

September 21, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 4:45 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Bruce Fingerhut, Dan Awald and Judy Benninghoff absent, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Jennifer Davis moved to approve the 9-9-09 council minutes seconded by Bill Dulin with 4 ayes.

IN RE: SHERIFF'S RETIREMENT ORDINANCE RESTATEMENT

Elaine Beatty with McCready & Keene, Inc., submitted the Starke County Police Retirement Plan Restatement of actual trust agreement. The council will sign this again with the assumption that it is the same exact document that was already reviewed and signed. Ken Arnett, President of the Sheriff's Merit Board, is to come to the Auditor's Office and sign it as well as the Sheriff. When signed, the council wants the Auditor to mail it to McCready & Keene and send a copy to the Council's Attorney.

IN RE: NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Bob Smith, I.T. Director, and Kevin Caldwell with Allstar Communications appeared at the meeting to discuss new phone system. Kathy Norem stated that Chuck Estok did excellent negotiating.

The new phone system would include the courthouse, annex, jail (including the Prosecutor) and the highway. In the future, the commissioners and the council want anything of this nature going through the I.T. Department so that it conforms with the existing equipment. Kathy would like this stipulation in our strategic plan.

The price for the phone system will be \$81,496 with an additional 10 phones needed for the prosecutor at an additional cost of \$3360 (\$336 per phone). This would be a total of 105 phones. There is a 5 year warranty on the phone system. Over a four year period, the phone system would save the county over \$11,000 and that is with making the lease payments.

The council want Mr. Caldwell to see if he can give us an even better price if paid up front. If so, the council will approve the funds out of the Cum. Capital Development fund to pay for it. If not, we will go with the 4 year lease and pay it right out of the phone line item.

Mr. Caldwell stated that he would probably be able to cut off the price of the extra phones and do the full 105 phones and the system for \$81,496 if paid in full. He will also check with the lease company regarding the 4 year lease and make sure that if we go with the lease, there is not a penalty for early pay off.

IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Dan Bridegroom, Mark Smith and Martin Lucas were invited to a hospital meeting. By the terms of the original lease, if the lease ended today, the buy-back of equipment by the county would be \$6.5 million.

If they want to do anything new, they have to get written permission from the county to do so. They are requesting now to do approximately \$2 million worth of improvements.

Jennifer Davis stated that she would like to see the county get out of the hospital business.

IN RE: E.M.S.

The ambulance service was discussed and the possibility of privatizing. Kathy Norem stated that she would like the county to be out of the ambulance business as well.

Nancy Dembowski, State Representative, would like to set up a meeting with O.C.R.A., the council and the commissioners to see about any grants for E.M.S. upgrades. Mark Smith will call her to set it up.

IN RE: H1N1 FLU VIRUS

Jennifer Davis asked about the priority of jail shots regarding the jail.

IN RE: STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS AUDIT RESULTS

Dan Bridegroom informed the council of the receipt of the 2008 audit report and how well Starke County did. The report will be on the county's web site www.co.starke.in.us and will also be accessible under the state's web site at www.IN.gov/sboa.

There being no further business to come before the board Bill Dulin moved to adjourn seconded by Jennifer Davis with 4 ayes.

Mark Smith, President

Chuck Estok, Vice President

Bill Dulin

Jennifer Davis

ABSENT
Judy Benninghoff

ABSENT
Bruce Fingerhut

ABSENT
Dan Awald

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary