

January 19, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in **executive** session at 3:15 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

I, Dona Hoban, Deputy Auditor, do hereby certify that no other business was discussed other than what was posted.

Witness my hand and the Auditor's seal this 19th day of January, 2009.

Dona Hoban

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: BAUGH MIDWEST (SYSCO)/HAMLET PROJECTS BID OPENING

Van Janovic, Territorial Engineering and Charles Weaver, Economic Development Director, opened the 18 bids received for the 3 Baugh Midwest (SYSCO)/Hamlet Projects. One bid (from Caldwell Tank) was faxed at 3:57 pm to the Auditor's office. The company stated that delivery was attempted at 7:45 am and the office was not open (office hours are 8 am to 4 pm CST). (Auditor's note: Deputy Auditor Dorothy Snowdon had opened the office at 7:20 am on Monday, January 19, 2009). The county attorney, Martin Lucas, will review to see if this bid can be accepted.

The bids received are as follows:

HAMLET/SYSCO WATER LINE EXTENSION

BIDDER	ADDRESS	BASE BID
Thomas Excavating & Welding, Inc.	250 E Marshall St., Argos, IN 46501	\$1,137,784.57
D & M Excavating, Inc.	9896 W 300 N, Michigan City, IN 46360	\$1,175,353.05
Woodruff & Sons, Inc.	2125 E U.S. Hwy. 12, PO Box 450, Michigan City, IN 46361	\$1,242,959.61
	5777 Cleveland Rd., PO Box 266, South Bend, IN 46624-0266	
HRP Construction, Inc.	0266	\$1,390,000.00
Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	1111 E Main St., Griffith, IN 46319	\$1,428,403.00
G.E. Marshall, Inc.	1351 Joliet Rd., Valparaiso, IN 46385	\$1,472,037.88
Phend & Brown, Inc.	367 E 1250 N, PO Box 150, Milford, IN 46542	\$1,506,306.00

HAMLET/SYSCO SANITARY LINE EXTENSION

BIDDER	ADDRESS	BASE BID
H & G Underground Utilities LLC	1355 E St. Rd. 2, LaPorte, IN 46350	\$ 414,198.90
D & M Excavating, Inc.	9896 W 300 N, Michigan City, IN 46360	\$ 426,639.87
Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	1111 E Main St., Griffith, IN 46319	\$ 449,800.00
Thomas Excavating & Welding, Inc.	250 E Marshall St., Argos, IN 46501	\$ 552,161.60
Woodruff & Sons, Inc.	2125 E U.S. Hwy. 12, PO Box 450, Michigan City, IN 46361	\$ 558,314.16
Delta III, Inc.	2063 W 1250 S, Hanna, IN 46340	\$ 560,388.82
Kreager Brothers Excavating, Inc.	PO Box 80187, Ft. Wayne, In 46898	\$ 561,200.00
Phend & Brown, Inc.	367 E 1250 N, PO Box 150, Milford, IN 46542	\$ 599,426.00
	5777 Cleveland Rd., PO Box 266, South Bend, IN 46624-0266	
HRP Construction, Inc.	0266	\$ 659,589.00
G.E. Marshall, Inc.	1351 Joliet Rd., Valparaiso, IN 46385	\$ 713,808.61
de Boer Golf Corp.	5772 Melton Rd., Portage, IN 46368	\$ 521,927.00

HAMLET/SYSCO WATER TOWER PROJECT

BIDDER	ADDRESS	BASE BID
Maguire Iron, Inc.	1610 N Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls , SD 57104	\$ 898,000.00

Mark Milo moved to have the attorney review all bids, then to meet with the commissioners on January 27, 2009, at 10 am in the commissioners' room to review the bids and make recommendations seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Steve Siddall, interim Highway Superintendent, brought in a sample of all weather boost for the commissioners to see. It is an alternative to salt for the roads. It will not freeze to -22 degrees. You can add sand, but this will raise the freeze level. Kathy Norem moved to purchase two loads for trial and without sand added seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Truck #62 was involved in an auto accident on December 8 and deemed totaled by Sentry Insurance. It can be bought back from Sentry for \$5,234.75. Kathy Norem moved to buy back the truck with the possibility of putting it back on the road (per Cary Jensen from the highway department) and if unable to be put back on the road, then it would be used for parts seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Steve Siddall and Sue Himes, Highway Clerk, presented their 2009 budget to the commissioners showing that line items for salt and sand were at -0- for 2009. Sue discussed this with the Auditor and found out that they could use LR & S money to purchase salt and sand until the commissioners can make a permanent decision. Mark Milo moved to use up to \$20,000 of LR & S funds for salt and sand seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom stated that Steve was retained as the interim superintendent at the first meeting in January, 2009 with the choice of foreman being his decision. Steve had not understood that, and it was reiterated to him that he could choose the interim foreman.

Steve Siddall advised the commissioners that he is now rotating overtime between all truck drivers and mechanics with no penalty for turning down the overtime. Steve had called out eight drivers and one mechanic on Saturday, January 17, for four hours to work on major roads only and costing \$1079.68.

Steve requested that the commissioners turn in to him their list of priority roads.

Steve informed the commissioners that the fuel pumps that were frozen on January 16, 2009, are repaired. The problem was with filter maintenance during winter months that they were not informed about.

The Commissioners requested that Steve give them a list of who from the highway, sheriff's department and EMS has keys for the gas pumps and to give a copy of that list to the Auditor.

IN RE: HEALTH, PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

Steve Moore from Neace Lukens Insurance appeared before the commissioners to ask if he could submit a quote for health insurance and property and casualty insurance.

IN RE: HWY. 23 & IROQUOIS AT KOONTZ LAKE--FLOODING

John Schaefer appeared regarding property he has owned at Koontz Lake for 7 years located at Hwy. 23 and Iroquois. Since the hot dog stand next to his property put in a cement driveway two years ago, he has had a severe flooding problem. Now there is ice as well due to the weather and he requested a solution from the commissioners. Mark Milo stated that our rain total in the last two years has been higher than before. If Iroquois is in the highway's road inventory, the commissioners may be able to help, but not with Highway 23.

Steve Siddall, interim Highway Superintendent, and County Surveyor Dennis Estok were requested by the commissioners to go out and look at the problem and report back to them. Mark Milo stated that this might be a drainage board issue. Steve Siddall will call Mr. Schaefer after it is checked out and let him know what he finds out and whether or not the commissioners would be able to provide relief.

IN RE: TREASURER'S OFFICE SPACE

Linda Belork, County Treasurer, appeared before the commissioners and wants the private office now occupied by the IT department given back to the Treasurer's Office. She stated that she has privacy issues discussing delinquent taxes and counting money at the counter.

Dan Bridegroom stated that this has not been an issue for the last eight years. Mark Milo stated that she could use the Center Twp. Assessor's office, which is now vacant, if she needs to discuss any issues privately.

She also stated that the locks on the cash drawers do not work. Nor does the one on the fireproof safe. She stated that the safe would be an issue with the State Board of Accounts if they were informed, and she does not want to be responsible for money left in the office overnight. Kathy Norem instructed her to call Jim first thing in the morning to see if he can repair the locks. If he can't she needs to obtain quotes and get them to the commissioners as soon as possible.

IN RE: COMMISSIONER WALK-THROUGH OF COUNTY BUILDINGS

The commissioners will be doing a walk through of the county buildings on January 23, 2009, for capital projects info.

IN RE: PANIC BUTTONS

It was reported that the panic buttons in the annex (and probably the courthouse) do not work. Kathy Norem hit the one in the Commissioners' room three times during the meeting with no response.

IN RE: TREASURER'S OFFICE SIDE EXIT DOOR

The Treasurer requested that the side exit door of her office remain locked for security. Dan Bridegroom stated that we couldn't keep it locked during business hours as it is a fire exit and must remain unlocked. She could contact Jim to remove the outside door handle so no one would be able to enter that way. (Auditor's note: The door handle was removed by Jim on 1-20-09).

IN RE: RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE WARREN COUNTY IN K.I.R.P.C. DISTRICT

Kim Baker from K.I.R.P.C. appeared on behalf of Edwin Buswell with a resolution for the commissioners to sign supporting the inclusion of Warren County into the K.I.R.P.C. district. Mark Milo asked if this would have any impact on Starke County monies and she said no. Mark Milo moved to approve the resolution to include Warren County seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR STARKE COUNTY SAN PIERRE COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT

Mark Milo moved to approve the Environmental Review for the Starke County San Pierre Community Center Project showing that there will be no effect on any historical properties seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: C.R. 300 E PROJECT

Jeff Larrison with United Consulting appeared before the commissioners regarding the Culver Rd. intersection of the C.R. 300 E Project and wanted to know if the commissioners wanted to be included in the construction project monies. The commissioners will discuss this with Charles Weaver at the joint meeting at the Economic Development Foundation on January 20, 2009.

IN RE: DRAINAGE BOARDS

Dan Bridegroom brought up the possibility of increasing the Starke County Drainage Board from three members to five members. After discussing this, they decided to make a decision at the February 2nd Commissioners' meeting.

IN RE: PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

Bruce Williams, Planning Director, brought up the issue of the three democrats and one republican on the Planning

Commission Board. The commissioners requested that Bruce present this to the Planning Commission Board on Wednesday, January 21st.

**IN RE: CSI SYSTEM AND MICROVOTE SYSTEM SOFTWARE
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Mark Milo moved to approve the software maintenance agreement and data base maintenance agreement for the CSI System and Microvote seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

IN RE: JOB DESCRIPTION FOR HIGHWAY DEPT. SUPERINTENDENT

Mark Milo moved to approve the revised job description for the highway superintendent seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. It is to be posted at the highway department, the sheriff's department, the annex and the courthouse for three days starting 1-21-09.

IN RE: MINUTES

Kathy Norem moved to approve the January 5, 2009, commissioner minutes. Motion died for lack of a second. Mark Milo wants some details corrected.

IN RE: PAYROLL

Mark Milo moved to approve the 1-16-09 payroll seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

Mark Milo moved to sign the certification stating that we have no covered bridges in Starke County seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: EMS

Randy Abbey is addressed by the commissioners regarding an incident with an employee. The commissioners feel that this is an ongoing management issue. They found no written warnings or record of any verbal warnings for previous complaints, so this will be handled as the first one per Dan Bridegroom.

The commissioners decided the following regarding Randy Abbey:

1. Written warning will be put in the personnel file (written by Dan Bridegroom).
2. Ninety (90) days probation, subject to questions by the commissioners.
3. Needs to attend one or two learning skills classes paid for by the commissioners.
4. Commissioners will meet with him to keep informed during the probation period of ninety (90) days.
5. Performance evaluations of all EMS employees will be required from this date on.
6. Debriefing of employees will be required as of this date forward AND
7. Written documentation will be required for any future incidents and will be part of the employee's permanent personnel records.

There being no further business to come before the board, Kathy Norem moved to adjourn seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

