

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

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 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 Vice-President Don Binkley. Commissioner President Kent Danford was absent.

### **REVIEW OF ELECTION WORKERS POLICY DURING THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Clerk Vicki Colley appeared before the Board to request that the Election Deputy and Absentee Workers have extra hours this election. She explained that when there is a larger election, there is an election deputy working regular hours as well as working the two Saturdays prior to the election. She also noted that in the past there were evening election hours. The Election Board would determine if evening hours were necessary. Clerk Cooley requested that the election deputy and absentee workers can work the Saturday hours for election. Commissioner Norem commented that she saw no reason to change from prior elections. Norem also noted that the law specifies the office must remain open for so many hours including the Saturdays. Commissioner Norem made a motion to do what was done in the 2014 election. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

### **NIPSO TRANSMISSION LINE ROADWAY ENTRANCE PERMIT; PURCHASE OF AIRPORT TRUCK; BRIDGE INSPECTION SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT**

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board in regard to the NIPSCO Roadway Interest Permit for transition lines. NIPSCO has requested that the County give them roadway entrance permits for their new transmission lines. NIPSCO provided the Superintendent a certificate of liability insurance. The Superintendent noted they have not approved the permit yet, he needs the locations. He noted the current existing construction permits do not include the pricing for roadway road cuts. Superintendent Ritzler noted the permits normally range from \$100.00 to \$500.00, but for entrance ways for construction there is not a specific price. He suggested a set price at \$200.00 for those permits and that would cover the checking of the entrance ways and also the clerical work. Also, the permit would state they are responsible for any repairs afterwards. Superintendent Ritzler wanted to confirm with the Board. Commissioner Binkley asked if that permit would cover the road and the Superintendent responded that the permit would cover the roadway and the entrance off of the roadway. He noted the roadway would be photographed before and after and the photos would be compared and the permit holder would be responsible for the damages. The Superintendent also noted if the road itself was damaged, they would also be responsible for those repairs.

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler also appeared before the Board to discuss the purchase of the airport dump truck. The Airport wanted to get the dump truck ready to sell and while the Highway Department was repairing the truck the Mechanic noticed it was in excellent condition. He also noted the airport dump trucks are in high demand because they have low mileage and are usually in good shape. The Superintendent discussed the purchase with Charlie Weaver, and they both agreed on the price of \$7,500.00 minus the repair costs done on the vehicle. The repairs initially were anticipated to be about \$2,500.00 and were actually \$1,700.00. Superintendent Ritzler commented the Highway Mechanic estimated the truck to be work about \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the purchase of the Airport Dump Truck. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Superintendent Ritzler appeared to also discuss the Bridge Inspection Supplemental Contract. He stated that INDOT has been reviewing the boiler plate contracts that consultants used for bridge inspections. They discovered the lump sum charge should be per item. INDOT is enforcing the consultants redo the contracts. The Superintendent got a letter from USI about this matter and the consultants will owe the Highway Department an estimated \$300.00 for charging lump sum fees instead of a per item fee. He noted the Highway Department does need a Supplemental Contract. He is sending the Contract to INDOT for approval and is also submitting the Contract to the Board in order to get signatures at the next meeting. The Superintendent noted it will save money in the long run with Bridge Inspections.

### **RENEWAL OF INMATE MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT**

Sheriff Bill Dulin appeared before the Board in regard to the renewal of the Inmate Medical Insurance Contract. The Sheriff noted the contact for the inmates has expired through Quality Correctional Care. He noted there is a significant increase and also changes. He stated the increase in Inmates and the DOC Program contributed to that increase. Commissioner Norem made a suggestion to eliminate the offsite service pool of funds that allows Quality Correctional Care to pay the claims. The County would pay the claims directly. Commissioner Norem also noted in the contract there is a 30 days convenience cancellation. Attorney Lucas elaborated after 30 days advanced notice the County could cancel their contract with QCC.

Commissioner Norem remarked on the Medicaid eligibility for Inmates. It was discussed the Medicaid by law, must be done within the first 30 days for inmates. The process will be completed during the first 14 days health

assessment. Inmates who will not be incarcerated for 14 days do not go through the Medicaid Screening. It was confirmed the Therapeutic Community Inmates have already completed the health assessment. Sheriff Dulin will confirm with the DOC they are responsible for the Therapeutic Inmates Medicaid. Commissioner Norem also mentioned there is an agreement that can be signed between the County and the Family and Social Services Administration to be reimbursed for a portion of the administration costs for filing of the Medicaid applications. It was decided the offsite service pool of funds that the QCC pays would be instead be paid directly by the County. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the contract as presented less the offsite services pool. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all ayes.

**RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, VENDOR CLAIMS', POSTING OF EMPLOYMENT ON COUNTY'S WEBSITE**

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of meeting from February 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket in the total gross amount of \$170,849.29. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll claim docket for the pay claim ending January 30, 2016, with a pay date of February 5, 2016 in the total gross amount of \$219,243.00. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem and Commissioner Binkley agreed to table the discussion of postings of employments on the County's website.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Pearman brought before the Board that a previous employee of the jail had made an error in collecting money from the DOC. Councilman Pearman speculated the money was not collected and needed to be. Sheriff Bill Dulin informed the Board the County could not rebill. Attorney Lucas offered to analyze the paperwork to confirm. The Sheriff proposed having a meeting with Attorney Lucas, Councilman Pearman, and the Commissioners to further discuss the situation. The County's Innkeeper's tax was also tabled for a future meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peg Brettin inquired as to when the renovations at the Courthouse would begin. Commissioner Norem informed Ms. Brettin it is scheduled to begin this summer. Ms. Brettin expressed concerns about the Courthouse being on the National Registry. Commissioner Norem informed her that the architect is aware of the Courthouse being on the National Registry List. The renovations will not change in the inside of the Courthouse, as to why it on the National Registry List. IT Director Brian Pinson informed the Board that he should hear back from both of the fiber companies the days following the meeting.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

**FEBRAURY 15, 2016**

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Danford, President

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Donald Binkley, Vice President

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Kathy Norem

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