

Monday, August 6, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00AM in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Dan Bridegroom, and Jennifer Davis present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President, Kathy Norem.

RE: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIMS & VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting, July 16th meeting, and the July 23rd meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the payroll claim for the pay period ending July 21 2012, in the total amount of \$173,065.76. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the vendor claims in the total amount of \$250,020.75. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the newly hired Deputy Auditor, Rachel Osterreich, to receive a key to the Auditor's Office. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

RE: EMS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, and EMS Clerk, MaryLyn Ritchie appeared the Board to present an update from their Department. Clerk Ritchie advised she had received another request from the Attorney Terrence Rubino once again requesting the Board consider his request for the County to reduce the EMS billing of his client. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to deny for the second time Attorney Rubino's request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Clerk Ritchie presented to the Board reports of unpaid claims, and a report of the runs by insurance carrier. She also noted there has been a 10% increase in the amount of EMS revenue received in comparison to this time, in 2011. She advised she had spoken with the SBOA Auditor Snyder, in regard to clearing out of their software any AR over two years old. The Auditor stated the County needs to have a policy in effect, that has been passed by the Board of Commissioners. Clerk Ritchie noted she will be looking for a similar policy, to see how the resolution would be written. She also advised they are working on an update to the EMS Base computer system, to enable the Base to upload their billing information directly to her office, which would increase the turnaround on the billing process. Director Mathewson made note of the great job the EMTs had done while working at the 4-H Fair, in dealing with the excessive heat. He directly noted EMTs, Rhonda Edwards and Brandy Solita who went above and beyond their call of duty.

RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

County Highway Department Superintendent, Steve Siddall, appeared before the Board. He advised he has received price quotes for the asphalt sealing of the Annex Building and the three EMS bases. The quotes are as follows: Les Jensen--\$1725./EMS; \$2076./Annex; and J & J Seal Coating--\$2175./EMS, and \$2450./Annex. Commissioner Davis made a motion to award the project to Les Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem advised the EMS Department has the necessary funds in their budget line item, equipment and building repairs, and the sealing of the Annex parking lot could be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Superintendent Siddall advised the Bridge 51 project has begun. He noted he is working on obtaining price quotes for the purchase of two generators to be used at the county highway, one for the building and one for the fuel pumps, since those are two separate lines. Commissioner Bridegroom noted EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti, is also working on obtaining generators. President Norem advised she had received a complaint in regard to trash being dumped at the "pocket", at Bass Lake, and asked Superintendent Siddall to check out this issue.

RE: IT DEPARTMENT REPORT

IT Director, Joe Short, appeared before the Board to give them an update of his department. He advised Ra-Comm had submitted their evaluation of the communications equipment in the County. Ra-Comm noted in their report that the two biggest concerns the County is facing are: 1. The radio antenna is picking up noise behind the jail from the electrical lines. He has contacted NIPSCO to look into this situation. 2. The Koontz Lake antenna is bad. Director Short then discussed the subject of maintenance contracts, noting they work on the same principle as an insurance policy. He suggested the County could possibly take the same amount that the County would have spent on a maintenance contract, and use that in which to pay for the costs of any repairs. He advised that a maintenance contract doesn't always cover all the radio and equipment repairs. In regard to the storm damage to the County's communication tower, the amount the insurance company will be covering is still unknown. He did state that the new tower's location would require to be moved from where it currently exists. He stated the original tower has a base of 5 feet, but the new tower will

require a 16 foot base. He advised the new tower could be located at the northwest side of the jail. He also noted when the County moves ahead on their proposed jail project, it will probably require a new tower be installed at the new jail's location. President Norem advised him to contact the DLZ officials in regard to relocating the tower.

Director Short advised, in regard to when the narrow banding requirement is in effect, that will decrease the range of the radio dispatch coverage. He also advised there is an existing problem with firemen in the county, and their lack of good radio to radio communication. He suggested possibly adding a simulcast signal to the communication system to improve the range of coverage. He also noted he has advised all his vendors that the County will not be paying for their work/repairs, unless the work was approved by him prior to beginning the project.

In regard to narrow banding, he inquired if he could move ahead in obtaining the necessary licenses the County will be requiring in order to be in compliance with the Jan. 1st deadline. He advised one of the licenses has expired. He noted he has received price quotes, and the costs are ranging from \$140.00/license, to \$290.00 per license with including the petition to the FCC. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to table this decision until the August 20th meeting until more information could be ascertained. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. President Norem advised they would like a list of all the licenses in the County, and who they belong to, and also what is involved in the petition to the FCC.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Guy Tardi from Boa Shores, at Bass Lake, appeared before the Board to advise in regard to the price quote they had received from TD Tree Service, that they also now have the documentation of the insurance coverage of that company. He noted the price quote has stayed the same as the previous quote. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to grant permission for Boa Shores to proceed with their tree removal project, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

County Surveyor, Dennis Estok, appeared before the Board and advised there has been an addendum to the contract in regard to the Yellow River Debris Removal project, reducing the fee of Territorial Engineering from \$18,744.00 to a not to exceed amount of \$16,820.00. He stated the contract with Thomas Excavating & Welding requires their signature. He noted both KIRPC and Territorial Engineers have reviewed the contract. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, reviewed the contract and advised the contract states the project will be completed by December 28, 2012, it is for the amount of \$118,721.00, and it is a standard contract. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the signing of the contract, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes and the contract was signed.

In regard to enforcing the smoke free policy on county property, Commissioner Bridegroom advised he has received a price on signs, which will state "This is a smoke free property. Thank you for not smoking." He noted the signs are aluminum and have a 10 year guarantee. He advised the county will require a total of 24 signs, with the cost per sign, between \$16.-17.00 each. A discussion followed in regard to mounting the signs on posts, and what size posts to purchase. Commissioner Bridegroom advised 3 foot posts could be purchased from the same company that provides the signs, but didn't think a three foot post would be high enough. Commissioner Davis made a motion to purchase the 24 signs, and to look into purchasing the necessary posts from Smith's Farm Store. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the County's Resolution allowing the Commissioner Vice President to sign documents in the absence of the Board President, Attorney Lucas advised he has not prepared the resolution. The issue was tabled until the next meeting, on August 20th.

President Norem advised in regard to the issue of changing physicians for the worker's compensation insurance, she is still waiting on word from the physician. She advised this will also be tabled until the next meeting.

President Norem advised the County's Burn Ban has been lifted, and now needs for it to be ratified. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to officially lift the Starke County Burn Ban, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins gave a brief report on the Anti-Nepotism Compliance of the other taxing units within the County. She advised she has received copies of resolutions from each municipality, and each township, except Washington Township. President Norem requested another update on this compliance issue, at the Aug. 20th meeting.

She also commented on the report that was presented to the Board in regard to the cash balance of the County General Fund. The report, which is on file in the Auditor's Office, notes the difference between the cash balance, and the budget appropriation amounts, and also the importance in the estimated amount of the next year's miscellaneous revenue, and how overestimating the amount could create a cash flow shortage.

In regard to the County creating a policy for each building's procedure to follow in the event of a severe storm or a fire, President Norem asked Commissioner Bridegroom to include that issue in the meeting of the Safety Committee.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised since the Starke County Library Project was not let out to bid during the 90 day window, the finding of the Common Wage Board had expired and would be necessary to hold

another hearing. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to appoint Kenny Wallace to be on the Board during that meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis advised she is recommending a third stop sign be installed at CR1100E, just north of Anchor Drive, at Koontz Lake. Commissioner Davis made a motion to have the third stop sign installed, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom advised he will notify the County Highway, in the AM.

Commissioner Davis also noted the great job the Knox High School football team did, in their cleanup of the city park, south of Knox.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Local attorney, Steve Dodge, appeared before the Board to voice his opinion against the County holding online tax sales. He stated he had issues with the recent online certificate sale, and is in favor of live auctions instead.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:48AM.

August 6, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Commissioners