

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Don Binkley and Charlie Chesak present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Commissioner Don Binkley at 6:00PM.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director Travis Clary and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to present their monthly departmental report. Clerk Richie advised she has received a total of \$827.54 from Collections Attorney Jonathan O'Hara and \$175.00 from Small Claims Court. She advised the total number of runs for September were pretty consistent with August with a slight decrease in transfers. She noted the revenue is also slightly down. Clerk Richie advised she ran into some problems with billing and the new Medicare cards. The present billing software allowed the room for dashes but there are no dashes in the new cards and a lot of the bills were returned to her. She noted though now the billings were corrected and they are beginning to receive the payments.

Director Clary advised they have been getting their new software set up with Physio-Control. They have phone conferences with them and are completing many excel sheets to upload specific information. He noted even though it is time consuming they are still on track for the three month timeline.

In regard to Personnel, Director Clary advised they opened up the new full time positions and it will be closed tomorrow. He noted he has received twenty applicants thus far and is pleased with the large amount of interest.

In regard to Training, Director Clary advised he attended the Active Shooter exercise that was put on by the local schools. He noted they had their monthly audit and review with the Knox Hospital. They will be training with the K-9 Units later this month and will be obtaining his re-certification in PALS this week. He also noted he will be attending the LEPC training at the Knox Fire Station.

In regard to Safety, Director Clary advised they had an injury free September.

In regard to Protocols he noted they have completed their new patient care protocols and will soon be working with the pharmacy to get the new medications in place; the cheaper better alternatives.

In regard to Ambulance Maintenance Director Clary advised routine maintenance was performed on 2 of their emergency vehicles. He noted currently the ambulances were maintained as needed and all are currently in service.

He also noted there was no major base maintenance issues to report.

COUNTY HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He advised the asphalt paving is complete for the year. He stated between crack seal, re-gravel, hot mix asphalt, chip seal and cold mix asphalt, they have paved 52.98 miles this year. He advised the total cost of the asphaltting was \$1,119,523.47 with an average cost per centerline mile of \$23,017.70 which was more efficient than last year. Superintendent Ritzler provided a listing of all County roads that were paved during the year.

Superintendent Ritzler stated he has submitted four projects in the first round of the 2018 Community Crossings Grant application. He noted they were the Bridge 154 replacement; the Bridge 36 replacement; improving the intersection of CR210 and CR600S/Old SR10; and CR25N from CR600E to SR23. He noted what does not get rewarded can be applied for again in January. The Superintendent noted he is expecting to hear word on the grant by the end of the month.

Ritzler stated the month of October will be a big training month for them as they are preparing for winter. He noted eleven drivers will be attending the IPEP Safety Training; Mark Ennis of Bliss McKnight will be bringing the driving simulator to the garage during the last week of the month; Mr. Ennis will also be teaching his snow plow safety training; and at the end of the month seven employees will be taking LTAP Road Scholar Class. Superintendent Ritzler will be attending the annual County Bridge Conference at Purdue University.

Ritzler stated they have only two deficient bridges based on the last bridge inspection report. Bridge 154 which is located on CR100E north of CR400N will begin in a week or two. He noted they are waiting on State money for the replacement of Bridge 7.

He noted the bridge maintenance crew completed their fall maintenance of all of the County bridges and they will repeat the process again next spring. He stated they will also be resealing all of the concrete decks next spring.

Ritzler advised that mowing is complete except for the one mower who is mowing completely around the County.
He also noted the open positions in his department: Office Manager, two Drivers, and one Sign Technician.

CADA PROCLAMATION NAMING OCTOBER AS THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Annette VanSchoyck, of CADA, appeared before the Board and presented them with a Proclamation naming the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Commissioner Norem read the Proclamation aloud to the audience. The Proclamation was signed by the Board of Commissioners.

IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the City of Knox has presented a “Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Tax Lien Certificated for Certain Properties in Parkview Heights and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute All Necessary Documents”, Ordinance 2018-1001. He advised the City of Knox is desiring to purchase a Tax Lien Certificate for the Property 75-06-22-201-102.000-004 Ramirez, 315 W. Spruce for the price of \$35.00. Commissioner Norem stated she agrees someone needs to clean up that property and made a motion to approve the City of Knox’ Resolution. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas pointed out that the City is only purchasing the tax lien certificate and not the property.

Commissioner Norem advised that due to the fact KIRPC needs to hold a Public Hearing and it needs to be advertised first the OCRA Grant and the selection of a Consultant for the preparation of the Starke County Comprehensive Plan will be delayed until November.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the recent notice from John Kirk of DLZ in regard to Watcon requesting an additional \$300.00 to their \$7,500.00 contract. The County had occurred a total of \$6,906.00 in paid work to Watcon leaving a balance of \$594.00. The additional \$300.00 would make \$894.00 due. Watcon advised they had provided an extra year’s chemicals which would cost approximately \$300.00. Attorney Lucas advised the Board that this is an Executive Decision. He noted the company did not provide a change order and they are trying to avoid giving bids with no actual specific work listed. They had provided the additional chemicals without charging for them. Commissioner Binkley suggested they pay the \$894.00. Attorney Lucas stated he would write Watcon a letter to see if they will agree with the extra \$300.00 and that would be the end of the contract. Commissioner Norem made a motion to advise Attorney Lucas to write the Watcon letter, to pay the \$894.00 if accepted and then tell them not to do that sort of thing again. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the Company has provided services to the Courthouse for a very long time and they did provide chemicals that the County was not billed for.

Commissioner Binkley advised they had received a price quote from Carrie Block of 1st Choice Insurance for the cost of liability insurance coverage for Above Ground Pollution Tank. He stated the cost was \$3,225.00 per year. He asked Superintendent Ritzler his thought on this coverage and the Superintendent advised the price is too high. Commissioner Binkley stated the County would not be interested in the additional coverage and advised to let Ms. Block know.

Attorney Lucas stated in regard to the Opioid Lawsuit he had contacted three law practices. He noted the first company was not interested in the lawsuit; the second company did not respond; and the three company seemed interested. He advised the Company was Taft, Stettinius, & Hollister LLP of Indianapolis. Attorney Lucas stated it would not be a class action lawsuit but instead be a variety of lawsuits and right now there are approximately 1,100. He stated they were the biggest player in Indiana. Attorney Lucas advised Starke County has spent a lot of money on the drug problem and could be reimbursed for some of the expenses. Starke County would receive 25% of the gross, per contract terms. He noted Starke County could have some expense based on providing evidence and witnesses. Attorney Lucas stated he would like to further review this situation before committing to joining in. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the contract with Taft pending Attorney Lucas’ final review. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. (Attorney Lucas sent Taft an engagement letter on October 3rd.)

AUDITOR’S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim Docket for the pay period ending on September 22, 2018 with a pay date of September 28, 2018 in the total gross amount of \$251,714.56. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$467,799.17. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17th Regular Session. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26th Special Session. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised that since two of the three Commissioners will be out of town on vacation when the next Meeting was scheduled there will not be a Commissioner meeting on Monday, October 15th.

A claim had been submitted by Rachel Oesterreich who is the Auditor Candidate in the November General Election. The Claim was for payment for the County Auditor’s Conference in Florence, IN for the Conference Hotel, Conference Registration and a Conference Meeting. The total claims cost was \$826.80. The Claims stated they were to be paid from the Highway Department’s Budget.

Commissioner Norem stated she wants to see Rachel attend the Conference because she wants Rachel to hit the office running. Auditor Chaffins stated she did not believe it should be paid out of the Highway Department since Rachel is an employee of the Highway Department but that department does not have anything to do with the Auditor’s Department. The current Auditor’s Department budget does not have the extra money to pay for Rachel’s conference attendance. Auditor Chaffins stated there is an Elected County Official Training Fund but stated Rachel was not yet the Elected Official and the Auditor suggested the claims be paid out of the CEDIT Fund. Attorney Lucas also stated he did not believe it should be paid out of the Highway Department’s budget either. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the claims and for them to be paid out of the CEDIT Fund. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins stated she would see after the election is completed, if those expenses could be transferred to the Elected County Training Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Lucas stated he has been working with the Health Department in regard to the OSS On-Site Sewage Ordinance. He advised they are looking at a more simplified ordinance. Right now they are gathering research from surrounding Counties.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03PM.

OCTOBER 1, 2018

<hr/> Don Binkley, President	<hr/> Kathryn Norem, Vice-President
<hr/> Charles Chesak	<hr/> Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor & Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners