

Monday, June 18, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session 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 Commissioner President Norem at 8:05PM. President Norem noted changes to that meeting's agenda: the Auditor's business will be moved to the end of the meeting; add Wightman-Petrie to the agenda; add the proposed 2013 Commissioners' budget; add discussion in regard to the opening on the CVC Board, and add the discussion by Commissioner Bridegroom in regard to Lomax Station.

RE: CR300E & SR8 PROJECT

Starke County Economic Development Director, Charlie Weaver, and Edwin Buswell of KIRPC appeared before the Board. Mr. Weaver advised requests were sent out requesting a SOQ, a Statement of Qualifications, of engineering firms in the project of CR300E & SR8. He advised only one statement had been received. County Attorney Lucas opening the sealed envelope and advised the SOQ was from Territorial Engineering Firm. Mr. Weaver then submitted an evaluation form that required the Commissioner's completion. After completing the evaluation, Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the Statement of Qualification from Territorial Engineering, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012

County Health Nurse, Frank Lynch, and Rachele Back, Regional Director of the IN Dept. of Health, Tobacco & Prevention Cessation Commission, appeared before the Board to discuss the statewide smoking ban that will go into effect on July 1, 2012. Ms. Back advised the complaints will be received on a web based system, noting if the business has an alcohol or tobacco license the complaint will be handled by the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC), and if the business doesn't, the complaint will be handled by the local Health Department. She added the listing of the penalties of violations will be sent out after July 1st. Mr. Lynch advised the local food inspector will also be noting violations. Ms. Back advised each business will need to post a sign on each entrance door and then two signs posted inside the business. She noted the State has prepared a tool kit consisting of the sample signs and other information and will be distributing them that week. The sign posted on the entrance of the building should state no smoking within eight feet of the entrance. In regard to fraternal organizations such as the Legion, or the VFW, she advised they would need to file for an exemption before June 30th. If they fail to file they will be a no smoking facility. If they are exempt they can only allow smoking in a designated room. If the facility has only one room, children under the age of eighteen will no longer be allowed in that building. There was a brief discussion as to the current county policy in regard to smoking and what will be the county's duties in the enforcement of this statewide smoking ban. Mr. Lynch noted he will probably be asking for part-time clerical help to assist with the additional work load that is anticipated from the enforcement of the smoking ban.

RE: BRIDGE 51

Kenny Jones, of Wightman-Petrie, and Sue Himes, Clerk at the County Highway Dept. appeared before the Board and submitted paperwork in regard to the proposed Project Specifications for Bridge Number 5. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the proposed changes, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all eyes. Mr. Jones also advised the Common Construction Wage Hearing adopted in March expires after 90 days and it will be necessary to submit the application to the State for the scheduling another Wage Hearing. Commissioner Bridegroom advised Auditor Chaffins to fax the request into the State in the AM. Clerk Himes presented paperwork to the Board, in regard to a proposed change in the Bridge 9 replacement project. The proposed change is to the guardrail specifications for that bridge. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. The proposed change will decrease that bridge project by \$2,110.00.

RE: ANTI-NEPOTISM ORDINANCE IN EMPLOYMENT, RESOLUTION IN CONTRACTING

County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised the Board needs to approve the Anti-Nepotism in Employment Ordinance, and the resolution in Contracting. He noted the key difference between the ordinance and the anti-nepotism ordinance that is currently in effect in the county, is that the new ordinance requires that each county department certify in writing, by penalty of perjury, by December 31 of each year that department is in compliance in both areas regarding anti-nepotism. Auditor Chaffins advised she has recorded the first meeting in December be the meeting the county will review the certification statements of each department. President Norem advised, since there is a possibility the county could be penalized in their 2013 budget if every taxing entity in the county is not in state compliance with their resolutions/ordinances, she would like to see each township trustee, the county's towns and cities drop off a copy of their resolutions/ordinances when they are at their DLGF budget workshop which is scheduled for the 2nd week of July. Auditor Chaffins advised she will notify the individual taxing units of the request. She advised she will give a report at the 2nd meeting in July as to who was or was not in compliance with their resolutions/ordinances.

RE: STARKE COUNTY BURN BAN

President Norem stated she had been in contact with the County's EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti, who had sent her a copy of a proposed County Burn Ban. She noted there are currently twenty two counties in the state who have passed a county burn ban. She also advised the burn ban will not prohibit the use of personal fireworks. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to pass the County Burn Ban with an expiration date of July 2, 2012,

seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem stressed the importance of the public to use extreme caution in the use of fireworks. She added if they were to start a fire they will be liable for the fire. Council President Dave Pearman, the Assistant Fire Chief for the Washington Township Fire Department, advised a violation of that burn ban is a Class B misdemeanor, since that would be a violation of an EMA Director directive.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

The Painting of Courthouse Windows:

President Norem advised that the Courthouse Custodian, Carl Goodrich, has requested that the County advertise for someone to paint the exterior of the windows on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the Courthouse. She noted the Commissioners do have funding available for an advertising expense if they were to advertise for such a company that would have a scissor lift. Commissioner Davis, the Commissioner in charge of the Courthouse, advised she will talk to Mr. Goodrich about the painting project.

Vacation Time:

In addressing the lack of consistency in the employees' accumulation of vacation time between the regular County employee handbook versus the employee handbook of the county highway department, Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to allow the regular county employees adopt the same vacation time accumulation schedule as is currently in effect at the county highway department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis, and passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas advised he will update the employees' handbook.

CVC Board Vacancy

President Norem advised there was a vacancy on the Convention and Visitor's Commission due to the resignation of Board member, Patty Lawson. She asked the media to advertise the board vacancy.

Lomax Station

Commissioner Bridegroom noted in a discussion with the Three-County Drainage Board, following a canoe trip down the Kankakee River, their interest in the property at Lomax Station. He wanted it noted the County is not interested in getting involved with any purchasing of real estate.

2013 Commissioners' Budget

President Norem advised she had passed out, to the other Commissioners, her proposed Commissioner's budget for 2013. She noted the health insurance expense would be estimated using the actual cost and increasing it by 15%, the liability insurance should only increase by no more than \$4,000.00 over the 2012 expense, and she had asked the Auditor to calculate the estimated social security and Medicare expense from the other departments' budgets. She also proposed moving the payment of the KIRPC annual fee, from the Commissioners' budget out of the CEDIT Fund to their budget in the County General Fund. President Norem also projects the cost for worker's compensation insurance to increase to approximately \$130,000.00 if they would change their insurance carrier to Downey Insurance. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the proposed budget figures, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

Auditor's Business

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the vendor claims in the total amount of \$154,846.03, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the payroll claim for the pay period ending on June 9, 2012, in the amount of \$170,324.33. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 4th Commissioner meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11th Commissioner Work session, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins reminded the Board of the Commissioners' work session in regard to the Municode document, to be held on Tuesday, June 19th, at 3PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Betty Dotlich inquired why the County's website can't be updated with the latest Council and Commissioner minutes, and the latest agenda posted prior to the meeting. Auditor Chaffins advised her Deputy, Suzanne McCarty had offered to assist the IT Director, Joe Short, in the updating of the County's website. The Board advised Auditor Chaffins to follow through with that offer to Director Short.

In regard to the problems the San Pierre Fire Department has been experiencing with their radio tower, Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve Director Short to contact the RayCom Company in giving a price quote in the county's request for a radio maintenance contract. He noted any expense charged by Ray Com would be applied to their contract. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55PM.

June 18, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners