

ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS

March 16, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MINUTES

Kathy Norem moved to approve the March 2, 2009, minutes seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes 1 abstaining (MM was not at that meeting).

IN RE: PAYROLL

Mark Milo moved to approve the March 13, 2009 payroll seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: PRESIDENTIAL SPIRIT COMMUNITY AWARD FOR INDIANA

Kathy Norem announced that Taylor Kemble, an 8th grader from the Knox Middle School, received the Presidential Spirit Community Award for Indiana. This award is based on a five page essay written on her volunteerism in Starke County. She was presented with a medal that she showed the commissioners. She was picked out of all students who submitted essays throughout the entire state.

IN RE: CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ORDINANCE #2009-04

Julianne Havens stated that five people including her attended a meeting in Indianapolis regarding the Child Fatality Review Team. They decided to form a team and submitted names for the team and they submitted these names to the commissioners for their approval. This program is for all children under the age of 18. No funding is required at this time. Kathy Norem moved to approve the ordinance as written and appoint the committee members as designated seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

IN RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACTS

Rhonda Milner, Assessor, reported that she will make her recommendations regarding the reassessment contract at the April 6 commissioner meeting. The commissioners approved her using the county attorney if needed for the contract.

IN RE: HOOSIER VALLEY RAILROAD PROJECT

Rhonda Milner informed the commissioners that they needed to make an appointment to set wages for the Hoosier Valley Railroad project. The commissioners stated that they already have two people appointed to the wage board and that she can choose from those two. Kathy Norem moved to correct the original appointment to the wage board to be Tim Brettin and Kenny Wallace seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

IN RE: SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FEES

Sheriff Oscar Cowen wants to increase the sheriff's sale fees to \$200 with \$100 continuing to go into County General and the additional \$100 to go towards the Sheriff's pension plan. He has requested that the ordinance reads to designate the fees in this way.

Mark Smith explained that there are no increases in the pension, this is just a way to help fund what has been in place since 1977.

Mark Milo moved to create the resolution and advertise it for pending approval seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Sheriff Cowen also asked to have an ordinance created in order to establish a fee of \$10 for fingerprints and a fee of \$5 for background checks. Mark Milo moved to create the resolution and advertise it for pending approval seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

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IN RE: GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STIMULUS PROGRAM

Kathy Norem reported that there was \$11,874 in grant money available to the sheriff. Dewayne Arndt from Congressman Joe Donnelly's office is going to help the sheriff apply for the grant. Kathy suggested the possibility of more bullet proof vests as our worker's compensation provider stated that we needed more of them. Kathy stated that this \$11,874 is out of \$2 billion nationwide.

IN RE: JAIL LIGHTING REPAIRS

The commissioners received an estimate to repair the lighting at the jail in the amount of \$12,700. The commissioners would like more proposals before making a decision. The lighting to be repaired is basically in the cell blocks. The commissioners would like 3 or 4 people to assess what needs to be done and then decide from that what they want to have done at this time.

IN RE: UNIFORMS FOR E.M.S.

Shawn Campbell from Cintas showed the commissioners a uniform the E.M.S. employees would like to have. The uniforms would be \$1.47 per day and the employee would pay the cost.

Charlie Averill asked if the uniforms were made in the U.S.A.

Mr. Campbell stated that there need not be a minimum number of people, just a minimum of \$25 per week to justify the stop. There is also a \$6.95 surcharge per location per week. There would be a five year contract.

Mark Milo moved to have the county attorney, Martin Lucas, look at the contract seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. Kathy Norem requested that Mr. Campbell only show the employees uniforms that were made in the U.S.A.

IN RE: CERTIFIED E.M.S. TRAINING AT STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Pat Kreischer with Starke Memorial Hospital informed the commissioners that the hospital is a certified E.M.S. training facility. She is requesting an agreement to allow the students to ride on the ambulance for training. The commissioners want to check on insurance coverage. The county attorney, Martin Lucas, is checking the agreement. Mark Milo moved to allow if the insurance covers this and it doesn't cost us any more for the insurance and pending verification seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: RESOLUTION #2009-05 TO BUY "MADE IN THE U.S.A." PRODUCTS

Charlie Averill submitted a resolution #2009-05 on the spending of Federal Economic Renewal Grants to Starke County. The resolution is to buy products made in the U.S.A. whenever possible. The resolution is on file in the Auditor's office. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: I.T. OFFICE – COOLING OF SERVERS

Bob Smith, I.T. Coordinator, informed the commissioners that with all the servers in his office, the heat is too intense for the servers to function properly. He would like to have a separate air conditioning unit for that office. Bob received three proposals for this. Mark Milo moved to take the low bid of McGrath Refrigeration seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: ANNEX KEY FOR DEPUTY TREASURER

Kathy Norem moved to approve a key to the Annex for Judy Benninghoff, Deputy Treasurer, seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

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IN RE: P.E.R.F. FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Mark Milo moved to approve adding the Community Corrections Director of Operations position to the P.E.R.F. plan seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Pat Mitchell brought in a progress report on the Community Corrections.

Mr. Mitchell needs a letter authorizing to apply for a revolving grant. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

The grant money is strictly for the Community Corrections and supplemented by user fees of the defendants using the program.

IN RE: COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Dave Pearman, Kenny Pfof and other firemen appeared before the commissioners regarding the commissioners' decision to not allow county employees to respond to fires during work hours. Dan Bridegroom explained why they did this – safety, then business, then back to safety.

The commissioners are trying to work out a compromise with the fire departments. The employees are to leave only if needed and must have the superintendent's approval. After the fire, they are expected to go back to work. They discussed letting the employees who are volunteer firemen, being allowed to go if it is a house fire or a vehicular accident, but not brush fires or for lifting.

Dave and Kenny are to come up with the best case scenarios and bring it back to the commissioners for discussion.

IN RE: PROPOSED MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR JAIL PLUMBING

The commissioners discussed what was needed in a maintenance contract for plumbing at the jail. The county attorney, Martin Lucas, will write one for this.

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS

Mr. Callahan who leased the Bass Lake Beach and campground submitted printouts showing expenses and repairs last year of over \$20,000. He also reported that he had been fined by I.D.E.M. over water testing. He didn't realize what was required, but they are now compliant.

IN RE: STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS AUDIT OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The State Board of Accounts audit for the Highway Department was discussed. There is a requirement that the county seek reimbursement for missing funds, for false claims, personal expenses and sale of scrap that Pete Stanojevich's bond is to reimburse the county for. There will be no more donations to the highway for Christmas parties. The commissioners went through the audit and stated what was going to be done to correct the problem. The audit is on file in the Auditor's Office.

IN RE: COMMISSIONER/COUNCIL JOINT WORK SESSION

There will be a work session of the Starke County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 9:30 am for the purpose of scoring the engineers that sent in proposals for the CR 300E project.

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The council and commissioners will hold a work session to discuss common ground issues and the county handbook. The joint meeting will be held on April 1, 2009, at 4:30 pm at the Starke County Annex meeting room.

IN RE: I.T. MEETING

Rhonda Milner reported that the next I.T. meeting will be at 9:00 am on Monday, May 11, 2009. The committee is requesting help from the commissioners regarding the I.T. Coordinator's job description for I.T./Purchasing.

IN RE: SYSCO/HAMLET PROJECT

Charles Weaver, Economic Development Director, reported that the E.D.A. has approved all the bids for the SYSCO/Hamlet Project. The details have been worked out to receive \$500,000 from SYSCO and \$350,000 from SYSCO for the rail spur.

Mr. Weaver explained where SYSCO is in the project and what our next steps are. We will probably see activity in August or September.

Mr. Weaver wanted to inform the commissioners that if we start now and SYSCO doesn't build, we run the risk of having to repay the grant.

Kathy Norem moved to proceed with the projects in Hamlet readying us for SYSCO and let the contracts in accordance with the schedule to the winning bidders seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

In the event of a default, the Economic Development will explore the possibilities of SYSCO making the repayment.

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

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners