

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015

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 and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Vice-President Kathy Norem. President Kent Danford was absent. Vice President Norem inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the posted agenda. Auditor Chaffins advised the Recorder had rescheduled from this meeting to the next meeting of the Board.

RE: EMS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Director Keith Emigh appeared before the Board and presented his monthly departmental report. He advised in regard to Operational Procedures: They are still working with the IT Department in regard to getting their billing software functioning properly after experiencing an issue with the County's server. The Clerk, MaryLynn Richie is working to recertify with more insurance companies and Medicaid. New protocols for service should be in place by August 10th. Travis Clary has assisted in establishing protocols for three new skills for Basic EMTs and will also allow the Advanced EMTs to broaden the skills they perform.

In regard to Personnel: Director Emigh advised they have hired six part time Paramedics and four more part time EMTs.

In regard to Education: Director Emigh noted he has taken a FEMA class with EMA Director Ted Bombagetti and Knox Fire Chief, Kenny Pfof. The class was called Readiness, Identification, Training and Preparedness Planning. Attendance at that class will make them eligible for other training and any available grants.

In regard to Rig Maintenance: Director Emigh noted all three of their trucks receive their normal monthly maintenance. The 2009 rig, # 0086, (the Medic 5 rig which operates out of the Grovertown Base) was taken out of service for two days but it is now back in service. However he advised they will probably have to replace the injectors in the vehicle and also possibly the turbo at an approximate cost of \$ 2,000.00.

In regard to Base Maintenance: Director Emigh reported they have been exterminating the bases on a monthly basis which has helped with the bug issues they were experiencing especially at the Medic 5 Base.

Director Emigh also reported he is constantly looking for ways in which to save money in their purchasing of supplies and services.

EMS Clerk Richie advised a total of \$ 369.94 was received from the Starke County Clerk from Small Claims Court and also received \$737.73 from Collections Attorney Jonathan O'Hara. She also noted a total of 187 runs were conducted in the month of July and as of July 31st the revenue received has increased compared to the end of July, 2014.

RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He advised in regard to Winter Maintenance: their salt cost has decreased from \$73.62 a ton to \$65.32 a ton. Their winter plow trainings have been scheduled for October and November. They are currently installing pavement sensors in the supervisor's trucks. They have also contacted the area schools to coordinate with them on plow routes and any other concerns they may have.

In regard to the Road Improvement Program: Superintendent Ritzler noted they were able to resume their paving operation in late July. He presented a copy of the status of Phase One Pavings.

In regard to the Spring Roadway Maintenance: Superintendent Ritzler advised patching was done throughout the month of July and will continue into August. They have removed over 62 trees from roadways during the months of June and July. They have replaced or repaired four culverts in July. They used their distributor truck for the first time in chip sealing the garage parking lot. They plan on using it to chip seal approximately eighteen miles of roadway in the next two months. They also used their recently completed water truck for the first time for dust control. They won't need to hire it out any more.

In regard to Mowing: Superintendent Ritzler advised the mowers were active as much as possible in July. Since the weather has improved they have managed to mow over 3200 miles in July. They are still cutting back brush from along the roadways which has become overgrown in the last couple of months due to the unusual amount of rainfall.

In regard to Local Bridge Replacements and Repairs: Superintendent Ritzler advised replacements for Bridges 1 & 71 are currently being designed. Construction on Bridge # 1 should begin in late summer; and construction on Bridge # 71 will begin early next spring. He also noted they will be replacing Bridge # 96 with either a steel pipe or a concrete culvert. Bridge repairs will take place on Bridge # 36 (on CR25N over Eagle Creek), Bridge # 52 (CR850S over Osborn Ditch, Bridge # 66 (on Range Road over Smith Ditch, just south of CR500S) and Bridge # 137 (on CR300E over Yellow River).

In regard to Bridge Inspections: Superintendent Ritzler advised Phase 1 of their latest round of bridge inspections has been completed. The bridge inspections were completed by USI Consultants. He noted the condition of the County's bridges has significantly improved over the last two years. The number of deficient bridges has decreased from seventeen to twelve and by the end of the year the number should be down to ten. A goal of having no deficient bridges in the County is on schedule for a 2020 completion date. He noted currently there are no closed bridges in Starke County.

Superintendent Ritzler advised he had some documents that require approval by the Board and a signature. The first documents were the permit applications to the Army Corps of Engineers in regard to Bridges 1 & 71.

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the permit applications, seconded by Commissioner Norem.

The motion passed with all ayes. The second set of documents was the Bridge specs for Bridges 1 & 71. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the submitted Bridge Specs. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem signed all the documents as the Board's Vice-President.

RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20th meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$ 172,352.06. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the Building Corporation's Claims Docket in the amount of \$36,039.19. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the Building Corporation's Claims Docket had been approved by the Building Corporation during their monthly meeting that morning. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket in the total amount of \$ 204,971.13 for the pay period ending on July 18th with a pay date of July 24th. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins advised she had presented the Board with a report of the Estimate Revenue Report and the Statement of Fund Balances both dated July 31, 2015, for their information only. She did note the increase of EMS revenue received thus far in 2015 compared to July 31, 2014.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley advised there was a decent turn out at the County's Public Auction held last week and the auction grossed an estimated \$ 8600.00. Auditor Chaffins noted Auctioneer Ben Osinski would be submitting the net proceeds to the County that week.

Starke County's Veterans' Service Officer, Mark Gourley, advised he had submitted his department's monthly report for the month of July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Holm and Greg Orr of the CR300E & CR800N area of Davis Township appeared before the Board. Ms. Holm stated she has been waiting 62 years in order to get those roads paved in her area and how much longer did she need to wait for it to happen. Superintendent Ritzler advised the County has approximately 100 miles of dirt road and they can pave approximately 10 miles a year. He noted there was not enough funding to have all the dirt roads paved in the County. Both Ms. Holm and Mr. Orr noted the large amount of traffic that travel on those dirt roads. Commissioner Binkley advised he will look into the situation since that is his area of the County.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

AUGUST 3, 2015

ABSENT _____
Kent Danford, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Donald Binkley

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