

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

July 30, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 5:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Mark Milo absent and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: ATTENDANCE

Present at the meeting were Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem, Auditor Michaelene Houston, Sheriff Oscar Cowen, Clerk Evelyn Skronski, and Councilman Mark Smith.

IN RE: PURPOSE OF MEETING—PROPOSED REVISIONS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

The meeting was called as a work session to discuss proposed revisions to the Employee Handbook.

County Attorney, Martin Lucas, rewrote the handbook incorporating all the approved amendments with the commissioners' and council's suggestions. He also edited the original version. The draft is on file in the Auditor's Office.

There was much discussion as the draft was reviewed.

The Auditor is to distribute to all office holders and department heads the completed draft in order for them all to review it before the commissioners and council make their final approval.

Kathy Norem stated that the highway employees need to be more in line with the other employees.

The Sheriff's patrolmen and the Judicial employees are under special rule.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned.

July 31, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 1:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Mark Milo absent and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: ATTENDANCE

Present at the meeting were Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem, Auditor Michaelene Houston, Councilman Mark Smith, Councilwoman Jennifer Davis, Randy Mitchell with K.I.R.P.C., Charles Weaver with the Economic Development Foundation, and media members Ted Hayes and Terry Turner.

IN RE: STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Randy Mitchell submitted copies of the O.C.R.A. guidelines for a Strategic Economic Development Plan. The meeting's purpose is to decide what the scope of the plan for Starke County would be—an Economic Strategic Action Plan. We could get a grant up to \$50,000 to conduct the study. If what the county is looking for does not fall within these guidelines, funding would be hard to get.

Mark Smith stated that we are really looking for a long term capital improvement plan.

Charles Weaver stated that they have a wish list for Economic Development at the foundation with prices and estimates. Charles said that we need to prioritize what we want and do some of it every year.

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Starke County was not prepared with a plan when the stimulus money became available and therefore, due to this, would like to develop a ten-year plan—where we would like to be in ten years.

Everyone reviewed the guidelines and discussed options for what they would like to accomplish. Randy said that the study would take about six months. He also said that our “land use” comprehensive plan also needs to be reviewed by the consultant during the study. The commissioners, the council and Charles Weaver will need to discuss what the elements of this study are going to be. Things we are directly responsible for—what we need to do to be successful in ten years for a vibrant community and to keep it safe and able to grow.

Jennifer and Charlie will summarize the county’s request on paper and will send it to Randy. Randy will come before the joint meeting on August 17 at 5:00 pm. Randy will put this into a letter of intent to bring for approval on August 17th.

The commissioners discussed recessing until August 10 at 5 pm to review the letter of intent.

IN RE: COUNTY PHONE SYSTEM

Bob Smith submitted a spread sheet on the phone system. Mark Smith said that we should get together with the prosecutor, the sheriff and the judge regarding the option of video arraignment to go with the phone system and possibly to include city court.

Bob will get a quote on the video system.

He also stated that to keep the prices good, we will need to decide at the August 17th meeting.

IN RE: REFUND OF TAXES CLAIMS

Kathy Norem moved to approve two refund of taxes claims for Stevensons—one in the amount of \$128.12 and one for \$573.86 seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

There being no further business to come before the board, Dan Bridegroom moved to recess until August 10th at 5:00 pm seconded by Kathy Norem with 2 ayes.

August 3rd, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Mark Milo moved to approve the minutes of the July 17th meeting changing “‘camping on the beach’ problem” to “‘camping on the beach’ situation” and removing the last sentence of the first paragraph under “Bass Lake Beach and Campgrounds” seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIMS

Dan Bridegroom moved to approve the payroll claims seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes (Mark with reservations).

Kathy Norem reported on the salaries she was to check—E-911 salaries. There were two significant increases that she found out was caused by the fact that those two employees had worked a holiday—July 4th. Between the salaried and the hourly, E-911 operators may fall into another category like the EMS does.

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Dan Bridegroom reported that the highway worker with an increase was that he had to remove a tree from the road during the weekend.

Mark Milo reported on the EMS—full timers work 48 hours per week, giving them eight hours of overtime every week. If they need a shift filled due to a call-off, full timers are asked first before the part timers as an incentive. If Randy Abbey, EMS Director, cannot fill a shift with another employee, he works it himself.

Martin Lucas, County Attorney, stated that E-911 operators do fall into the same category as EMS.

IN RE: VENDOR CLAIMS

Kathy Norem moved to approve the claims seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

The commissioners discussed cost effective lodging and how far away a meeting had to be before the county would reimburse for overnight lodging. Also, they are going to add to the handbook, that office holders have to get permission before attending a meeting if they want reimbursed for it. This would pertain to all meetings that are NOT state called.

IN RE: EMS

Mary Lynn Ritchie presented the elderly write offs totaling \$882.14. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes. Mary Lynn also submitted the bankruptcies and deceased write offs in the amount of \$5,689.60. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mary Lynn reported that she had received \$127.75 from Mr. O'Hara our collection agent and \$680 from the county clerk for small claims collections.

Kathy Norem wanted to know why Randy was not at the QA meeting at the hospital. She also wanted to know if we had received a grant a while back for snowmobiles and if so where are they. Mary Lynn will find out and get back with Kathy.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Steve Siddall, Sue Himes and Ken Minett appeared before the commissioners. Ken Minett stated that the letting for the stimulus project will be August 26th. All the plans have been submitted. Mark Milo moved to approve and have the president sign the project letter seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Ken also submitted the LPA Consulting Contract—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The contract is a state approved dictated contract. The commissioners can add to the contract, but they can't change or remove what is there. Mark Milo moved to approve the contract seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve the construction inspection letter for various county roads seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

C.R. 500N is now approved by the state as a major collector.

The highway department is going to be chip sealing 41 miles of pug roads from last year and the year before.

Steve Siddall asked which account to pay the \$104,494 for the consultant from. The EDIT fund was suggested as reappropriating that when the county is reimbursed won't have to go before the council. Dan Bridegroom will meet with Steve Siddall and Sue Himes to discuss this.

IN RE: DRUG FREE COMMUNITY

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Jennie Carter, director of the Drug Free Community, requested to take the 2010 budget to the council for approval. Mark Milo moved to authorize Jennie to take the 2010 budget to the council seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: FORMER STARKE COUNTY LANDFILL

Scott Liggett & Lisa Doan with Superior Environmental submitted a methane monitoring program for the former Starke County Landfill and a report of same for the commissioners' approval. They also submitted a list of costs for the program. (Both are on file in the Auditor's Office.)

The commissioners asked if any funding is available from the state. Martin Lucas, County Attorney, stated that it seemed to him there should be.

Dan Bridegroom is going to contact the current owners of the property to see if they would be more cooperative during the monitoring process.

Mark Milo moved to table any decisions in order to review the proposals seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

The commissioners will get back to Superior after they get some kind of an agreement with the current property owners.

IN RE: PROPOSED MOVING OF PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Kathy Norem asked what the next steps would be to finding a way to move the prosecutor's office. Mark Milo feels that buying another building would be wrong as it takes another property off of the tax rolls. They discussed putting the prosecutor on the 2nd floor of the courthouse and moving some of the offices to the old glove factory.

Mark Milo moved to advertise for someone to come and check the cost and to give some designs and ideas of "how to" convert the old glove factory to offices seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kathy Norem reviewed the proposed plan for mass vaccinations. She stated that it was well written and that it was needed. Grants are being given to purchase and administer H1N1 vaccines.

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Haniford and other Bass Lake residents wanted to let the commissioners know what has happened in the last two weeks at the Bass Lake Beach and Campgrounds.

Martin Lucas stated that a letter received from the Hanifords' attorney implicated the possibility of a lawsuit. The Hanifords waived their right to have their attorney present at this meeting. Mr. Haniford stated that the state guaranteed him that there would be no more camping on the beach side. Mr. Haniford further stated that there still is camping there and that Rich Callahan told the state that he was applying for permits. The Hanifords are worried that the Callahans are turning it into a trailer park.

Martin Lucas stated that the commissioners could refuse to discuss this due to the implication of a possible lawsuit.

Bill Sonnamaker doesn't want the area to turn into a trailer park either.

Rick Yover thinks that the Callahans have done the best job of anyone yet at the beach and campgrounds, but hopes, as a property owner, that the lease does not allow permanent structures such as decks and sheds, and no camping on the beach side.

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Vitas & Linda Kazragys are concerned with the possibility of mobile campers being on the beach. They personally don't have any issues with the tents other than health issues—restroom facilities for any kind of camping not being available.

Forrest Fishburn feels that if we don't take care of the situation now, it will just get worse.

Mr. Haniford said that they are also allowing tents right up against the fence and he is afraid someone will get hurt if a vehicle swerves too far into the berm of the road.

Mrs. Kazragys said in defense of the Callahans that they are doing a great job there, and the Hanifords agreed.

The commissioners will take all of this under advisement. They discussed having an executive session to discuss options for the implied lawsuit.

The commissioners would like Mr. Callahan to come to the next meeting. Martin Lucas doesn't think that there are any deed restrictions regarding camping on the beach.

IN RE: COMMISSIONER OFFICE HOURS

Kathy Norem will take the August 12th, 2009 from 9 am to 11 am and the commissioner responsible for August 26th from 4 pm to 6 pm will be decided at the August 17th meeting.

IN RE: C.R. 450E

Forrest Fishburn would like CR 450 E to be resurfaced. Mark Milo told him that there is no money for it this year. Mark will check on getting it patched.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mark Milo moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor &
Secretary to the Commissioners