

October 17, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:55pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom.

RE: MINUTES, VENDOR & PAYROLL CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims of 10/17/11, as presented; seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Norem then stated she needed to withdraw that motion, because the pay claims to the Humane Society needed to be addressed. She advised the county only has the funding at this time, to pay the invoice from 2010, and to table the two invoices from 2011. Auditor Chaffins advised the invoices from the Humane Society are currently being paid from the county's portion of the county option dog tax that went into effect on October 1, 2011. She stated by the next vendor claim period, there should be sufficient funding to cover the other two invoices from 2011. Commissioner Norem then made a motion to pay the 2010 invoice and table the 2011 invoices from the Humane Society. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The total amount of vendor claims approved: \$104,050.06.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll from the pay period ending October 1st in the amount of \$162,579.84; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem then made a motion to approve the payroll from the pay period ending October 15th in the amount of \$164,189.79; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3rd Commissioner's meeting, and the minutes of the Joint Commissioner/Council October 3rd meeting which addressed the jail conference in Denver, Co. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

RE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Ruth Matsey, of CADA, appeared before the Board to request the Commissioners proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Starke County. A copy of the signed and sealed proclamation is on file in the Auditor's office.

RE: EMA DIRECTOR REPORT

County EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti, appeared before the Board to report that, at a conference he recently attended, Starke County was presented with a plaque award for the "Greatest Improvement in Emergency Management". Mr. Bombagetti presented the plaque to the Commissioners. Commissioner Bridegroom stated Starke County received the award thanks to the work of Mr. Bombagetti.

RE: KOONTZ LAKE PROPERTY

John Knight of Koontz Lake appeared before the Board to request the Commissioners include Mr. Knight in any decision they make in regard to property at Koontz Lake, specifically to Mr. Knight's and Ms. Darflinger's properties. Auditor Chaffins advised the Board that Surveyor Brad Cramer is on the Nov. 7th meeting's agenda to discuss that situation. The Commissioners suggested to Mr. Knight that he attend the meeting on November 7th.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bridegroom announced they had received the Treasurer's Department 47TR report. Interim Deputy Treasurer Kasey Clarke was not in attendance, so Auditor Chaffins reported at the end of September, 2011 the county's book balance was still off by a total of \$4,181.91. But, since the end of Sept., an investigation showed that a total of \$4,181.58 in NSF checks, the county had received for the payment of property taxes, had not been recorded properly. She stated some of the checks date back to 2007. Chaffins advised the remaining discrepancy balance is now thirty three cents.

James Coad, Annex Building Custodian, appeared before the Board to request the proper procedure to follow when Simplex completes their inspections of the fire safety equipment in the Annex building. If the equipment fails to pass inspection, if he should have Simplex conduct the repairs while they are present or have them make an additional trip. Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Coad to receive price quotes from Simplex of some of the normal repairs that could be expected following inspections, and also the price of that company for making an additional trip. Mr. Coad stated Simplex will be here on October 26th for the next inspection on security lighting and fire extinguishers.

Commissioner Bridegroom announced the State, Oracle, and Simplex will be here on Wed., October 19th for the inspection of the repairs to the elevator, at the Courthouse. The time of the inspection is scheduled for 8:00AM.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised the Animal Control Officer, Tom Bazant, has submitted his resignation effective the end of October. Bridegroom advised Mr. Bazant was recently bitten by a dog, and the owner of the dog is known. Marty Lucas advised the issue if a civil case, not a criminal case and could result in the owner of the dog being taken to Small Claims Court, by Mr. Bazant.

Commissioner Bridegroom announced he has been working with Bridgett Marken of 1st Source Insurance in establishing the proper values of county property in respect to their insurance coverage. He will bring back to the Board the updated list of property and its current value when the project is complete.

Auditor Chaffins inquired if the Commissioners would be soliciting new price quotes for health insurance this year and they advised no. When she inquired about different supplemental insurance companies that would like to speak with employees, they advised the Auditor's office should establish two days a year in which those companies could speak with employees. Also, they advised the vision insurance coverage should just automatically renew.

Commissioner Norem stated in retrospect, the county should reconsider the issue of snow days, and the situation of a department that is required to work, such as the police, EMS, or county highway and the county office workers that didn't work, but still received payment, which is what happened on the first snow day of last winter. But, the policy for the second snow day of last winter was that the employee had to work to receive payment for that day. A discussion followed concerning their policy on snow days, when the county closes the county roads due to severe weather, the offices are closed and the emergency departments are still required to work. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would check with surrounding counties to review their policies and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to use Fund 0093, line item 000-3000.05, the Commissioner's portion of the CEDIT fund as the funding to pay for the consultant fees to take the possible jail project to the State Legislation in November. The estimated cost to the county would be approximately \$15,000.00 to Ice Miller, and \$5,000.00-\$7,000.00 to Umbaugh. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the consultant fees could possibly be added to the total project cost.

Commissioner Bridegroom suggests the County Highway Department mow the North Judson Industrial Site at least twice a year, since the county does own the property, and the county wants to maintain it decently.

Commissioner Davis advised she had spoken with Dr. Alexander the County Health Officer. Dr. Alexander stated Frank, the Health Department Nurse, will be issuing flu shots on Thursday, from 4:00pm-7:00pm. The cost to employees is \$20.00, and the employee could earn six points for their 2012 insurance rates, for receiving their shot.

Commissioner Davis also reported IU-Health Starke does not wish to continue performing drug testing of county highway department employees. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would have Mr. Siddall obtain Midwest Toxicology to do the testing.

County Attorney, Marty Lucas, stated he had spoken with the SBOA who advised, in regard to Mr. Dodge's earlier proposal concerning US Railroad Vest, the SBOA believes even though it would be beneficial to the county the county does not have the authority to do the transfer. In doing so, the county could be creating a bad policy/precedence.

There being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Norem. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18PM.

October 17, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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