

**August 15, 2011**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the payroll for the period ending 8-6-11, in the amount of \$165,696.84; seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

**RE: PAYROLL AND VENDOR CLAIMS**

In regard to the vendor claims: The claim for \$6,000.00 in postage requested by the Treasurer was withdrawn by the Interim Deputy Treasurer, Kasey Clark; and Commissioner Norem made a motion to pay only the supplies on a bill submitted by Kevin Woods, but no labor at this time. The bill in question was for a door installation in the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Woods had give Prosecutor, Nick Bourff an estimate of repairs of \$150.00, but the total bill that was submitted for payment was \$500.00. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Also in question was the billing from Maximus. The representative, Ken Moeller, from Maximus advised the billing was the period of time recovering the 2009 title IV costs. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would like to see a line item be in the 2012 budget, to cover this expense. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the remainder of the claims, with the exception of the Treasurer's postage claim, and the labor portion of the Wood's invoice; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes and the total amount of approved vendor claims was \$100,052.49.

**RE: MINUTES**

Commissioner Norem, stated in regard to the minutes of the August 11st meetings, it was incorrectly stated at the meeting, the official title of Michelle Snowden in the Treasurer's office. During the meeting she was incorrectly announced as the Interim Treasurer. She is, in fact, the Interim Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Davis stated the minutes of that meeting also need clarification that the locks of the Treasurer's office had by changed by James Coad, the Annex Building maintenance person, and not by an outside lock company. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Executive Session of August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Special Session of August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Emergency Executive Session of August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Emergency Special Session of August 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Commissioner/Council Emergency Special Session of August 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and all the minutes were signed. Also signed were the final minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup> meetings.

**RE: MAXIMUS CONTRACT**

Ken Moeller, of Maximus, appeared before the Board to explain the services his company provides to the county. He stated Maximus does research, in the county for costs associated with Title IVD child support. They identify the costs eligible for reimbursement. The report he submitted to the Board was for the time period of 2009. He advised the cost to the county per year could be \$3,500.00, or if the county chose a three year contact, the yearly expense would be \$3,300.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the three year contract, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

**RE: EMA DIRECTOR REPORT**

EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti appeared before the Board to give his annual funding report. The presentation to the Board was the same as the presentation he made to the Council. A copy of that report is on file in the Auditor's office. He stated he would like to attend a conference in Indianapolis and that the costs would be covered by the EMS department's training line item. In reference to the county's affiliation with the ERS company providing maintenance on the county's radios, he stated they are still battling the same issues that they were ten years ago. He asked for authorization to seek another firm instead of ERS. Commissioner Norem made a motion endorsing the formation of a Communication Committee, similar to the county's IT Committee, to look into the radio situation. The committee could consist of Councilman Dave Pearman; Commissioner Norem; EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti; Knox Fire Chief, Ken Pfost; 911 Chief Dispatcher, Dawn Bau; and IT Director, Stuart Joe Short. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Mr. Bombagetti also advised the county was in the running, to receive funding for the purchasing on defibrillators that would have been placed throughout the county. He advised Starke County had made it to the final cut, but then Congress cut the funding for that grant.

**RE: AGREEMENT TO SUPERVISE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Linda Satkowski, CEO of IU Health Starke appeared before the Board with an agreement to have the hospital serve as the ALS program's sponsoring hospital. Commissioner Norem advised Indiana code requires, as part of the ALS program, the Sponsoring Hospital. The hospital had submitted the first draft and they made changes to it. Now it is time for the agreement to be approved by the Board. She continued, they are required to do quality control on our services and will also be providing the county the opportunity to purchase supplies and medication from the hospital, and the county would also have the option to purchase the items elsewhere to get the best pricing. A large portion of this agreement is the physician's contract serving as Medical Director. The fair market value of those services is \$125.00 an hour, but since the county can't afford that level, they have agreed to change. Commissioner Norem advised they could possibly afford \$500.00 per month/\$6,000.00 annually, but could negotiate a less expensive contract directly with the physician, not through the hospital. Commissioner Davis remarked that is very generous of the hospital not to charge a hospital management fee. Marty Lucas advised the contract is very straightforward. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the contract as presented between the Starke County Board of Commissioners and the IU Health/Starke Hospital as the sponsoring hospital in the county's ALS program. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Ms. Satkowski commented this was a major step forward for the county.

**RE: REPORT BY INTERIM DEPUTY TREASURER**

Kasey Clark, interim deputy treasurer, appeared before the Board to request permission to access the county's checking account online, so that she could see the incoming deposits received electronically from the State. The Auditor advised she had the form signed by Mark Smith, Council President, and Kasey would be added, along with the Auditor, to view the account online. The Auditor also advised new safe keys, had been ordered and should be received on Tuesday. Kasey also inquired about receiving training from Harris, the company that provides the financial software to the county. The auditor advised Harris charges \$1,100.00 per day, plus mileage, plus meals and hotel expense, if they needed to spend the night. She advised Pulaski County, Marshall County, Jasper County, and Benton County all have the same financial software and would be willing to assist with any questions this county would have, at no cost to the county. Marty advised to handle any of the previous books and pages

prior to Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, with gloves. President Bridegroom stated he would be in the Treasurer's office in the morning to seal up the records prior to the 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Norem recommended Kasey receive the training as the other counties are offering. She stated both Kasey and Michelle Snowdon are interim deputy treasurers, and they have both been sworn in by the Clerk. The actual treasurer will be named after a party caucus is held. Marty recommended the tax sale scheduled for October, 2011 be suspended at this time, due to not having a Treasurer to sign the certified listing of properties eligible for the county's tax sale. If the certified list is not signed by a treasurer, it could be open for litigation. He advised he would search for a precedent on an interim treasurer certifying a tax sale list.

**RE: COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR REPAIR UPDATE**

Commissioner Bridegroom repeated the announcement he had made during the Council meeting in regards to the county needing to hire a company to complete the state required repairs to the courthouse elevator. He stated the contract with Oracle does not include that work, and that company is not capable of doing that work. He located only one company that could, Simplex, who had provided a price quote of \$9,855.00. He stated they have experience with historical buildings. Marty stated he has some concerns with the contract, but doesn't believe it will be a problem. Commissioner Norem made a motion to hire Simplex and proceed with the repairs, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Bridegroom stated he is checking with AT&T to see if all nine of the county's cell phones could be contained in one contract. He believes it will be a savings to the county, but first would have to compare contract to existing contracts to be sure the same coverage is being priced.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM to open bids on a single axle cab and chassis for the county highway department. He advised all bids should be submitted to the Auditor's office.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised the Board of a situation at Bass Lake, at the end of Shuski Drive, regarding a pier and shore station, that were installed last spring. Neither one had ever been used. Councilman McLaughlin advised that the land owners, and in this case would be the Commissioner, have control of 50 feet into the lake. Marty suggested the Commissioners post a sign which states after 10 days, the pier and shore station will be removed. Also, the area should be posted as such each spring. Commissioner Bridegroom will have the highway department make the signs.

The Auditor advised the Board the receipt of the balance of the lease agreement, \$837.77 was received in her office this morning from Mr. Callahan. She stated she has set up an account, a revenue line item in county general, Bass Lake Beach Lease, to easily track the income.

Commissioner Norem stated she had received information from a company, Municipal Code Corporation in response to a request from her regarding the codifying of the county's ordinances. Right now they are kept loosely in files in the Auditor's Office. She advised she had received a twenty page proposal with a base cost of \$11,900.00. She stated this is the same company that had codified Knox' ordinances. Marty stated Knox' is well done and is online. He stated the company will also identify obsolete ordinances. Commissioner Norem stated they will identify out of date ordinances and recommend which ones we don't have. They will provide a hard copy and also put it online. They will update the code as new legislature is enacted. She stated currently the county is using an archaic system. Commissioner Bridegroom stated they will also clean up any redundant ordinances. Commissioner Davis made a motion to proceed with the Municipal Code Corporation's proposal to review, update, and codify all the county's ordinances. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Davis then made a motion to not let the cost of the codification exceed \$15,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised in reference to the Bridge 156 project, everything was approved by the DNR, and the engineers are scheduled to commence work on it tomorrow. Also, the county highway department is ¾ complete on the chip 'n sealing of the county roads. The work should be completed the end of this week.

In reference to the Kankakee River-Yellow River Maintenance Project, Commissioner Bridegroom advised this was the first year there was not a levee break on the Kankakee River into Illinois. He advised in the cleanup, thus far, 162 log jams have been removed. They are currently working on the project from US35, east to the Starke-Marshall County line.

There being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

**August 15, 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bridegroom, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Norem, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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