332,445.00, and in 2012 at \$ 1,760,500.00 and in 2013 at \$ 1,835,500.00.

Questions were then asked of the IU Health representatives. Councilman Pearman inquired as to what types of services will they be providing, what have they learned from successful experiences that they already had, and why not show a model comparison based on a similar size community.

Commissioner Norem inquired what their vision was and what are the means. The representatives stated they believe they currently have approximately 48% of the market inpatient care.

Councilman McLaughlin inquired as to what the hospital representatives are actually proposing.

They responded they would like to see a new facility, since major money would need to be put into the existing facility to keep it up to code.

Councilman Pearman asked what is the hospital looking for from the county.

Ms. Sathowski inquired if the county wants to stay in the hospital business, and if the county wants to stay in the lease or not.

Councilman Pearman stated he felt a 15 bed hospital seemed like a small facility. The hospital representatives stated they currently have a 53 bed facility and the average census is 9. When they took over the hospital, the census was 2. The new facility would be strictly a med/surg. Hospital. There are not enough babies being born in Starke County to justify an OB department.

The hospital representatives stated in the next 22 months the services at IU Health Starke will be increasing while the building is crumbling.

Commissioner Bridegroom inquired what investment do they want from the county?

Marty Lucas stated the hospital needs to state what the proposal is, something definite, how it will effect employment, a vision of services to be provided and the costs involved.

The representatives stated it is time to put together options that includes a vision. It is not an option to stay as is. The IU Starke hospital is the county's 4th largest employer.

Commissioner Norem stated the hospital has not been maintained properly over the last several years.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated they need to know what the liability will be for the taxpayers of the county.

The representatives stated they will come up with a plan and should be able to get back with the county within a 90 day timeline.

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Pearman.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

ABSENT
Jennifer Davis, Member

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners