

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President, Kathy Norem, at 7:00PM.

Absent from the meeting was Commissioner Bridegroom. President Norem noted changes to that meeting's agenda: Table the discussion of the Workers' Compensation Insurance Physician provider, noting there will be a meeting with insurance representative, Bridget Markin, on October 4th to discuss the issue; table the discussion of the County's pending lawsuits until the next meeting; table until the next meeting, the discussion in regard to the signing of the IPEP agreement and associated resolution; and table the discussion of the 2011 SBOA audit reports. President Norem noted the County's audit reports that have so far been released are the County's audit report and supplemental reports for the Auditor's Department, the Health Department, and the Highway Department. The supplemental report for the Treasurer's Department is still pending. She advised, the reports can be reviewed on the SBOA website.

RE: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS, PAYROLL CLAIMS, MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTING UPDATE

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 4th meeting, seconded by President Norem. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4th Executive Session. President Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The Board then signed the finalized minutes of the August 20th meeting.

With there being no questions in regard to any of the submitted vendor claims, Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the vendor claims, as presented, with a total value of \$163,296.53. President Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the payroll claim for the pay period ending September 1, 2012, in the amount of \$168,732.59. The motion was seconded by President Norem, and passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins reviewed all departments who are required to be in compliance with the County's Monthly Financial Reporting Ordinance: All departments submitted their reports, and were checked and verified for accuracy. All reports are on file in the Auditor's Office.

RE: REPORT FROM IT DIRECTOR, JOE SHORT

Director Short appeared before the Board to present an update on the county's communication tower. He advised he had a vendor recently inspect the situation of the storm damage and replacement of the tower, and recommended the County install a 180 foot tower, with a twenty foot antenna. They suggested a permanent building be built at the site of the tower, and all equipment be moved to that building. That way the equipment could be connected to the tower and also to the jail dispatch room, through the use of fiber optic cables, which would eliminate lightning strikes causing damage to the equipment. Director Short advised the next step in the process would be once the site for the new jail is chosen, specifications will be submitted for the RFQs. President Norem advised it could still be at least six to eight weeks before a site is chosen. County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired if the County could receive an extension in regard to the December 31st deadline, for the narrow banding state mandate, since the problem is not due to the County's poor planning, but because of the storm damage, and the new tower replacement location. Director Short advised he will look into the possibility of receiving a narrow banding compliance extension.

Commissioner Davis inquired if there is any liability to the County with leaving the communications system as they are presently. Director Short advised that the new antennas could be purchased now and installed on the existing tower to see if communications improve, and the new antennas can be relocated once the new tower is installed. He noted the cost for a new antenna is estimated to be \$2,200.00 and the County would need two at this time. Once the tower is installed, the County will need between 6-8 antennas, at the new jail site. President Norem inquired if the new antennas could be placed on WKVI's tower, and asked Director Short to discuss the issue with Pat Dunn. Director Short noted it is unknown if the coaxial cable will need to be replaced, and also advised that it is unlikely the coaxial cable will not be able to be transferred to be new location, since the cable loses its signal strength when it is spliced together.

EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti advised they had met with the County's fire departments and advised them that the County's job is to dispatch the calls and their job is to receive the calls. They were advised to receive the signals over the 800 mhz frequency, or VHS frequency, and use text messaging as a backup. Each department was told to establish their own protocol until the County's communications are properly restored.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to purchase two new antennas and install them on the old tower, for them to eventually be moved to the new jail tower. The motion was seconded by President Norem, and passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins advised the County had received the \$75,000.00 check from the insurance company. She was advised to pay for the antennas out of that funding.

Director Bombagetti advised they had received the \$30417.53 wage reimbursement from FEMA, and in addition to that reimbursement, since EMA Clerk, MaryLynn Ritchie had met the requirements to receive a bonus, the County received an additional \$4,050.00 reimbursement. But, he stated, the paperwork required the Commissioners' signatures. With Attorney Lucas' approval, the Board signed the paperwork.

Director Bombagetti advised the remaining portion of the reimbursement of the levee break project from FEMA, is still pending.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Auditor Chaffins advised there have been a couple of issues that had recently occurred in regard to the amount of time that passes between an employee that leaves their employment with the County, and then they decide to return to being employed by the County. She advised in both cases the employees had not been employed by the County since early 2011. She noted her Office had advised the employee they would be required to go through the new employee process which includes the pre-employment drug screening, and the criminal background check. She advised the former employee had decided not to pursue their employment application. There was a brief discussion in regard to the time limit between leaving the employment, and then returning, but it was decided the once the employment is terminated, in order to be

rehired the new hire process would have to be completed. Attorney Lucas stressed that is the procedure that should be applied to all new hires and it should not vary by certain individuals. But, he saw no need to specifically state that in the employment handbook, because it already states in the handbook all new hires will undergo the screening process.

President Norem advised while Atlas Company was repairing the storm damage to the Courthouse roof they had parked their crane on the sidewalk on the east side of the Courthouse, and the weight of the crane caused the sidewalk to drop down creating a possible tripping hazard. The Atlas Company had attempted to repair the sidewalk by patching it with additional concrete, but it did not eliminate the tripping hazard. So, she stated, Carl Goodrich, the Courthouse Custodian, had been advised to contact Atlas, and have them replace that section of the sidewalk.

President Norem advised there had been a lack of communication in regard to Weaver & Boos, and their submission of the testing results of the old landfill site to IDEM, as well as the County. She advised she will communicate with Weaver & Boos via email, that henceforth they should submit all future reports to IDEM also.

Attorney Lucas advised he has been working with Bob Aloï, of Territorial Engineers, in regard to their contract that pertains to the SR8 & CR300E project. He advised there was an issue in regard to the insurance coverage, and he would like to have the County's insurance carrier review the contract also to get their input as to the County's risk. He advised the contract should be ready for the Board's approval at the first meeting in October.

Auditor Chaffins gave a brief report on the present status of the cash balance of the County General Fund, noting that the cash balance as of 8/31/11 was \$795,537.46 and the balance as of 8/31/12 was \$933,826.74. She advised a more thorough report of the misc. revenue of the County General Fund will be submitted at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by President Norem. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners