

Monday, October 3rd, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00am in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem, and Jennifer Davis present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President, Dan Bridegroom.

RE: PAYROLL CLAIMS & VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll claim from the pay period ending 9/17/11, totaling \$ 168,411.08. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims as presented with a grand total of \$251,806.86. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

RE: EMS

Mary Lynn Ritchie and Paul Mathewson, of the EMS Department appeared before the Board to give their monthly report. Ms. Ritchie stated a total of \$611.25 was received in collections from Attorney Jonathan O'Hara. A report of the monthly bad debts totaling \$4,348.87 was presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve that amount; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Paul and Mary Lynn then explained the Monthly Run Report to the Board. Commissioner Bridegroom inquired as to how their department would be accounting for the fuel used in the EMS Director's vehicle. Ms. Ritchie stated that fuel would be accounted from the same budget line item as the fuel for the ambulances. Commissioner Bridegroom then stated the county highway department is concerned that their budget's line item for fuel purchases will be expended before the end of year if the fuel usage from the other departments is not added back into the county highway department's budget. Auditor Chaffins stated she was advised by Kurt Ott, of the DLGF, that there are three different ways the fuel reimbursement could be handled: 1. The fuel reimbursements should be quietused into the county highway department fund (which it currently is) and the county council should look at that amount and take that into consideration when completing the next year's budget; 2. The individual department consuming the fuel could be charged directly when the invoice is paid by the county; or 3. The amount of the reimbursement could be added to the county highway department's budget, but he stated he wanted it noted that he could not say that was a SBOA approved procedure.

RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY

Steve Siddall, County Highway Department Superintendent and Ken Minett, of Butler, Fairman, & Seufert appeared before the Board and advised the repairs on Bridge 156 are on schedule. They are expecting the delivery of the box beams on Wed. or Thurs. if the IDEM permit for transporting the beams is received. Mr. Siddall advised the bridge could possibly be completed in twenty eight days, and the worst case scenario would be that the bridge would not be completed until mid November. Mr. Minett advised the IDEM permits have been filed on Bridges 9 & 62 and they are looking for a project start time of next spring.

RE: GOVERNMENT FIXED ASSET SERVICES

Mike Nielsen, of Government Fixed Asset Services of Chicago, IL appeared before the Board to request the Board's approval to retain his company to maintain the capital asset listings for the County. Mr. Nielsen reviewed the policy the State had implemented in 2005-2006 in regard to the proper accounting of the county's capital assets and stressed the importance of maintaining that listing to be in compliance with the SBOA. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve retaining Government Fixed Asset Services to maintain the county's capital asset listings for the amount of \$1,750.00, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Mr. Nielsen advised he will preparing the report in 2012, for the period ending December 31, 2011.

RE: KOONTZ LAKE PROPERTY ISSUE

Attorney, Patrick McEuen of Valparaiso, appeared before the Board to advise them of a situation at Koontz Lake in the Simpson & Frost addition. He stated he is representing Mrs. Darflinger. Marty Lucas disclosed he was the attorney who represented John Knight in the court case. A discussion followed regarding the dispute over the northern border lines of the properties in question, and the park land on the north side of their properties. Commissioner Norem made a motion to table any action at this time, and advised a request should be presented to the Board in writing, so they could study the situation, since it is such a complex case. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ays. Mr. McEuen stated Brad Cramer will be surveying the property and will be submitting a report.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS APPOINTMENT

Bob Hinojosa, Director of Starke County Community Corrections, had submitted the name of Todd Willis to be considered for placement on the Starke County Community Corrections Advisory Board as a mental health representative. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: SHERIFF'S 2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Sheriff, Oscar Cowen, appeared before the Board to address the situation of the council's elimination of the funding of two patrolmen, and the increase in funding to hire two additional jailers. The Sheriff advised if he took two patrolmen off the road, and made them jailers, he would still be required to compensate them at the road officer pay, unless he would lay them off as road officers, and then hire them back as jailers. The Sheriff provided statistics supporting the need for those two road officers whose funding will be cut. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he was concerned and had given it thought over the cutting of the number of patrolmen. Commissioner Norem stated they would like to see the increase in the number of jailers without the cutting of the number of patrolmen. Commissioner Davis suggested keeping the officers pay as is and working them in the jail when needed, and then work on the road as needed. Commissioner Davis made a motion to take this issue to the Council, at the meeting that night, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

The Sheriff then inquired if the county could purchase an additional new vehicle for the county police department. Commissioner Bridegroom stated they first need to look at where they are now with the number of patrolmen. Commissioner Norem made a motion to table the request for the additional squad car, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: STARKE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION DIRECTOR REQUEST

SCDF Director, Charles Weaver, appeared before the Board to request Commissioner Bridegroom and Auditor Chaffins' signatures on a grant form verifying the county's portion of the local match of the grant. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the signing of the form, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion was passed and the paperwork was signed.

RE: ORDINANCE REGULATING DOG KENNELS IN THE COUNTY

County Building Commissioner, Bruce Williams appeared before the Board with the newly, planning commission approved, version of the "Starke County Ordinance Regulating Dog Kennels in the County". Mr. Williams advised this new ordinance is more of a breeder's ordinance

instead of a dog kennel ordinance. Commissioner Norem stated she had said she would support an ordinance that made sense for Starke County and that followed the state statutes. She then made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Williams then advised he would like to offer classes to the public on building codes, and requested permission to use the Annex Meeting Room to hold those meetings monthly with no charge to the public. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. They advised Mr. Williams to set up a schedule for the use of the meeting room, with Auditor's office.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

County Recorder, Lisa Minix, appeared before the Board with the addendum to the software license agreement. Marty Lucas stated he had reviewed the paperwork and suggested the county calendar in a date to review the progress of the online services program, before the contract automatically renews. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this agreement, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis stated she had spoken with IU-Health, Starke CEO, Linda Satkowski, in regard to the drug screenings of the employees of the county highway department and advised Ms. Satkowski will be looking into their procedures in regard to those screenings.

Commissioner Bridegroom gave an update of the courthouse elevator repairs.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the Koontz Lake Regional Sewer District Annual Meeting report, as present to them by Paul Warnke. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis advised Tracey Shorter will be establishing a series of weekly, health related seminars, which the county employees could attend and obtain points for their CIGNA insurance 2012 rates.

Commissioner Norem inquired about setting up a program allowing the county employees to receive flu shots through the County Health Department and also received CIGNA points for that, as well. Commissioner Davis stated she would talk to both Miquel, of CIGNA, and the County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander in regard to that program.

Before the meeting adjourned, Commissioner Davis reported that Miquel, of CIGNA, stated the employees could earn 6 points by receiving a flu shot.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised he will be talking to IDEM in regard to a recent report and billing received from Weaver Boos, about the county landfill.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to sign the three year contract with the Maximus Company, that had been approved at an earlier meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The contract was signed.

County Attorney, Marty Lucas, stated there is a case involving bank acquired property in which they were told to obtain a building permit from the county but instead applied for and received a permit from the City of Knox, who believed the property was located in the two mile area outside of Knox. Mr. Lucas stated Mr. Dodge represents the County's Planning Commission, and had started on the paperwork on this case. Marty suggested Mr. Dodge continue to represent the county, in this case. Typically, Mr. Dodge is the attorney for the County's Planning Commission, and Mr. Lucas is the attorney for the County's Building Commission. Commissioner Davis made a motion to retain Steve Dodge as the attorney to represent the Building Commission, in this particular case. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Marty stated there could be a conflict someday between the Building Commission and the Planning Commission, and they should be handled on a case by case basis in regard to Mr. Dodge representing the Building Commission.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the paying of the billing from Umbaugh & Associates in the amount of \$30,198.97, out of the Commissioner's EDIT Fund. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis stated they need to follow through with the County's CAMS project and should possibly set up a meeting with Gary Fisher, of RQAW.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19th Commissioner's meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes, and the final minutes of the September 6th, 8th, and 9th meetings were then signed.

Commissioner Norem inquired as to the status of the County Highway Department's purchase of a new pickup truck. Commissioner Bridegroom stated there isn't a deadline for the price quotes, and the completed quotes should be submitted to the Commissioners, through the Auditor's Office. He stated there is a need for the extended cab pickup truck, to allow workers to be transported to work sites, instead of running the large county trucks. Commissioner Norem stated she sees the need for the extended cab, but questioned the need to purchase a fully loaded truck, when it should simply be a work truck.

Commissioner Bridegroom inquired if he had permission to move a large flag that has been hanging in the south corridor of the Courthouse. He stated the flag had been hung as part of the Courthouse's Centennial Celebration, but it is covering the mural on the wall. The Commissioners agreed it should be moved it to a different location in the courthouse.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated the county now has a full time DNR officer dedicated to only Starke County, Officer Keith Wildeman and he has been addressing the issues at Bass Lake.

Auditor Chaffins requested permission to attend the State Board of Accounts, County Auditors' Conference, in Indianapolis, on October 26th, 27th, and 28th. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:18AM.

October 3, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Commissioners

