

May 19, 2008

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 3:45 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Mark Milo absent and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Kent Danford moved to approve the May 5, 2008, minutes seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

John Norris, interim Highway Superintendent, stated that NIPSCO incorrectly marked a road. The highway started to dig and found out that it was not marked correctly. They went to lunch and a NIPSCO employee came out and stated that the road was not marked correctly. NIPSCO then correctly marked the road and pictures were taken. County Attorney, Martin Bedrock is to handle this.

John reported on the cost of pug and oil per mile and the amount of other materials needed that they have.

The highway department reopened C.R. 700E and Toto Road yesterday. They will install either a 10" or a 12" banded tile with a basket on each end to prohibit small animal entry. They will also install an 18" to 24" pipe under the road for drainage. Kevin Kroft made a motion to use the 10" banded pipe seconded by Kent Danford with 2 ayes.

Sue Himes, Highway Clerk, presented the 2007-year end report and inventory for the highway department for approval by the commissioners. Kent Danford moved to approve seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

There was discussion between the commissioners, Mark Smith and Terry Turner regarding Terry's editorial about highway layoffs and drivers not having anything to do all day as a result of no money. Kevin Kroft stated that layoffs were never discussed at a meeting and no one is twiddling their thumbs at the highway.

Sue Himes reported that she attended a FEMA information meeting last week regarding water damage and claims in Starke County.

John Norris reported that 4 roads are still closed due to high water. He was asked why high water signs were there and not road-closed signs. He reported that the signs cost \$65 each and are being stolen. The high water signs aren't being taken.

There is a problem at C.R. 210, Bass Lake. Pictures were sent to the state. The problem is at the "pocket" where water is at the road's edge and needs a seawall put up. This needs permission from the DNR.

IN RE: 2008 BUDGET CUTS

Mark Smith, County Council President, appeared regarding the budget cuts for 2008 that are needed. He reported that the financial situation is not as dire as previously reported. There are monies available in Cum. Bridge, LR & S, MVH and Commissioner EDIT funds, approximately 2 million to work with. The problem exists because the departments operated on the belief that the budget would be approved early in the year and was not approved until April or May with cuts to be made due to additional appropriations that were requested last year. Mark cautioned that arbitrary cuts should not be made that will require additional appropriations later in the year, as this would cause the state to cut the 2009 budget and we will be in the same position next year.

IN RE: MAJOR MOVES

Kent Danford stated that he called the state regarding major moves money and has had copies of 2 letters being sent to him by the state from 2006 and 2007 that were sent to the Auditor that he personally never saw.

Melinda from Kemco made a presentation to supply the highway department with cleaning and paper items at less cost. Kevin Kroft advised John Norris to put out for bids.

IN RE: SATELLITE OFFICES

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, asked the commissioners to ok the 6 satellite deputy county assessors' offices. The offices will be in their homes. She needs the commissioners' approval in order to go before the council. Kevin Kroft moved to approve seconded by Kent Danford subject to financial details and employee vs. contractors worked out.

Kevin Kroft reminded everyone that there is no cost to the townships at all for these offices or persons. Any level II certification fees will be paid out of the Starke County Budget.

IN RE: SENATOR EDWARD CHARBONNEAU

Kent Danford acknowledged the attendance of Senator Ed Charbonneau at the commissioners' meeting.

IN RE: HIGHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP

Superior Environmental submitted a restrictive covenant to be signed by the commissioners. Kent Danford moved to

approve seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

IN RE: STARKE COUNTY LANDFILL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mr. Sirhan with Superior Environmental stated that the landfill issue is back to square one with the state. He stated that the county needs to check for insurance coverage at the time (closed in 1982) and give that information to Mr. Sirhan and Mr. Liggett so that they can pursue this. Kevin Kroft moved to approve the County Attorney, Martin Bedrock, to work with Superior Environmental on this seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

IN RE: OFFICE FOR I.T. COORDINATOR

Bob Smith, IT Coordinator, requested that the commissioners designate the office he is presently in as the IT Office. This office was formerly part of the Treasurer's Office. Kevin stated that they can't do this as the new Treasurer in 2009 might want that office back rather than sit out in the public area of the Treasurer's office. It was suggested to ask the assessor about the Center Twp. Assessor's office that will be vacant after 7-1-08.

IN RE: ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES REQUEST BY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Oscar Cowen, Sheriff, appeared before the board to request permission to go before the council for 2 additional patrol officers, 2 additional jailers and 2 additional dispatchers in order to be up to the state required levels. There was discussion about where the money would come from and if they would need new cars and if it was for the rest of 2008 and 2009, etc. Kevin Kroft moved to allow 2 additional patrolmen, 1 additional jailer and 1 additional dispatcher. Motion died for lack of a second. Kent Danford moved to allow 2 additional patrolmen with no new vehicles purchased for the remainder of 2008 seconded by Kevin Kroft.

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF E.M.S. EMPLOYEE

Brenda McLean appeared before the board to ask why her husband, Larry, was told to stay home last weekend as this cut him out of 48 hours of pay. Randy Abbey informed her that he was suspended with pay. Kent Danford stated that the discussion ends right now and an executive session called. The executive session was set for Friday, May 23, 2008, at 1:00 pm and Larry needs to be there but she is not to attend.

IN RE: EMS

Randy Abbey asked the commissioners to approve a Family Medical Leave for Debbie King. Kevin Kroft moved to approve up to 12 weeks seconded by Kent Danford with 2 ayes.

IN RE: SENATOR ED CHARBONNEAU

Senator Charbonneau stated that he enjoyed his attendance at this meeting, especially the financial issues and how the commissioners handled them.

IN RE: PAYROLL AND VENDOR CLAIMS

Kent Danford moved to approve the payroll claims seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

Kent Danford moved to approve the May 19, 2008, vendor claims seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

Kevin Kroft moved to recess the meeting until Friday, May 23, after the executive session, approximately 2 pm seconded by Kent Danford with 2 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

5-23-08

I, Dona M. Hoban, do hereby certify that nothing was discussed other than what was posted pursuant to Indiana Code and no action was taken. Witness my hand and seal this 23rd day of May, 2008.

Dona M. Hoban, Deputy Auditor

The commissioners' meeting reconvened at approximately 2:00 pm on Friday, May 23, 2008. Mark Milo was absent.

Kevin Kroft was approached for permission for a tent sale this is not in the city limits. Dent Danford moved to allow and to have Kevin Kroft sign the permission form seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

Kent Danford moved to suspend Larry McLean for two weeks without pay and with 1 year probation seconded by Kevin Kroft with 2 ayes.

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April 21, 2003

Kevin Kroft, President Kent Danford, Vice President

ABSENT

Mark Milo, Member Michaelene J Houston, Auditor