

**MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 10:21AM in person at the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with Charles Chesak (in person), Kathryn Norem (in person) and Bryan Cavender (in person) 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 directly after the Joint Session with the Starke County Council at 10:21AM.

#### **KIRPC AGREEMENT/COVID EMERGENCY PROJECT**

Shawn Cain with KIRPC came before the Board of Commissioners to request a KIRPCA Agreement and COVID Emergency Project Resolution be approved. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the KIRPC Contract Agreement as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Norem asked Shawn if the Broadband Grant/Assessment has been all taken care of and closed out. Shawn stated it was not and asked if we have named an individual yet as a point of contact for the Broadband Applications. Auditor Oesterreich advised that at the May 18th meeting Commissioner Chesak and Commissioner Cavender had appointed Pam Starkey with the Planning Commission to be that point of contact. Commissioner Norem made a motion to reaffirm Pam Starkey as the point of contact for Broadband Applications and Contact. Commissioner Cavender seconded that motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Shawn explained that once IEDC has approved the county as broadband certified they will get to go ahead and schedule the public hearing and it can be moved forward. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Relief Grant Application to OCRA. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

#### **SHERIFF/SQUAD CAR REQUEST**

Sheriff Dulin came before the Board of Commissioner to continue the conversation regarding the squad car request. Commissioner Cavender explained that Sheriff Dulin would have an individual with him while looking at these vehicle to make sure they are not purchasing anything with frame damage or irreparable. Commissioner Chesak asked if they would be inspected after everything is fixed. Sheriff Dulin advised yes they would be by the Indiana State Police. Commissioner Chesak asked if the vehicle will have a salvage title. Sheriff Dulin explained it would have a rebuilt title. Commissioner Chesak advised he just wants to make sure everyone is safe when the vehicles are in use. Commissioner Chesak asked if Sheriff Dulin was getting two vehicles. Sheriff Dulin advised if he gets the money allotted for two new vehicles he would be able to buy four rebuilt vehicles. Sheriff Dulin also stated he would like to keep the vehicles they would be retiring for the use of replacement parts, rather than put them in the county auction. Commissioner Norem advised she wanted the Sheriff to be able to have wants he needs and the Sheriff and Commissioner Cavender are firmly convinced that this is the way to go and the our liability insurance company has stated they will cover these vehicles as well but she is still very anxious about it. Commissioner Norem advised it would be up to Commissioner Chesak. Commissioner Chesak advised he feels better about the idea as long as the Indiana State Police inspects the vehicles. Commissioner Norem advised that if the other two Commissioners vote for it she will not vote against it she will abstain from the vote. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to accept Sheriff Dulin's proposal as to the purchasing of salvage title vehicles. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with two ayes and one abstention. Commissioner Norem advised she would like to pay for this from the Jail CEDIT rather than Cumulative Capital Development.

#### **CONTRACT SIGNING FOR 250N B/T US35 & RANGE AND RANGE B/T SR10 & TOTO RD**

Superintendent Ritzler presented the contracts for the Community Crossings projects on 250N B/T US35 and Range Road as well as Range Road B/T SR10 and Toto Road. No action is needed. Commissioner Chesak signed the contracts.

#### **AUDITOR PAYROLL, MINUTES, AND CLAIMS**

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket for a total in the amount of \$153,188.85. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the payroll docket in the amount of \$260,569.34,

including deductions in the amount of \$77,373.41 for the pay period ending on 5/30/2020 and pay date of 6/05/2020. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

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

Auditor Oesterreich presented an Electronic Map Data Application Agreement between Starke County and CoreLogic. The cost to CoreLogic would be \$750.00 and this amount would come payable to Starke County Government. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Electronic Map Data Application Agreement between Starke County and CoreLogic. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Proclamation of Consecration and Dedication Veterans Memorial of Starke County, Indiana as it was written, spoken, and to have the document recorded. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem read a thank you card from Hazel and Arnold Richie. It states "I want to thank you for the food delivered to our home this week. Since I had an accident in February and had a compound fracture of my right ankle, I have not been able to drive. I am hopeful that next week the Doctor will let me drive. Thanks again. Please use this money to help others.

Commissioner Chesak presented the Findings and Order of the Petition of Argento, LLC. Attorney Lucas advised that Argento, LLC filed a claim regarding the decision of the Board of Commissioner and the vacation of Original San Pierre Lots 140, 148, and 149. Attorney Lucas advised he felt the Board of Commissioners should respond with this Findings and Order. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Findings and Order as presented. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised she has prepared a budget for the Park Board for 2021. She intends to take a position on the Park Board when one becomes available at the end of her Commissioner term. She explained they currently have a zero budget and the problem with a zero budget is often, when you apply for grants, there is usually a match that needs to be made. She advised that the Park Board is an economic development tool. She advised that the City of Knox, Town of Hamlet, and Town of North Judson all provide money to their parks. She advised the Park Board also needs secretarial support for all the grants paperwork that will need to be done as well as upkeep of the website and minutes for the meetings. So, she has included \$2,500 for a contract secretary. Commissioner Norem has advised that she has also requested monies for office supplies, maps, and projects. She explained that the Park Board does have a five year plan and they have a number of projects on that plan. One of the projects that is being talked about is a kayak launch which will include parking and improved signage. The total budget that she has put together is \$35,000. She will be presenting this to the Park Board. She advised the Board of Commissioners does not need to approve the budget but she does want the Board to vote on the budget as a blessing to move forward. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the budget that has been created for the Park Board. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Larry Wickert, Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the Board of Commissioners to advise that OCRA has another round of grants available relating to COVID-19 relief. What they are offering now is grant or loans funds for local businesses. He is asking/suggesting that the Board of Commissioners apply for that and his office would be glad to handle it if they would like them to do that. He explained that the Board of Commissioner can help local businesses by going up to \$25,000 in a loan or up to \$10,000 in a grant. He also explained that when you go the loan route you do have an option into eventually turning it into a partial grant. He advised this could become a revolving loan fund and it is an opportunity to build this fund up and continue to help businesses in Starke County. Commissioner Norem asked what the definition of small business would be under this agreement. Attorney Lucas would also like to know about the geographical locations as the City of Knox was just approved for a grant by OCRA for businesses. Commissioner Norem asked what the top limit is of a small business. For example, there is a factory over by the old horse palace. Director Wickert advised he believes it is based on the number of employees. He is not sure the answer to that right off the top of his head. He believes it is 100 employees or less. Commissioner Norem asked if they made a loan to one of the businesses for \$25,000 and they failed to pay that money back, the county would not be on the hook for that. Director Wickert agreed except to the extent if the Board of Commissioners wanted to do a match. Commissioner Norem advised the county would not have any money for a match. Director Wickert explained they have always reserved about \$50,000 for this type of

stuff anyway. Commissioner Norem asked if that was based on their contract. Director Wickert stated yes based on the contract plus they were already sitting aside \$50,000.

Commissioner Norem asked when the deadline on this is. Director Wickert advised that they just extended the deadline another two weeks. Commissioner Norem explained she does have interest but would have to know more details as how this would affect the county funding. Director Wickert advised that 80% would come from OCRA and 20% would come from the Economic Development Foundation. The interest would be whatever they would want to put on the loans to the businesses. He explained that any money that would be loaned out we could be putting back, with interest, into this revolving fund. Commissioner Norem asked Director Wickert if they have a shortage in their budget for next year. Director Wickert advised they have had a shortage for several years. Commissioner Norem asked how this would affect this opportunity. Director Wickert advised they do have some money reserved for specific things. Attorney Lucas suggested that it would be helpful to the Board of Commissioners to know what businesses would qualify within the county and what other opportunities are available or what kinds of things can be incorporated. Commissioner Norem asked if it would be possible to do a collaborative project with Hamlet as they do not planning on applying and there are both restaurants and businesses in Hamlet. Director Wickert asked if in collaborating she meant that they should be a part of the application or if this grant, that we would get for the county, would help with Hamlet. Commissioner Norem said she would like to see it help with Hamlet and they could even collaborate with us.

However, she does like Attorney Lucas's suggestion to find out what businesses would benefit from applying for this grant. Director Wickert asked what they were saying about the Sheriff. Attorney Lucas advised that within these grant application for COVID-19 relief they need to be able to document how this has affected us and the Sheriff has stated that the Therapeutic Community had stopped accepting new participants from Westville Prison, which was directly due to the COVID-19 because there was an outbreak within Westville Prison. This in turn, has costs significant revenue to the county to support the jail. Director Wickert advised they would not quality as this grant is to help for profit businesses. Commissioner Norem would like to make sure there is no liability to the county if something did not get paid back, and the understanding that the county does not have the extra dollars to put into a match. After further discussion regarding the management process of the grant and the revolving loan it was decided that a member of the Commissioners, Council, and Economic Development Foundation would sit down and discuss how they would like to move forward with the management of the funds before applying for the grant. The Board of Commissioners will make a formal decision during their next meeting. Commissioner Norem made a motion to table the discussion until their next meeting pending a formal meeting between the parties mentioned to discuss how things might work and then we can present it here at their next meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42AM.

**JUNE 15, 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