

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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 at 6:35PM.

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board with several items to discuss. The first item was signatures needed on the Bridge Contracts for Bridges 46 & 47. The second item was signatures required on the Phase 11 Bridge Inspections. The third item was the introduction of the Heavy Truck Ordinance. He advised he made up a committee composing of Councilman Brad Hazelton, Sheriff Bill Dulin, Commissioner Charlie Chesak, Councilman Freddie Baker, Lee Nagai, Larry Wickert, County Attorney Marty Lucas and the Superintendent. He advised he has composed a rough draft of the ordinance and Attorney Lucas will be reviewing it. He noted he will be providing more of this ordinance at the next meeting. The next item was the Consultant Selection for Bridge 7. The Superintendent advised they had heard from seven companies who responded and they placed their statistics onto a scoring sheet. He stated Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski scored first on both scoring sheets and he recommends JP&R as the Bridge 7 Consultant. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve J P&R as the Bridge 7 Consultant. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The final item the Superintendent discussed was the purchase of mowing tractors. Superintendent Ritzler advised he had received quotes for the mowing tractor and he discovered tractors were available that did not use the DEF(diesel exhaust fluid). He also spoke of another special deal he was advised of if he were to purchase two tractors together, a New Holland T4.105 and a New Holland T4.115; he would save an additional \$2,400.00. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to purchase both tractors together. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler stated he has the money in his budget and he will postpone purchasing the pickup truck and the dump truck this year in order to purchase both tractors. He advised he will purchase both trucks using next year's budget.

COUNTY'S PURCHASE OF CYBER INSURANCE

Carrie Block of 1st Choice Insurance appeared before the Board. She advised the IT Director, Brian Pinson could not attend the meeting as he had additional work to do. Ms. Block submitted three options to the Board with various coverage totals and deductible or retention amounts. She stated Media, Digital & Business Income are all additional coverages. The Board discussed those options and decided they felt they could do without those additional coverages. Without those additional three items the price quote for the 1st million dollar coverage with a \$10,000.00 retention was \$4,714.00. Ms. Block advised that would provide catastrophic coverage for the County Government and she advised she would monitor the insurance to see how it is working out for the County. Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept the insurance plan for the One Million Dollar coverage with the \$10,000.00 retention which would provide cyber liability with no optional coverages for the amount of \$4,714.00 annual premium. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

RESPONSIBLE BIDDING ORDINANCE

Commissioner Norem advised due to the fact Starke County only has one newspaper to post legal notices in it will postpone the passing of the Responsible Bidding Ordinance. Auditor Chaffins advised the legal notices for the public hearing will be posted in the Feb. 22nd Leader and the March 2nd Leader. The 1st Reading of the Ordinance will take place at the Board of Commissioners March 6th meeting and the public hearing and the adoption will take place at the March 20th meeting. Attorney Lucas advised the Responsible Bidding Ordinance is on file in the County Auditor's Office for anyone wanting to review.

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

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on Feb. 11, with a pay date of Feb. 17th, in the total gross amount of \$226,635.89. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket. Auditor Chaffins advised first that the EMS Department cancelled two of their refund claims in the total amount of \$912.85.

Commissioner Norem stated she would like to make a motion to approve the Claims Docket in the net amount of \$240,543.14. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 6th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chesak and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem advised they needed to select two more appointees to the County's CVC Board, one Democrat and one Republican. She nominated Carolla Heilstedt, Democrat to serve on the CVC Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem selected Joan Ludwig, Republican, to also serve on the Board. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised an Open House has been scheduled for the remodeling projects of the Old Jail Building and the County Courthouse on Tuesday, April 18th. She advised this Open House will not be on the same scale as the New County Jail's Open House, but it is new construction and everyone should be moved into their departments by then.

Attorney Lucas advised of an email he had sent out to the Board in regard to properties that are considered "derelict properties" and have the cleanup expenses added to the property and those costs are added as liens to the property. He advised there is an IC Code 6-1.1-24.1.7 which is an enacted procedure for certifying certain properties as "not suitable for tax sale". He stated a sale at a tax sale could result in loss of the liens. Attorney Lucas stated a Judge could decide to send property to a tax sale and to leave the lien in with the costs of the unpaid property taxes. He also spoke of the possibility of getting groups of parcels together of unsold tax sale properties and offer them as a group for sale. Commissioner Norem advised they should get a listing from the County Treasurer of property that has been up for tax sale more than three times. Attorney Lucas advised he circulated the information to the Board for their review and future discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Mix, President of the County's Park Board advised the Board that there was a meeting that Saturday at the Starke County Forest consisting of the Surveyor Bill Crase, Ken Porter of the Drainage Board, Bruce Wakeland Director of the Starke County Forest, Attorney Lucas and herself in regard to the Anderson Ditch. She advised it was a meeting of minds and now they have a plan to move ahead at that location.

Debbie Mix also advised she has been waiting since December for an inspection report from Terry Stephensen in regard to his inspection of the Bass Lake Beach. She advised the report she has received is not sufficient since she needs a more detailed inspection report. She advised if Terry is not able to complete such an inspection she would like to hire another inspector to do the job. President Binkley advised he will speak to Terry one more time about this inspection.

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 7:30PM.

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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