

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:43PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Charlie Chesak, Kathy Norem, and Bryan Cavender present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charlie Chesak at 6:43PM, due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

OPENING OF BIDS FOR 2019 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS PROJECT

Superintendent Rik Ritzler came before the board for the bid opening for the two projects approved through the Community Crossings Grant, these projects include CR 25 North from 600E to SR23 and the Intersection of CR210 and Old SR 10 at Bass Lake. Attorney Lucas presented the board with four bids and confirmed with Auditor Oesterreich on whether or not they have all been timely received. Auditor Oesterreich confirmed that all the bids have been timely received. Attorney Lucas proceeded to open the bids received. The bids results are as follows as read by Attorney Lucas:

Walsh & Kelly – Starke County Road 2019 Community Crossings on roadway improvement projects for CR210 and CR600S Intersection Improvements and CR25N between CR600E and SR23 HMA Overlay. Bid amount received is \$699,440.49.

E & B Paving - Starke County Road 2019 Community Crossings on roadway improvement projects for CR210 and CR600S Intersection Improvements and CR25N between CR600E and SR23 HMA Overlay. Bid amount received is \$796,379.39.

Phend & Brown - Starke County Road 2019 Community Crossings on roadway improvement projects for CR210 and CR600S Intersection Improvements and CR25N between CR600E and SR23 HMA Overlay. Bid amount received is \$780,616.59.

Reith & Riley - Starke County Road 2019 Community Crossings on roadway improvement projects for CR210 and CR600S Intersection Improvements and CR25N between CR600E and SR23 HMA Overlay. Bid amount received is \$684,475.79.

Superintendent Ritzler stated he will review the bids and then present his recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

EMS AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Clerk MaryLynn Ritchie from EMS came before the Board of Commissioners to request signatures on an Addendum to the Professional Services Agreement with Starke Hospital as the EMS Department's supporting hospital. Commissioner Norem asked Clerk Ritchie what agreement this was regarding, she stated it was an agreement between Starke Hospital and the EMS Department, when the EMS Department became ALS Transport eligible, that Starke Hospital would be the supporting hospital. This contract was reviewed and approved by Attorney Lucas. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the addendum to the professional services agreement as presented. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes.

SHERIFF DULIN ORDINANCES/FUND CREATION/COVERT LAW ENFORCEMENT TRANSACTION FUND

Sheriff Bill Dulin came before the Board of Commissioners to request approval for the Covert Law Enforcement Transaction Fund. Commissioner Norem stated this has been discussed thoroughly over the last few meetings and asked if there was any further discussion needed by Commissioner Chesak and Commissioner Cavender. With no further discussion requested Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the ordinance for the covert law enforcement transaction fund. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas stated this ordinance will supersede any existing ordinance which was an ordinance that was created in 1993 called the Drug Task Force. Sheriff Dulin also presented information regarding the Farm Fund creation, he is not asking for money or for this fund, it will be self-funded. Attorney Lucas will have an ordinance to present on the creation of the farm fund for the next scheduled commissioner's meeting.

Commissioner Norem inquired about the ordinances that Sheriff Dulin requested the Commissioner's approve, information in addition to those ordinances consisted of a call from a woman who was very upset about a barking dog. Commissioner Norem stated she has called her before, she has also called Commissioner Cavender, she stated she was told the Sheriff stated the Commissioner's would not do anything about the barking dogs. Commissioner Norem then proceeded to ask Sheriff Dulin if he would create an ordinance for barking dogs that he would be able to enforce the Commissioner's will take it under review for approval. Sheriff Dulin asked the status of the ordinance that were presented at previous meetings being; dogs running at large, amendment to the golf cart ordinance, responding to alarm calls and inmate administrative booking fee. Attorney Lucas stated he will continue to work on these, he asked Sheriff Dulin which of those is his highest priority. Sheriff Dulin stated the inmate booking fee and then the dogs running at large would be the first two he would like to see passed, he also stated that the amendment to the golf cart ordinance should be easy and would like to get that one amended soon as they will be beginning the inspection in May or June. Commissioner Norem asked Auditor Oesterreich to add these requested ordinances to the next Commissioner's agenda.

Sheriff Dulin also asked the Board of Commissioners about a purchase of a vehicle. He informed the board that last year they had one vehicle that was totaled, he did receive the insurance money in which he put toward the purchase of a vehicle last year. However, it took longer than expected to receive the vehicle due to delays on the manufacturer's part. He would like to put in this request early so that if it gets delayed again they would still be able to receive the vehicle this year. Commissioner Norem asked Sheriff Dulin if he was looking to purchase one vehicle. Sheriff Dulin stated ideally he would like to purchase two vehicles. Commissioner Norem stated it was wise of the Sheriff to make his request early in the year, she asked the Sheriff to provide the Board of Commissioners with a list of vehicles he currently has in his inventory and the mechanics rating on these vehicles. Commissioner Cavender asked Sheriff Dulin if he was still getting deals on the used vehicles. Sheriff Dulin stated he has not been back up to that company in a while but he is not opposed to doing it again. He stated the last three vehicles he purchased used from this particular company the vehicles have had decent mileage (between 60,000 – 80,000) and have been good vehicles for his department.

SCEDF SCILL DRAFT GRANT

Commissioner Norem addressed the Board of Commissioners in regards to the SCEDF SCILL Draft Grant. She stated Attorney Lucas and herself went to meet with the SCEDF and the request they had for the amount of \$80,000.00 for the SCILL program. Commissioner Norem advised that when she and Attorney Lucas met with the SCEDF they wanted more money, an additional \$75,116.00, which they did not add to the contract being presented. This year the contract is a grant contract that will come in two parts. Also, a part of the contract is the stipulation that before they will be considered for a grant next year they will need to present the Commissioners with an analysis of the needs of the county to support their request for education next year. Commissioner Norem stated that in one respect she does not know where we "Starke County" would be without Economic Development. She stated we have a beautiful industrial park and companies that have come into our county. On the flip side Commissioner Norem is disappointed with the salary rates in Starke County in comparison with the area surrounding Starke County as we are way below not just in the area but in comparison with the State of Indiana. SCILL is in charge of working toward getting higher paying jobs to come in the county, this message is worded in the proposed contract with SCEDF regarding the SCILL grant.

Commissioner Norem asked Attorney Lucas to read a specific portion of the SCILL Grant Agreement being:

V. GRANT AGREEMENT GOALS. The Board of Commissioners of Starke County are providing financial support to the SCILL for the purpose of helping to improve economic and social conditions for the citizens of Starke County by improving employment opportunities and enhancing locally marketable skills in the workforce. The SCILL understands that the Board of Commissioners' future support for SCILL may be predicated upon SCILL formulating and executing a plan of employment skill training that calculated to enhance employee income levels in Starke County. A key specific goal is to bring wages earned by the workforce in Starke County at least into substantial parity with surrounding counties.

After some further discussion about the Grant Agreement for Support of SCILL Center Training Programs Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the contract as presented and give it to SCILL. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes.

BIDS FOR 2019 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS PROJECT CONTINUED

Superintendent Ritzler came before the Board of Commissioners after reviewing the bids received for the 2019 Community Crossing Project. He stated the engineers estimate for the two projects was a total of \$720,332.00. They had a total of four bids and two of the bids were below the engineers estimate. Reith-Riley came in as the lowest bid of \$684,475.79, this was \$36,000.00 below the engineers estimate. Superintendent Ritzler stated they have worked with Reith & Riley before and have never had any major change orders, he recommended to the Board of Commissioners to accept the bid presented by Reith & Riley for the total amount of \$684,475.79. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Reith & Riley bid of \$684,475.79. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion, the motion passed with all ayes.

CYBER SECURITY INSURANCE

Commissioner Norem advised that there are items that are offered on the different options that we do not currently have and may not need. Attorney Lucas advised that the county did not take all of the options last time around as well. Commissioner Norem advised she had not had the chance to fully read all the options. Commissioner Norem asked if this matter could be recessed and if either Commissioner Cavender or Commissioner Chesak would be able to attend. Commissioner Cavender advised he would like more information regarding this matter and would be able to attend the meeting. The meeting will be recessed until for 1:00PM on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 02/09/19 with a pay date of 02/15/19, in the total gross amount of \$251,323.14. Commissioner Chesak asked for a motion for approval of the vendor claims. Before the motion was made Vice President of the Planning Commission Bill Crase stated there are several issues regarding the Solid Waste Building that was just built by Royal Star Builders, which will be discussed at the planning commission meeting Wednesday night. He stated that Terry was never asked to do any inspections and there are several issues that need to be addressed. Commissioner Norem then asked planning commissioner Terry Stephenson if he had ever been out to the building. Stephenson stated he did go out to inspect meter service in which he found was too low to the ground. He also completed a gas pressure check for Kenny Wagner. Stephenson stated there are major major code violations in that building. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Claims Docket as presented with the exception of Royal Star Builders for the amount of \$2,700.00. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4th meeting. Commissioner Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

The discussion regarding GPS on county vehicles was brought back before the board. Commissioner Norem stated they had agreed, at the last Commissioner's Meeting, to install GPS units on the county vehicles. However, since the last meeting she believes a department head had complained about this approval to Commissioner Chesak. Commissioner Chesak stated he had a couple departments complain about this approval and believes it is a waste of money and has concerns about who is going to sit there and track the vehicle. Commissioner Norem advised that the main reason we use the GPS units is for a better insurance rate on the county's liability insurance. It is not about tracking and seeing where particular department heads are at certain times. She stated we also use the GPS for the dismissal of lawsuits against the county because we could prove we were not in that location and this has saved major amounts of money on that. Commissioner Norem stated she is not sure what the objection would be to those cost savings or even why that would be such an objectionable thing as this just a matter of routine business. Commissioner Chesak does not want to use the GPS units that the highway would provide as he believes those should stay at the highway department. After some further discussion regarding the GPS units Commissioner Cavender made a motion to dismiss the issue for now. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion to dismiss and the motion passed with two ayes and Commissioner Norem as opposed to the motion made by Commissioner Cavender.

Commissioner Norem advised that she has an update on the elevator that is going to be installed in the Courthouse. She provided the Board of Commissioners and the news media with a timeline. The elevator upgrade costs are being paid for by a grant and the county will incur 10% of the total costs. The elevator construction process will begin on February 22, 2019 and be completed by May 1, 2019.

Commissioner Norem requested assistance during this time period, from the EMS department, if they were to have any individuals who would need court services and would need to get to the third floor. She advised the public entity that are unable to climb the stairs to the third floor to call ahead. Kenny Wallace asked about how this is going to affect early voting. Commissioner Norem said that the contractors need the room where the public normally early votes to store all of their supplies. Commissioner Norem stated they can vacate the Commissioner's Office for the use of the election board for early voting and if the election board does not feel that this area would not be satisfactory then they can put them back up on the second floor were they used to early vote and in the event someone comes in that needs to be taken upstairs they will have them take and seat and then call EMS to have them taken upstairs so they can early vote and then taken back downstairs when finished.

Commissioner Norem asked Auditor Oesterreich if she would look into whether or not EZ Blockchain has been paying their rent to the county. Commissioner Norem also asked Commissioner Chesak about the status of having a meeting with the department heads about having their vehicles serviced at the county highway as it saves taxpayers money. Commissioner Chesak said it would depend on the charges and he believes that if the departments can find services elsewhere cheaper than services at the county highway they should go there. He stated that because of liability concerns and issues it would be better for departments to use a company, not the highway garage, to service the county vehicles. Commissioner Cavender stated he feels the departments should utilize the highway garage as much as possible unless it is something that they are unable to do. After some further discussion about where the vehicles should be serviced at Commissioner Norem suggested Commissioner Chesak meet with these departments to work out the issues that have been brought to the table. Commissioner Chesak stated he believes it is better as it is being done now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Surveyor Bill Crase thanked the Sheriff's Department for sending inmates on a few mornings to get the sidewalks cleaned off when it snowed.

Sheriff Deputy Adam Gray inquired about Economic Development and getting more businesses in Starke County. Commissioner Norem advised that they have had a lengthy conversation with Starke County Economic Development about these issues Deputy Gray has expressed. Commissioner Cavender then spoke about the US30 Coalition and some reasons why La Porte may not be spending their money on the US30 Coalition Committee. Commissioner Norem then addressed Deputy Gray about the two year contract that was just voted a couple of meetings ago regarding Starke County Economic Development. She also explained the one year grant they just voted on at tonight's meeting regarding the SCILL program.

There being no further public comments and no further business, Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM.

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Charlie Chesak, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

**Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners**