

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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 6:06PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

ANTHEM DENTAL CONTRACT

Auditor Chaffins advised this was a contract for the employees' dental care which was the same coverage as before but is a different provider, Anthem. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the signing of the contract pending County Attorney Marty Lucas' approval. Attorney Lucas reviewed the contract. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REQUEST FOR KEYS

There was a request for keys for Debbie Mix, an employee of the Purdue Extension Office. Auditor Chaffins advised she is working for Purdue and is not a County employee. Commissioner Norem tabled the request for keys until they could find out more information as to why she was requesting a key. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the keys to Amy Bales, a Deputy Auditor. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

APPOINTMENT TO BZA BOARD

The last appointment of the 2018 Appointments was an appointment to the BZA Board. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to appoint Zachary Binkley to the BZA Board after receiving a letter of interest from him. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. He was appointed to a four year term.

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

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for the pay period ending on Feb. 10th with a pay date of Feb. 16th in the total gross amount of \$249,540.42. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total amount of \$343,332.67. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Feb. 5th meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REQUEST FOR ROAD VACATION OR FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK TO BE COMPLETED

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler and property owner, Dan Gumz, appeared before the Board in regard to a portion of a road, CR200E, north of CR50S where the road dead ends. The Superintendent stated they would like the Board to decide to either vacate the road or to maintain it. He advised the road area has not been maintained in the last 25 years. Mr. Gumz stated he had recently purchased the property and was asking about the ownership of the road. He asked if it was a county road and is on the County's inventory and if it was something they wanted to vacate or if they wanted to maintain the road. Commissioner Norem stated if the road is maintained the gate would need to come down. There was a discussion of the issue. Mr. Gumz stated there are three farmers who use that road so he would need to talk to them about the gate. He stated the reason the road was gated was because it helps stop trash from being dumped there and also from parties being held in that area. He stated there was a gate on the property but he didn't know it was a County Road. Commissioner Binkley stated he would rather keep the road but would not like to see it maintained. Attorney Lucas stated if the Board would determine to abandon the property the petition process would need to be followed. Superintendent Ritzler stated if the Board chooses to abandon the road it would no longer be on the County Road's inventory and right now they have been receiving approximately \$6,000.00 for that area of the road. Mr. Gumz stated he

would talk to the other landowners who use the road and see about the gate. The Board asked him once he had the information they should come back to the Board.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Board signed the executed DLZ Contract which was approved at their last meeting.

WKVI Representative, Anita Goodan, asked if the County had received their 2018 Budget back from the State yet. Auditor Chaffins advised yes it had been received and there were no budget cuts at all to any of the County’s budgets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glen Greer advised he owns property by Hartz Lake and there is an easement approximately 200-250 feet long owned by the Board of Commissioners which is right next to his property. He stated he has many people who are using that lake easement near his property, fishing, eating, throwing garbage, etc. and they come onto his property. He was wondering if the County would close the easement similarly to what they have done at Bass Lake and Koontz Lake. Commissioner Norem advised the Board has never closed any easement or roads that dead end into Bass Lake or Koontz Lake. They do have easements at both of those lakes. Attorney Lucas stated if he wished to close the easement he would need to file for a formal petition and follow the State Statute; he would probably need an attorney to handle the petition. Commissioner Norem stated he could go through that process if he chooses but they have never agreed to close an easement.

Kyle Nissen reported to the Board of Commissioners he has a towing service and has been in business for a couple of years. He has been trying to get onto the Sheriff’s rotating towing service but has not been able to do it. His complaint is a towing company who has only been in business for three months; is not following the State rules; does not have the proper insurance but has been able to get onto the Sheriff’s Towing rotation. The Board advised Mr. Nissen he would need to talk with the Sheriff about the towing rotation. Mr. Nissen asked if the Board of Commissioners could take over the towing rotation for the Sheriff’s Department. The Board of Commissioners advised they do not do that. Commissioner Binkley stated he would need to set up a meeting with the Sheriff in regard to this issue. Mr. Nissen stated he believed Officer Rob Olejniczak has taken over handling the towing. Commissioner Binkley also advised if he has any illegal problems with this issue he should either discuss this with the Sheriff or contact the Indiana State Police.

Larry Wickert, Interim Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation advised he had submitted the monthly report of the SCEDF to the Board via email. He also advised Gary Popkins will be productive very soon and open for business.

Kenny Wallace advised there has been quite a mess on CR200S just east of US35 in the tearing down of a house and a tree for the clearing of property for the new Dollar General Store. He advised the County Highway does a much better job of cleaning up a mess when trimming trees but this company does not. Superintendent Ritzler advised he will look into this tomorrow.

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 6:54PM.

FEBRUARY 19, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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