

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 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, Charles Chesak and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley at 6:55PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

STARKE COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS, PROBATION & SHERIFF'S GRANT PROPOSAL FOR 2018-2019

Starke County Community Corrections Director Robert Hinojosa, Pre-Trial Probation Officer Chuck Phillips, and Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to discuss their grant request for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. They advised the amount of money requested for the grant will remain the same as last year, \$463,064.00. Director Hinojosa advised this grant will be providing the funding for SCCC in the amount of \$324,301.00; \$75,763.00 for the Sheriff's jail substance abuse program, and \$63,000.00 for pre-trial diversion program. He stated each department will benefit from this grant which is due to the state by January 31, 2018. Director Hinojosa stated they are asking for a Letter of Support from the Board of Commissioners asking for the State to review and they will return later to have the contract signed. Sheriff Dulin noted that this program was different from the Therapeutic Community Program maintained by the State. He advised he began his program last year and in 2017 they had 126 inmates graduate from the class, and 9 inmates had been rearrested. Commissioner Norem made a motion to provide the Letter of Support. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Director Hinojosa advised they are anticipating full funding for this program as the Starke County Program is recognized by the State.

EMS REQUEST TO HIRE TWO MORE FULL TIME PARAMEDICS

EMS Director Travis Clary and EMS Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to request approval to hire two more full time paramedics. They advised in the past they used part time paramedics to complete schedules but now they do not have a sufficient number of part time paramedics available. They advised more employees are looking for the full time status to earn the benefits. Director Clary advised they currently have 5 full time paramedics and would like to hire two more as they have the money in their budget. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the request and recommends it to the County Council. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Representative Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present the monthly report of the SCEDF. He stated he had a request for an appropriation and would like the Board of Commissioners approval before he presents it to the County Council for their approval. He requested \$180,000.00 for SCEDF 2018 Economic Development Consulting Contract; \$80,000.00 for SCILL Center; and \$15,000.00 for Hamlet Fire Well & Industrial Parks. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the appropriation request. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The appropriations now need County Council approval. Mr. Wickert then requested an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00 as Starke County's portion for the \$30,000.00 fee for the US30 Coalition Committee. The committee consists of three counties and Attorney Lucas wanted to know why the pay is a set pay and isn't based on the size of the counties involved. Mr. Wickert advised Porter County also pays the \$10,000.00 but it only goes to US49 in Porter County and he believes Starke County will have almost the same number of interchanges in their county that Porter County will have. He also advised Charlie Weaver, even though never elected into the position, functions as the Treasurer of the committee. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the appropriation request. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 28th meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak was absent from that meeting. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$241,117.43. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to table the DLZ Courthouse Elevator Contract for now due to a question on the architect's limit of liability. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Following Attorney Lucas' review, Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the 2018 Microvote Agreement which is in regard to software support. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to sign the Health Department Certificate of Appointments on Richard Lochner and Angela Stacy Flagg. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the forms were signed by Commissioner Binkley.

Commissioner Norem asked Auditor Chaffins if a letter had been sent to Judy Troike telling her of her appointment to the Starke County Library Board. Auditor Chaffins advised a letter had been prepared that she had signed and was mailed to her. Commissioner Norem stated Mrs. Troike is waiting on the letter as she is the Treasurer of that Board and she would need to obtain a bond.

Commissioner Norem advised they had some openings to fill of their 2018 Appointments. She advised Don White, Republican, was interested in serving on the Planning Commission. She made a motion to appoint him to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised Don White would be replacing Jeff Fosler who was not interested in reapplying for the Board. She also noted Mr. White will not be serving on the BZA Board. Commissioner Norem advised she had received word from Todd Leinbach that he was interested in serving on the Planning Commission. She advised him that Board was full but the BZA Board had an opening. He advised he was interested in that Board. Commissioner Norem made a motion to appoint Todd Leinbach to the BZA Board for a four year term. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to appoint Leigh Smith to the Airport Board for a 4 year term. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised in regard to the PTABOA Board Ron Simoni is no longer interested in serving on the Board, but Carolla Heilstedt is interested. She is a lay person and a Democrat. She also noted that the Council appointment to that Board was also a Democrat, Rebecca Ferch, and she is a Level 2 Assessor. Commissioner Norem stated they could get by with another lay person as long as Rebecca is at every meeting but she would like the lay person to be a Real Estate Realtor or involved in realty.

Commissioner Norem stated she also noted that Director Ben Osinki's term of the Building Corporation expired 12/31/17 and will need to be reappointed if he is interested. She stated she would speak to him and will advise at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Auditor Chaffins advised she had received the NIPSCO checks for the County's rebate. 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 adjourned at 7:35PM.

JANUARY 16, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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

