

ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS

July 19, 2010

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIMS

Kathy Norem moved to approve the payroll claims seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: MINUTES

Jennifer Davis moved to approve the June 30th and July 6th, 2010, minutes seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes on the June 30th and 2 ayes on July 6th as Dan Bridegroom was on vacation.

IN RE: WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FOREST AREA

Bruce Wakeland appeared before the board and informed the commissioners that he is a consulting forester and that he owns 154 acres in Washington Township that is all forest and marshland. He is offering 128 acres to the county as a county forest available to the general public for recreation, such as fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross country skiing, bird watching, etc. Maintenance would come from the sale of timber or other products off the land. There would be a parking lot on each end with no motorized vehicles going beyond those parking lots.

He spoke regarding the benefits of doing this. He is giving it just to support the forests of the state. He said Starke County is the most forested county in the state. He submitted paperwork regarding this to the commissioners. The Auditor did not receive a copy.

He has an irrevocable trust agreement drafted by an attorney. He is willing to make changes, within limits, if the commissioners want. He would manage and police the area. The trust spells out a lot of the details.

There would need to be a management plan. Steve Winicker with the D.N.R will help Bruce with the plan. Bruce further stated that he is going to be donating a lot of his own money for the start up.

Jennifer Davis asked about the liability to the county. Bruce stated that as long as he is alive, his homeowner's insurance would cover that. There is also extensive immunity for wild lands owned by a government entity.

Kathy Norem asked if he had prepared a budget and how much money would come in to cover it. Kathy also asked how often you can harvest the timber. Bruce stated that you harvest in such a way that you wouldn't have to replant. He also stated that invasive plants can be a problem if not kept up with. The commissioners would like to go look at the property.

Bruce went over some other properties like this to show the commissioners where he is going with this.

The commissioners will call him with a date to go look when the weather cools down.

IN RE: PLANNING COMMISSION BUILDING ORDINANCE AND WIND ENERGY ORDINANCE

Pam Starkey and Steve Dodge brought the building ordinance and the energy conservation ordinance back before the commissioners.

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Kathy Norem stated that she was very happy with the building ordinance and the way it follows state codes, but has a problem with the stop work order remedies. She would like an interim local step in place for appeals. Steve Dodge said he didn't feel anyone would use it as a builder, as they would rather go straight to court and get it over with as soon as possible in order to get back to work. Steve further stated that injunctions are special and trump other court cases. Injunctions are heard right away.

There was much discussion on the pros and cons of this. Jennifer Davis stated that she would also like to see the local option.

The commissioners are sending the building ordinance back to the planning commission with the stipulation that an appeal option at a local level be added.

Kathy Norem suggested that the board for this appeal consist of such people as certified electricians, certified plumbers and so forth.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the Wind Energy Ordinance seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS

Richard Callahan reported that the inspector had been back out and passed eight of the nine original citings. The ninth will be the testing of the water. He submitted reports for the two weeks of testing. He has made arrangements for the company to fax the results directly to Duayne Yazel at the state. So the beach and campground are now in compliance.

Richard stated that the campground is in need of an electrical upgrade. He explained what all was needed. The commissioners stated that they realize the transformer was an emergency, but that work that needs to be done needs to be approved and that he should get quotes for work being done.

Kathy Norem asked Martin Lucas, County Attorney, to check the lease as she wants to make sure on what is and isn't abatable against the rent.

The amount of the electrical work with Busse's with a receipt needed up to \$6,000 is pre approved by the commissioners.

Richard also reported that people park their boats there by the beach area. Some he knows and some he doesn't. He called the DNR and they put it on the commissioners. They are mooring their boats and leaving them without permission, blocking about ¾ of the beach. The commissioners are the public entity that can exercise reasonable control. There were more than 50 boats out there and he could only account for about 24 of them. The DNR is claiming it is a marina. Clyde Haniford stated that the boats have to have permits in order to moor. Richard stated that he does not want to be a marina. Dan Bridegroom will call the DNR and see what can be done.

IN RE: BOA SHORES PARK AREA AND ADJACENT PARCEL-BOTH ARE IN ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Ray and Deb Mix and Bill Egan asked about what the commissioners found out about the possibility to sell the park area at Boa Shores to the property owners' and the area in front of the Mixes to the Mixes. Martin Lucas will research and will notify the Mixes and Mr. Egan by mail.

Martin said that with regards to the park portion, there could just be a written agreement between the commissioners and the property owners. Jennifer Davis said that she can't see making the change with the park when it has been working the way it is, but that she will do whatever she can regarding the property by the Mixes.

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Mr. Mix thanked the commissioners for responding on his call regarding the house that was torn down next to them and apologized to Kathy Norem for the way he talked to her daughter. Mr. Mix stated that the run down shed by the house was left standing. The commissioners will go out with the planning commission to check. The commissioners told the Mixes that they should go to the planning commission meeting about this. The Mixes also stated that the road was damaged by the contractor.

IN RE: TAX SALE CONTRACT

Kathy Norem moved to approve the SRI contract for tax sales seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: SHERIFF DEPT. GENERATOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Kathy Norem moved to approve the Sheriff department's maintenance agreement seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: ENERGY GRANT PROPOSALS

Amps and Volts withdrew their proposal as their bid was for the work and supplies both and could not just furnish the supplies. The state said that all bids would have to be returned and rebid using all USA made supplies.

IN RE: PEST CONTROL FOR JAIL

Kathy Norem moved to approve the Arrow Pest Control contract for the jail at \$48.00 per month seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: FIRE PANEL UPGRADE AND SERVICE

Carl Goodrich submitted a Simplex agreement for the Fire Panel for upgrade and service. Kathy Norem wants another quote.

IN RE: COURTHOUSE GUTTER

There was a problem with a gutter at the courthouse. The repairs for cleaning and repairing the gutter on the third level of the courthouse cost \$1797.13. Atlas was called to do the repairs. Kathy Norem moved to put in an addition from Cum. Cap. for these repairs seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

IN RE: MEETING WITH HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES

There will be a commissioners' meeting with the highway employees on Friday, July 23rd, 2010, at 2 p.m. to discuss the new handbook.

IN RE: COUNTY AUCTION

The county auction is to be held August 12th, 2010. All department heads are to let Steve Siddall know what can be sold.

IN RE: HOMELESS PERSON WHO IS ALSO BLIND

Byron Walters, North Bend Township Trustee, informed Kathy Norem via a phone message that he has a blind homeless person in his area that needs help. Kathy tried to call Byron for details, but was unable to reach him. Kathy will be trying to get more information. Jennifer Davis gave some suggestions of where he might get help.

IN RE: DOG CONTROL PROBLEM

Kathy Norem reported several calls regarding loose dogs and wants this on the next agenda.

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IN RE: HOOSIER VALLEY RAILROAD PARTNERSHIP

Kathy Norem moved to approve the Hoosier Valley Railroad partnership agreement seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

There being no further business to come before the board Jennifer Davis moved to adjourn seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Jennifer Davis

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners

JULY 21, 2010

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in executive session at 3:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

I, Michaelene J. Houston, do hereby certify that nothing was discussed other than what was posted pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1.

Witness my hand and seal this 21st day of July, 2010.

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners