

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Charles Chesak and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley at 7:15PM due to the lateness of the County Council Meeting.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MONTHLY PRESENTATION

President of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, Larry Wickert, appeared before the Board and presented a brief report of the activities for the Foundation. He explained a recent meeting held at the Oregon-Davis School was in regard to the US30 interstate project. He stated they will listen to local communities and the state's main goal is for safety and the flow of traffic. He also spoke about the need for the first half of the funding for the SCILL Center, the appropriation requested of \$40,000.00. Commissioner Norem stated they do have a committee reviewing the contract with the SCEDF but they did note that SCILL will be needing those funds to begin school this year and it was agreed to.

ADA/TITLE VI PLAN

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present the ADA/Title VI plan that he recently completed and submitted to the State. He advised it was required for the recent grant applications he submitted. Superintendent Ritzler stated in order to implement the ADA/Title IV program he will first have it updated to the County's website for links and forms. He stated he will then create ADA/Title VI packets for each Department and Meeting Room which will contain: complaint policy; complaint form; public involvement survey; language identification flashcard; and sign in sheet for public meetings. He advised he would then train the Department Heads in the use of those packets during the next Department Head meeting. The Superintendent also noted he will add a line item in his budget, ADA/Title VI line item for expenditures out of the MVH funds, in the amount of \$500.00. He noted the following expenses could be paid from that budget item: materials for the departmental packets; promotion of the Starke County ADA/Title VI policy; Indiana ADA/Title VI association fees; training expenses for the ADA/Title VI coordinator; and training for county employees. Commissioner Norem set the date of the next Department Head meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 22nd at 9:00AM.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, AND VENDOR CLAIM

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim Docket for the pay period ending on July 1st, with a pay date of July 7th, in the total gross amount of \$231,132.76.

Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$359,061.32. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5th meeting.

Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem advised due to the resignation of Betty Dotlich the County has an opening as a representative to the KIRPC Board. She stated the meetings were quarterly, there was no pay for being on that board, and you will not be reimbursed for your mileage. She advised she would like the letters of interest of serving on that board to be sent to the Auditor's Office.

In regard to the PTABOA Board she advised Carolla Heilstedt has been placed on the Board due to the vacancy of Ed Hasnerl from that Board.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to appoint Randy Johnson to serve as the County's Veteran Service Officer. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised the EMA Committee needs to meet to go over the EMA Director applications. Commissioner Binkley stated he will schedule the meeting.

County Attorney Marty Lucas stated in regard to the John Howard claim to be reimbursed for a tax sale purchase, he has completed a Form 137B and the claim also includes the attorney fees in the amount of \$400.00 thus making the total amount of the claim \$1,511.00.

But following a discussion with Deputy Auditor Suzanne Sims, Treasurer Kasey Clark, and Health Nurse Frank Lynch a specific plan of action has been decided in regard to tax sale property that is in question since the conditions of a tax sale is "buyer beware". He advised you don't purchase property at a tax sale, you buy the tax lien at the sale. If you then follow the statutory procedures and if the owner does not bring the taxes up to date then you can apply for the deed. He advised he has created a form notifying the possible purchasers at a tax sale of any potential history of a parcel of land. Commissioner Norem advised she will give the form to Frank Lynch to have to fill out when property has been marked as being "contaminated". He stated it regard to the property purchased by John Howard they will proceed with the reimbursement of his money and attorney fees since the property in this case is assumed to be contaminated, a place where meth was being made, and the purchaser was not aware of its condition.

Auditor Chaffins asked Commissioner Norem when the next Building Corporation meeting will be held since the County just received a vendor claims docket for the next board meeting. Commissioner Norem stated the meeting will not be held until September 5th as was stated at the last Building Corporation meeting, and the claims docket will have to wait until the September meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dannie Hoffer inquired about a piece of property he purchased at a tax sale and now he is being charged from the Town of North Judson for a delinquent utility bill for that piece of property. He was advised to contact the Town to work it out.

IT Director Mark Gourley advised the IT Department is managing but it has been a challenge. He noted the Sheriff's website is showing zero prisoners and Director Gourley stated he will take down the county's website and also the Sheriff's Department's website Tuesday evening after regular working hours to correct the problem. He advised there seems to be a problem with the interface between the web server and the data base.

There being no public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

JULY 17, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners