

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 6:30PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kent Danford, Kathy Norem and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Kent Danford at 6:30PM.

PRESENTATION OF COUNTY FLAG

Mrs. Melba Shilling appeared before the Board. She advised she is a board member of the County's Bicentennial Committee and they are creating a Starke County flag. She advised an official County flag would require the Board of Commissioners decision. She presented a cut-out of the proposed flag and acknowledged Starke County has nine townships since they had lost three townships to LaPorte County that they will never get back. She added that the flag will also be in red, white, and blue, and they are trying to create the flag prior to the October 7th deadline. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the flag with any minor changes that the Committee approves. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem stated they are thrilled with a Starke County flag and they would like to see the final design. Mrs. Shilling advised she would be purchasing the initial flag in memory of her husband, Jim.

SHERIFF DULIN SELECTS PORTER STARKE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM

Appearing before the Board was Sheriff Bill Dulin, Probation Officer John Thorstad, and Porter Starke Representatives Leo Smith and Sandy Carlson. The Sheriff explained that the Probation Department, Starke County Community Corrections and the Sheriff's Office had applied for and received a grant for the drug treatment of the local inmates incarcerated in the County Jail. He noted this was a different program from the Therapeutic Community Program that only dealt with DOC inmates. Sandy Carlson of Porter Starke Services advised the inmates will work with Porter Starke employee Leo Smith who will be treating inmates while they are incarcerated in the County Jail and will continue with an extensive outpatient program once they are released. Probation Officer Thorstad advised they will require County Attorney Marty Lucas' assistance in reviewing the memorandum that creates the program. Director Thorstad advised the inmates will transfer over to the Starke County Community Center and then through the Probation Department following their in house treatment. Sandy Carlson advised the total amount of the grant funding was ½ a million dollars that they received and it is recognition they are doing things right. Director Thorstad is proud of what they have accomplished. Commissioner Norem stated it is a big undertaking and they should all be congratulated.

HIGHWAY DEPT. BRIDGE 96 REPORT

The Superintendent of the Highway Department, Rik Ritzler, appeared before the Board. He advised he needs to have the Bridge 78 books signed. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the signing of the books for Bridge # 78. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler advised he also is asking for approval of the replacement of Bridge # 96 to be concrete culverts instead of a replacement bridge. He stated Bridge 96 is located on CR900S just west of US421. He advised that bridge is the lowest rated bridge in the County. He stated he had filed the procedure for requesting bids but had only received one bid. He advised the price was \$55,950.00 for a 28 foot wide replacement culvert. He noted they had considered doing the change themselves and he had set aside \$75,000.00 for the work but felt it was a difficult job that could damage their equipment. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the replacement of Bridge # 96 with a concrete culvert. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PETERSON CONSULTING SERVICES, ANNUAL CAPITAL ASSET REPORTING

Commissioner Danford advised the County had received an agreement from Peterson Consulting Services in regard to the annual update of its capital asset information for the fiscal year ending on 12/31/16. Attorney Lucas noted he had reviewed the paperwork and it appeared to be non-controversial document. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the agreement with Peterson Consulting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

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

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, July 28th meeting. Commissioner Danford seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1st meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$162,224.89. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket with the pay period ending on July 30th, a pay date of August 5, 2016, in the total gross amount of \$220,574.61. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem advised during the renovation construction to the old jail building and the County Courthouse they want the construction trailers to park on the County property north of the Moose Building but they would need the other trucks that park there to move off the property. She stated she would have the Highway Dept. post notices on the property and have the Maintenance Department leave fliers on the semis that are parked there notifying of the no parking. She also advised in regard to the demolition of the old jail some of the fixtures are saleable and some can be scrapped. There was a brief discussion as to the best procedure to handle this. Commissioner Norem stated she would have Jim Coad be in charge of this project.

Commissioner Danford advised they had received a request asking for an extension of a FMLA leave from a good County Employee. Commissioner Norem advised the FMLA expires in Mid-September but the employee's Doctor will not release them to return to work until Mid-October. There was a brief discussion in regard to extending the FMLA versus it being an unpaid leave in which the employee would be paying their whole insurance policy including the County portion during that leave. Commissioner Norem made a motion that following the ending of the FMLA leave of the employee there will be an employee of the County on unpaid leave for as long as they need it. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised in regard to the Hospital Lease an extension was agreed to which expires on August 31st. She stated they would be holding meetings to meet with the Public to explain the terms of the Hospital Lease and answer any questions. The meetings were scheduled for Monday, August 22nd at Knox School Cafeteria; Tuesday, August 23rd at NJSP Auditorium; and Wednesday, August 24th at the OD High School Cafeteria. She advised the lease has not yet been agreed to.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Mix of Boa Shores, Bass Lake, talked about the placement of parking signs at Bass Lake and advised she would like to see a couple of them placed in Boa Shores. Commissioner Danford advised he would speak to the Highway Department Superintendent the next day.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:07PM.

AUGUST 15, 2016

Kent Danford, President

Donald Binkley, Vice President

Kathryn Norem

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