

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem and Don Binkley present, (Commissioner Kent Danford was absent) and the following proceedings were held to wit:

President Norem called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. Present for the meeting were Judge, Kim Hall, Nick Bourff, Jim Coad, Mike Gearhart, Vicki Cooley, John Thorstad, Bob Hinojosa, Joe Short, Marilyn Wickert, Colleen Hodges, Vickie Wallace, Scott Carnegie of DLZ, and Dion Katsouros and Bob Chorba of Skillman, Attorney Marty Lucas and Auditor Chaffins.

Scott Carnegie of DLZ began the meeting by reviewing the original proposed plans, an A version and a B version for the remodeling of the Courthouse to accommodate the Prosecutor's Office and the remodeling of the old jail as a proposed location for the Probation Department and Starke County Community Corrections. Dion Katsouros presented a cost estimate, project budget for both projects noting the cost to be \$2,213,473.00 without the alternate choices of the upgrade renovations to Scheme B at the old jail; the upgrade to the electrical service to the building; replacement of the emergency generator, and upgrade renovations to Scheme B at the existing courthouse. The total cost of the additional alternates was \$363,691.00. Dion advised the project could take six to eight months to complete.

Clerk Vicki Cooley advised she would like to see a separate room for all her records as a "Record's Room" and also requested the Small Claims Court be located on the same floor as the Clerk's Office.

Prosecutor Nick Bourff advised he would like to see a Conference Room available to be used by the Prosecutor's Department.

Judge Kim Hall suggested the possibility of the Health Department being moved out of the Courthouse and only have court related offices in the Courthouse. He then advised it would also be a good time to set up a security system for admittance to the courthouse with a metal detector. He noted it appears the best location for that would be the west side entrance.

Clerk Cooley also noted in addition to her records room she would also like enough room provided for her Election Office.

Custodian Director Jim Coad advised more storage room could be made in the County's warehouse if he had additional racks.

There was then a discussion in regard to the replacement of the generator at the old jail. IT Director Joe Short advised there is a need for the generator as the County's servers are located in that building. He estimated a cost of approximately \$100,000.00 in order to move the servers to the new jail's location as the cost of fiber optic cables is very expensive. He did note that a smaller size generator could be used.

Commissioner Norem noted another item to be added to the renovations list is the needed tuckpointing of the Courthouse and the second and third floor windows which need to be scraped and painted.

Commissioner Norem advised the next issue that needs to be discussed is how the County will fund the project and which funds can be used for these renovations. She advised Umbaugh had completed a financial report showing the incoming revenue and expenditures for the two CEDIT Funds: the regular CEDIT, Fund 1112, and the Special Legislation-Jail CEDIT, Fund 1113. She advised Auditor Chaffins had created two spreadsheets and factored in also the amounts budgeted currently and for next year of those two CEDIT Funds. She stated approximately 70% of the revenue for the projects will be from the Special CEDIT and 30% of the project costs will be paid from the Regular CEDIT. Attorney Lucas advised as long as the costs are related to the Justice System he believes the Special CEDIT can be used but he will verify that with Lisa Lee of Ice Miller.

Commissioner Norem stated she is also aware there are three Departments who could also supplement the available funding and those are the Prosecutor, the Clerk and Community Corrections. Bob Hinojosa, the Director of Community Corrections, advised as long as there is separate documentation showing the specific expense for his Department he believed the State would allow the SCCC to provide some of the funding.

Commissioner Norem advised in reviewing the available funding report, it appears the County would have a very tight budget to accommodate the proposed timeframe. She stated they will need to know the money available from each Department.

Scott Carnegie advised DLZ will meet with the Department Heads again to re-do their lists of priorities and then update the cost estimate.

Auditor Chaffins inquired if there was a possibility to delay the project by a few months in order for more revenue to accumulate as the revenue is received monthly from the State. Commissioner Norem stated there was a good possibility of postponing it by 3-4 months but she would like to see the projects be completed prior to the end of 2016. Dion Katsouros stated he will adjust his paperwork to reflect Plan B. Both DLZ and Skillman advised they will be reissuing new agreements to the County. Commissioner Norem advised the Board of Commissioners had previously approved the agreement with both companies at a May meeting. Judge Kim Hall questioned how Court will be affected during the remodeling project and the possibility of holding court in the other courtroom. Commissioner Norem noted both DLZ and Skillman are experienced with dealing with remodeling projects while the buildings were still being utilized for business. Judge Kim Hall also inquired in regard to the remodeling of the restrooms in the Courthouse. Director Coad stated the restrooms were addressed during the walk through of the Courthouse along with the boiler for the third floor. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to move forward with both of the projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norem and passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas noted the County is not making a commitment until the point when they accept bids. Commissioner Binkley stated the County needs to look into moving the Health Department out of the Courthouse and also suggested putting a roof over the outside recreation area of the old jail and not tearing that area down. There being no further business, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.

August 5, 2015

Kent Danford, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

ABSENT

Kent Danford

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners