

Monday, May 14, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session/public hearing at 6:00PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Dan Bridegroom and Jennifer Davis present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Norem.

President Norem advised the purpose of the assembly, to hold a public hearing, in regard to amending the Ordinance that was created: Joint Ordinance Restricting the Use of the Proceeds from the Lease Dated October 1, 1996 of Starke Memorial Ordinance. County Attorney Marty Lucas read the following: the ordinance may only be rescinded, modified, or amended following separate public hearings conducted by the Board of Commissioners of Starke County and by the Starke County Council, and after the consultation by each of such bodies with the Community Board of Directors, by a joint ordinance adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board of Commissioners of Starke County and by the affirmative vote of no fewer than five of the members of the Starke County Council.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to open the public hearing portion of the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes, and the public hearing was opened at 6:03PM. President Norem called for any comments from the public. With there being none, Commissioner Davis made a motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The public hearing was closed at 6:05PM.

Commissioner Bridegroom commented that without funding of the consultant, and approval for funding by the County Council, it will be difficult to move forward with the project of the valuation of the hospital. Commissioner Davis suggested if the "Save the Hospital Fund, was not used to pay for a consultant/appraiser possibly the proceeds could be used from another Fund, but the County definitely needs a consultant for this project.

Attorney Lucas read the proposed amendment to the "Save the Hospital Fund": amended to authorize expenditures of up to \$50,000.00 to appraise, evaluate and offer consultation regarding the future of the hospital and associated assets and property. Expenditure of additional funds to effectuate those purposes may be authorized without additional amendment of this ordinance, but must be supported by a unanimous vote of the commissioners, and five members of the council.

Marty Bedrock, a hospital board member, who was in the audience, remarked that the offer that was proposed to the county, by the hospital, is now off the table. President Norem advised that the hospital lease will expire in four years, and it is not too early for the county to start working on the conclusion of the lease. The county should not wait until the last minute to determine how to proceed and they would like some guidance in their decision of how to proceed. She suggested the hospital committee write up a RFP, as to what they expect of the consultant, and have it ready when the council approved the amendment to the ordinance.

Commissioner Davis noted the county is not only planning on the valuation of the hospital's assets, but also, they are planning on a strategic plan about the future of health care in the county. President Norem stated in the meantime the hospital will continue paying their \$75,000.00 per year, according to the lease agreement. She noted the lease stated a total of \$125,000.00 per year would be paid for the first five years, and then fifteen years of \$75,000.00 annual payments. She advised the hospital committee is composed of three county council members, one commissioner, and three hospital board members.

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the amendment as was stated by Attorney Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with an unanimous vote of all ayes. President Norem advised the commissioners will encourage the county council to move ahead and approve the amendment as well.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17PM.

May 14, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners