

July 18, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom at 7:25PM.

IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIM

Commissioner Norem made the motion to approve the payroll claim dated July 9, 2011 in the amount of \$170,472.24; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with two ayes.

IN RE: VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to deny payment of the claim submitted by the Contract Food Inspector, Dave Kesvornas, payable to Mr. Kesvornas in the amount of \$630.00, because of the lack of supporting documentation. The Commissioners are requesting a report be submitted with the claim that would show the date and location of each inspection. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to deny, and it passed with all ayes. They requested the Auditor send Mr. Kesvornas a letter informing him of this documentation requirement.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to deny the claim submitted by the County Treasurer, Linda Belork, payable to CDW for bar code scanners her office had purchased in June. The Treasurer was requesting to pay the \$476.19 invoice out of her line item 003-3000.8 printing and mailing of statements. She only has \$1,506.44 in that account, and still has an invoice outstanding to pay for the actual printing of the tax bills, in the amount of \$6667.00 which needs to be paid from that line item. They had requested the Treasurer appear before the Board at this meeting, but she did not show. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion to deny the Treasurer's claim, and it passed with all ayes. The Commissioners suggest the Treasurer appear before the Council to transfer money, so that the tax statement bill could be paid. The denied claim would need to be paid out of a different account.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the vendor claims minus the Kesvornas claim and minus the Treasurer's claim, leaving a balance of \$146,913.24. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

IN RE: MINUTES

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the July 5th & July 6th Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The final minutes of the June 6th, June 16th, and June 20th meetings were then signed.

IN RE: IT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor appeared before the Board as the spokesperson for the County's IT Committee. She advised the Committee has reviewed the applications received to replace Robert Smith, IT Director, who had submitted his resignation to be effective July 29th. The Committee consisted of Rhonda Milner, Probation Officer John Thorstad, IT Director Robert Smith, County Clerk Evelyn Skronski, and County Auditor, Katherine Chaffins. The Committee recommended to the Board Stuart "Joe" Short as their selection to replace Bob Smith. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the selection, and offer Mr. Short the position. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Mr. Short appeared before the Board and advised the Board he will accept the offer. He will attempt to work at least two days, the week of July 25th, so that Bob could work with him. Mr. Short's full time status will begin on Aug. 1st.

IT Director, Bob Smith, appeared before the Board with a request for approval of the Sheriff's new copier lease agreement. The costs involved are \$212.30 yearly for maintenance agreement, and \$74.41 monthly, for a 60 months lease. Mr. Smith stated that even though there would be a \$200.00 plus yearly increase in costs, it would improve communications with the Judge. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the new copier lease, payable from the IT Department's budget. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. A copy of the lease agreement is on file in the Auditor's office.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised Bob the keys for the Annex Building need to be submitted to James; and the keys to the Courthouse should be submitted to Carl. Commissioner Norem stated they wish Bob the best in his new position.

IN RE: KOONTZ LAKE SEWER PROJECT

Kenneth Jones, of Wightman Petrie, and Paul Warnke, of the Koontz Lake Property Owners, appeared before the Board to give a status report of the progress of work completed on the Koontz Lake Sewer Project. They advised the work is ahead of schedule. A copy of the update report is on file in the Auditor's Office.

IN RE: EMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kris Rannells, Dave Combs, and Charles Collins appeared before the Board to present the EMS Committee's recommendation for the replacement of Lisa Burger as the Starke County EMS Director. Ms. Burger's resignation is effective July 31, 2011. Mr. Rannells advised they had received 30 applications, with 7-8 on those from out of state individuals. The Committee, (which consisted of Kathy Norem, Dave Combs, Charlie Collins, Kris Rannells and David Emigh) interviewed seven applicants. Mr. Rannells advised one candidate stood out among the others, and therefore are recommending Paul Matheson to be the new EMS Director. Mr. Matheson, who currently has management experience, is also a certified paramedic. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept their recommendation and name Paul Matheson as the new County EMS Director. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Norem inquired if the county will have ALS, paramedic service, by Jan. 1, 2012, and Mr. Matheson responded affirmatively. Norem thanked the committee for their time and efforts in this long process.

IN RE: ELECTION BOARD REPORT ON PRECINCT BOUNDARIES

Evelyn Skronski, Pat Mitchell and Jim Henriott of the Starke County Election Board appeared before the Board to present the report of boundary changes that will be going into effect. Mrs. Skronski advised that the divisions of the House districts are as follows: Dist. 16 will include North Bend Twp., California Township, Wayne Township and Precinct Two of Washington Twp. Dist. 20 will include Center Twp., Jackson Twp., Davis Twp., Oregon Twp., Railroad Twp., and Washington Twp.-Precinct One. The Senate division will be as follows: Dist. 5 will include California, North Bend,

Railroad and Wayne townships. Dist. 8 will include Center, Davis, Jackson, Oregon, and Washington townships. Mrs. Skronski requested the Commissioners' signatures on a Notice of the Starke County Commissioners of No Objection to the Precinct Boundaries. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the boundaries with no objections; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes, and the notice was signed. Mrs. Skronski stated the report is due to the State by August 4th. Also, these boundary changes will affect the 2012 primary election.

At his time in the meeting, President Bridegroom opened the floor to the public.

IN RE: BRIDGE 156 PROGRESS REPORT

Ken Minett, of Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, appeared before the Board to give an update of the status of the Bridge 156 project in Starke County. He presented the Board with the bridge plans. He advised the request for bids will be advertised in the July 21st edition of the newspaper, and also on July 28th. Since bids can't be opened until seven days following the 2nd notice, the meeting to open the bids will be Thursday, Aug. 4th, at 11:00AM. He also advised the Bridge 156 project will be completed in 100 days, but the bridge will be open to traffic in 82 days. He stated the DNR permit should be in by Aug. 1st. The wage scale meeting is scheduled for Tues., July 19th, at 10:00AM. Commissioner Bridegroom stated the following will be attending the meeting, Bob Sims, of the County Council, and Ken Wallace and himself. Mr. Minett advised the next step would be to have Debco begin construction of the box beams. Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize Debco to proceed with the construction of box beams, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes. Mr. Minett stated the bridge should be open by the end of October. Also a set of the plans and bridge specifications can be inspected at the County Highway Garage, or can be purchased through the office of Butler, Fairman & Seufert. He also stated that the hydraulics for bridges 9 & 62 has been completed. He is working with the DNR to get approval on the hydraulics. He expects a spring target date, to begin those bridge projects.

Commissioner Norem stated the Bass Lake Property Owners have purchased new community neighborhood watch signs and were requesting to install those signs on the existing county street signs. Steve Siddall, county highway Superintendent, advised that was fine. She stated Jerry Taylor is the contact person for the BLPOA. She also stated there is an area in the "pocket" on the roads at Bass Lake that needs to be cleaned. Steve stated the BLPOA used to have an "adopt a road project" that would clean the county roadsides, but that isn't in effect anymore, and possibly Jimmy Coldiron would take prisoners out and clean the roads. He advised he would have them cleaned.

IN RE: RAILROAD VEST PROPERTY

Steve Dodge, attorney for Wade Allen, with the US Railroad Vest Company, appeared before the Board with a proposal in regard to a parcel of railroad property in Wayne Township. Mr. Dodge advised that over \$16,000.00 is owed in delinquent county taxes. If Mr. Allen were to pay the delinquent taxes, which totals approximately \$6,000.00, would the county be willing to write off the penalties on that property, which totals approximately \$9,000.00. Marty Lucas advised he would check with the State to see if such an action is permissible. Mr. Lucas requested the proposal from Mr. Allen be in writing, so that it would be a binding offer. Commissioner Norem made a motion to have Marty Lucas proceed with the research, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: IN OTHER BUSINESS

Bev Santicola, of CROPS, appeared before the Board to inquire as to the process of installing signs to designate a bike trail, from San Pierre to the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve. She advised she is trying to revive the Sandhill Bikeway System, which had been proposed approximately 3-4 years ago. She stated the land that Trinity donated to Railroad Township, (where the Railroad Township Water Tower is located which supplies water to the San Pierre Volunteer Fire Department), should be open to the public as walking trails. But, she is before the Board to ascertain the correct procedure to install signs to denote the 44 miles of the Sandhill Bikeway System. She estimated the approximate cost of the signage to be \$500.00 - \$1,000.00. President Bridegroom stated he would talk with the County Highway Superintendent regarding those signs. He advised she should talk to the Visitor's Bureau. Marty Lucas stated in Laporte County, some of the county roads are designated as bike trails. But, is posting signs on a county road going to increase the county's liability if someone is injured while riding their bike? He suggested someone get an opinion from Bob Alol, of Territorial Engineers, regarding the bike trails. Dan stated he will talk with Steve and Bob and then get back with Ms. Santicola.

Jennie Carter, with the Starke County Visitor's Bureau, appeared before the Board to discuss the Visitor's Bureau. Marty stated he had reviewed the Ordinance Proposal officially creating a new entity, the Starke County Convention and Visitor's Commission. The Ordinance, 2011-05, created the commission to enforce the tax as stated in County Council Ordinance 2007-13. Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance that creates and establishes the Starke County Convention and Visitor's Commission. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Davis then made a motion to accept and rollover the current members and their terms to make up the Commission. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. A motion was then made by Commissioner Davis to accept the Bureau's recommendation of newly appointed members: Marty Lucas (D), Judy Jelinek (R), and Andy Beilok (D). Each term would expire after two years. These new appointees' terms would expire December 31, 2012. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The Visitor's Commission will consist of 5 Democrats and 4 Republicans. They are Marty Lucas, Judy Jelinek, Andy Beilok, Rich Wiczorek, Jim Shilling, Pat Mitchell, John Hensler, Jennie Carter, and Rick Chambers. The last six members' term will expire at the end of 2011.

Councilman McLaughlin addressed the Board with a complaint that the public attending a Commissioner or Council meeting can't hear adequately. He stated the person addressing the Board sits with their back to the audience and the Board just speaks to that person. He suggests a microphone system be used to amplify their voices. President Bridegroom stated he would discuss this issue with Bob. He stated they would also need to install speakers in the ceiling.

Bev Santicola returned to the meeting and addressed the Board. She offered to teach a two day grant writing workshop to counties and townships. She will donate her time. She would need at least 40 people to sign up for the class. They advised her to get in touch with Charlie Weaver, of the Starke County Development Foundation, Jerry Gurado, the SCILL Director, and Julie Desauer, of Starke United.

At this time, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Commissioner Norem passed out a newly proposed Dog Kennel Ordinance. She stated the new ordinance had been written by Dr. Valerie Johnson, the veterinarian in San Pierre. She had incorporated the state law into the ordinance that addresses commercial dog kennels. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he will present this version of the proposal to the County Planning Commission at their meeting on Wed., July 20th.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised that Bruce Wakeland announced the Open House to be held at the Starke County Forest on Saturday, July 23rd. Commissioner Davis stated the Commissioners should hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on that property. They could announce the event. She will talk to Mr. Wakeland and make the arrangements for that to happen.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised he had received correspondence in regards to IDEM and new laws on air permits, which would affect Trunkline Gas, in Starke County. He also stated the DNR advised of the Yellow River Project, which would affect the Yellow River between US35 and the Starke-Marshall County Line. He also advised of an invoice he had received from Fritz Fire Equipment in the amount \$798.00 for fire extinguisher services they had provided at the Courthouse. He also stated there is an invoice from Fritz Fire Equipment for the jail in the amount of \$106.00. He stated the bill for the jail will be given to the Sheriff to be paid from his Commissary Account. The bill for the Courthouse should be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Commissioner Norem made a motion giving approval to the Commissioners to sign the Resolution: A Resolution of the Starke County Board of Commissioners Requesting and Authorizing the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to Perform All Plan and Construction Inspections With Regard to the SYSCO Corporation Project in Starke County, Indiana. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The resolution was signed by all Commissioners.

Commissioner Davis stated she had received a call in regards to an issue involving mental health prisoners being handcuffed when they are escorted to the hospital. She advised she will obtain written statements from the hospital. Commissioner Norem stated she will obtain the Sheriff's response.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated the county had received an invoice from Steve Dodge in the amount of \$250.00 which was for the amount of research he had conducted into the Visitor's Bureau, and Marty Lucas' possible appointment to the Board. Commissioner Norem stated it should be paid from "other legal" of the Commissioner's budget.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated, in regard to a proposal from DC Tech Solutions, offering their services for a discounted rate after Bob Smith leaves the Director's position. Mr. Bridegroom advised they appreciate the offer, but he would like to talk to the new Director, Joe Short, to see if the extra help will be needed.

The Auditor advised the Board of a request to change the minutes of the June 6th meeting, which already had been finalized. A correction should state that Debbie Mix is the President of the Boa Shoes Property Owners and not of the Bass Lake Property Owners, as was stated in the minutes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to correct the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes and the minutes will reflect the correction.

Commissioner Bridegroom read an email the County Treasurer had sent to a representative of SRI, who handles the county's yearly tax sale. He also reported they had received the Treasurer's 47TR report for the month of June. He stated the figures on the report are not in balance, and the difference has increased, but that this month the report had been filed on time. The Treasurer never did attend the meeting as she was asked to do.

Marty Lucas advised that the County Attorney, Mr. Bovari, recommends that one spokesman for the Commissioners, reports on the issue of the jail, and that no motion is necessary. Commissioner Norem stated the Commissioners have been exploring other county correctional facilities and how they operate.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised of a situation at the end of Shuski Road, at Bass Lake regarding the number of cars that were parked on the roadway. The situation has been taken care of with the posting of signs. But, now there is a situation with boats stationed on the lake in that area, in front of home owner's property. He advised the water is not a county issue, and gave the homeowners the number of Tom Torsell, the State Conservation Officer in this area.

Marty Lucas advised the he has filed a "Notice of Vacation of Certain Tax Sales", in reference to two pieces of property that were sold at the October, 2010 tax sale to Larry and Debra Wappel. He advised he has been in contact with the attorney representing a neighboring property owner, Leapfrog, LLC. and the property sold at the tax sale were not parcels of land, but only a "right of way". Commissioner Bridegroom inquired if the county needs to evaluate the status of each parcel that is put up for sale at the annual tax sale, and Marty advised it is the plaintiff that needs to submit proof on the contrary; it isn't the county's responsibility.

With there being no more business, Commissioner Norem made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM.

July 18, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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