

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

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.

CYBER INSURANCE

IT Director Brian Pinson and 1st Choice Insurance Agent Carrie Block appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of cyber insurance coverage for the County. Agent Block stated there are different variables in the cyber insurance coverage. They are privacy liability, network liability, internet media liability, network extortion, business interruption, digital asset, and data breach. County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired as to why the County would need internet media liability and asked for an explanation of the digital access coverage. He advised if there are any security issues concerning this coverage the Board of Commissioners could meet in an Executive Session for discussion. He noted there is a justifiable reason for that meeting. Commissioner Norem made a motion to take this issue under advisement until they receive more information. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

STARKE COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS, PROBATION & SHERIFF'S GRANT PROPOSAL FOR 2017-2018

Starke County Community Corrections Director Robert Hinojosa, Probation Director John Thorstad, and Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board to discuss their grant request for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. They advised the amount of money requested for the grant will remain the same as last year, \$463,764.00. Director Thorstad advised this grant will be providing the funding for SCCC in the amount of \$325,001.00; \$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, 2017. 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 December they have seven inmates graduate from the class. Commissioner Norem made a motion to provide the Letter of Support. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF NORTH JUDSON INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mr. Aaron Simerly appeared before the Board and advised he was following up on the North Judson Industrial Park that he addressed at the Commissioners' November 21, 2016 meeting. He stated he wanted to know what the Highway Department is doing about the roads in that area and who oversees Starke County Economic Foundation Director Charlie Weaver. Director Weaver advised Metro Recycling was no longer interested in the North Judson Industrial Park and will not be establishing a business in North Judson. Commissioner Norem stated she had re-listened to the recording of the last meeting Mr. Simerly had attended. She noted Mr. Simerly had previously stated that he was requesting a feasibility study of the roads if the project was moving forward. There was then a back and forth discussion between Mr. Simerly and Director Weaver. Mr. Simerly advised his group will be appearing before the Planning Commission at their meeting on Wednesday evening to see if they could get the zoning changed for the North Judson Industrial Park. Commissioner Norem advised the Highway Superintendent is working on an ordinance to deal with large traffic and the conditioning of the roads. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised that all County meetings are considered open meetings and are open to the public. Attorney Lucas asked for the action they are requesting. Mr. Simerly advised they are still concerned with Metro moving into North Judson and advised the County needs to preserve and protect their County Roads. He advised they will be seeking a change of the zoning ordinance for that Industrial Park. He also noted he will be returning with more updates.

RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, AND VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim for the pay period ending on December 31st with a pay date of January 6th with the total gross amount of \$232,543.57. Commissioner Chesak could not participate in this motion since it occurred prior to his taking office. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with two ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims as presented, in the total gross amount of \$213,204.17. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3rd meeting if the corrections had been made that she had advised of. She checked the minutes and the corrections had been made. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Board signed the 2017 Covered Bridge Certification which is required by the State. The Board then signed the KIRPC Certification of Appointment for Commissioner Chesak and Betty Dotlich.

Commissioner Norem advised she will be able to hold Department Head Meetings the morning after the first monthly Commissioner meeting, at 9:30AM in the Annex Building. The meetings will begin in February and will be held on the even months.

EMS Director Keith Emigh talked about the maintenance work being done at the hospital and the large amount of activity going on there. The Board advised they are not aware of any large purchases and believed they were repairing the boilers. Commissioner Norem noted the hospital needs to seek permission from the County first before they would be adding anything new to the hospital's listing of capital assets. There was a discussion in regard to the capital asset quarterly report the County used to receive from Craig Felte.

EMA Director Jacob Lippner advised the Koontz Lake Fire Department's radios are working better but they are receiving a humming noise on them. They can be used to communicate back and forth with though. He also advised the 800 flash codes have been ordered and he should have 30 out of the 70 needed by next Monday. He also noted the 30 days for the J & K invoice has not started yet. They still need to input an adapter.

County Councilman Freddie Baker advised the contractor of the Coroner's Office is still waiting for the installation of the NIPSCO gas meter. Once it is installed the contractor would only have a few more days of work left before the building is complete.

Carrie Block, of 1st Choice Insurance, advised she has met with the Director of the Safety Committee to schedule trainings for this year. She stated she had met with Sheriff Dulin to discuss training for the police department also.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Silhavy talked about the movement of the North Judson Industrial Park to SR10 by Dan Bau's property. Director Weaver advised the location of the current park was established by the North Judson Town Council several decades ago. He noted the SCEDF is looking on SR10 to expand the park since no more land is available in that industrial park.

Pat Caron talked about the zoning of the present industrial park. Mr. Headly voiced his opinion of the park and Metro. Director Weaver stated Metro withdrew its application and that project will not happen in North Judson.

There was a gentleman present at the meeting who inquired about how to get involved on the towing rotation for the Sheriff's Department. The Board advised him to get in contact with Sheriff Dulin.

Larry Wicket spoke in regard to the North Judson Industrial Park. He advised he saw nothing wrong with the way things were handled. He stated no public hearing was needed and that company had not asked for a tax abatement. He added, it was also not a secret. Director Weaver advised the road leading into the industrial park was given to the County last year but before they could accept the road they asked for it to receive another coating. He noted that has not yet been completed. He advised the road he is speaking of is the road that runs east of CR350W, inside the industrial park.

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 7:15PM.

JANUARY 17, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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