

Monday, March 19, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dan Bridegroom and Jennifer Davis present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Norem at 7:30PM. President Norem noted changes to that meeting's agenda. She advised they will be discussing the PNC Bank Agreement at 7:15PM, with Steve Dodge; and also to be added to the agenda, as "Also to be Discussed" will be the District Two grant funding received by, EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti; CVC Board Appointments; and the Assessor's requests for education. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

YELLOW RIVER DEBRIS REMOVAL PROJECT

Shawn Cain, of KIRPC, appeared before the board to get the Commissioners' signature on the Yellow River Debris Removal Project contract. Commissioner Bridegroom discussed the scope of the project and advised the goal is to remove all logjams on the Yellow River and to improve drainage. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, approved the contract. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the signing of the contract, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes, and the contract was signed.

PNC BANK AGREEMENT

Steve Dodge appeared before the Board in regard to the proposed settlement with the PNC Bank. He stated he was concerned with two issues in the agreement. The first one was the mold that is in the north bedroom and the second item is to verify that the occupancy requirements are met. He stated his recommendation is to deny the proposal, until the two exceptions are met. Commissioner Davis made a motion to deny the proposal, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

BRIDGE 51 SEALED BIDS

County Attorney Lucas stated he has five sealed bids that were received in the auditor's office in a timely manner after verifying that with the Auditor. He opened the sealed bids and the results were as follows:

1. Wightman Petrie, Inc. Elkhart, IN \$46,790.00
2. Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. Indianapolis, IN \$47,500.00
3. Beam, Longest & Neff, LLC Indianapolis, IN \$47,000.00
4. HWC Engineering Noblesville, IN \$45,000.00
5. Creviston Engineering (CHAAPC) \$59,500.00

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem stated she would like to have the County Highway Superintendent summarize the bids and to verify that they meet the specifications. County Highway Superintendent, Steve Siddall passed out the bridge books. A Starke County Bridge book is on file in the Auditor's Office. He also submitted, to the County Auditor, the receipts received from Howard Coffin in regard to the highway department's agreement to trade the county's scrap metal for towing services for the county. Auditor Chaffins advised that State Board of Accounts does not have a problem with such an agreement as long as the agreement was approved by the Board of Commissioners and documented. Superintendent Siddall and Commissioner Bridegroom advised it would have been in a minutes in December of 2008. Auditor Chaffins advised she will use a copy of the minutes of that meeting as the documentation of the agreement. Commissioner Bridegroom stated that was the way it should have been handled in the first place, and it could have been done that way two weeks ago.

JAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

President Norem advised the Jail Advisory Committee had met on March 16, and had received the presentation of the three companies interviewing for the position to conduct a needs assessment for the County's proposed jail project. She advised it

was the unanimous decision of the jail committee to recommend the DLZ Company to complete the needs assessment for the County. She advised the selection was made based on their credentials, and the quality of their presentation. She added the prices are in sealed bids and did not play a factor in the committee's recommendation. Attorney Lucas opened the sealed bids and they are as follows: DLZ \$4,500.00; Integrus Architecture \$19,800.00; Schenkel Shultz \$18,900.00; and RQAW \$2750.00. Attorney Lucas stated, in the DLZ price, they will credit back the full amount if they are hired to design the project. Commissioner Davis inquired as to the timeline for this proposed project. Paul Downing of DLZ stated he will be giving the County Attorney the proposed agreement, which will state the proposed date and time line. He also advised their company will be available to give public presentations. Mr. Downing stated he was employed with the DOC as a jail inspector for nine years. Attorney Lucas stated Mr. Downing has excellent communication skills. Mr. Lucas also advised the County is not mandated to take the lowest bid in this case. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation of the jail committee and hire the DLZ Company to complete the Needs Assessment. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

AMMENDMENT TO COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY

Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would like to see an amendment made to the county's travel policy in regard to any employee who attends a meeting and will be gone for only one day. The employee should be entitled to receive a \$12 meal. He stated he noticed in the county's adoption of the travel policy, the value of meals was not included. Commissioner Norem inquired if he had the proposed language for adding that amendment. Commissioner Davis asked Attorney Lucas to add that to the policy. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would need to review the minutes to find the discussion on meals, and also review the State's travel policy. Attorney Lucas stated he will work with Commissioner Bridegroom to review the dollar amounts.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Norem stated unless someone has a question or comment about the minutes or the payroll they will be approved at each meeting through the consent agenda. She noted other items could be added later on, and they will be trying the consent agenda at the next meeting.

CIGNA'S COVERAGE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

President Norem stated CIGNA has not been covering nurse practitioners that are associated with the IU Health Network. She advised that they have sent a letter to CIGNA to reconsider their policy, but as of yet no response has been received from CIGNA. Commissioner Davis stated other facilities still cover nurse practitioners by billing under the physician's number, but the IU Health Network doesn't bill that way. She also advised if they can't get this worked out, she recommends looking for another insurance company. President Norem agreed, but stated they are contracted with CIGNA until the end of the year. Commissioner Norem advised she will be speaking with Miguel.

CIGNA REFUND

President Norem advised the County will be receiving a credit to their April billing from CIGNA, in the amount of \$15,098.68, which is a credit based on the 2011 premiums. She stated, since any increases to the cost of insurance are passed on to the employees, so should any credit received be passed on to the employees. But it is unknown the proper procedures to pass this on to the employees. She advised the Auditor to check with the State Board of Accounts as to if it should be a refund, or if it should be a reduction in the amount deducted from the employee's pay. She stated she would like to make sure that it is applicable to all employees on the health insurance coverage. Auditor Chaffins advised she with check with the SBOA to get an answer.

REPORT FROM WEAVER & BOOS

President Norem advised a report was received from Weaver & Boos in regard to the groundwater testing at the county landfill site. The report was good; no significant impact was noticed in the groundwater. She advised they will repeat the test again in June or July, and they will petition the State to request for annual inspections or even no further testing, but she wanted documentation of the testing, in the minutes. Commissioner Bridegroom stated this was an excellent company to work with and they have done excellent work in getting the whole landfill issue resolved.

DISTRICT TWO GRANT

President Norem advised, through a District Two grant, EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti, has received 20 chairs, and 10 tables, which is furnishing for the EOC the County's Emergency Operation Center. President Norem is requesting a new reconfiguration of the furnishings in the meeting room to accommodate the new tables and chairs. She advised the red chairs can be given to office holders who are in need of new desk chairs. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he will meet with Jim Coad, the Annex Building Custodian to see how the room could be redesigned to create a better flow in the meeting room. President Norem stated she would like to see the board table be replaced with a U-shape configuration of tables to be used for board meetings so that the board members would be facing each other while they are in discussion.

CVC BOARD APPOINTMENTS

President Norem advised there are three opening on the CVC board due to the resignations of Rich Wiczorek, North Bend Township representative, Julie Dessaur, the tourism /business destination representative, and Jennie Carter, Washington Township representative. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would like to see these openings advertised the same as all other appointments. President Norem noted it does require a political balance and she asked the media to run announcements that they are requesting a Democrat as the North Bend Township representative, a Republican as the Washington Township representative and a Republican as the representative of the tourist/ business destination. Attorney Lucas stated as per, Indiana code 6-9-18-5 (b), at least two of the appointees must be involved as innkeepers and submit the innkeepers tax to the State. Currently on the Board is John Hensler, Pat Mitchell, Judy Jelinek, Marty Lucas, Jim Shilling and Mayor Rick Chambers. President Norem advised any interested applicants should send a letter to the County Auditor.

President Norem advised she had received a letter from County Assessor, Rhonda Milner with her request to have the Assessor

the Auditor, the Treasurer, and the IT Director travel to a surrounding County to observe the use of the software that the County is interested in purchasing. Commissioner Davis stated she had advised Assessor Milner, that she had permission, as long as she has the funds to do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Dotlich inquired as to the County Building Review Board. Marty Lucas advised it is the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Davis inquired as to what are the parameters for the Building Review Board. Attorney Lucas advised since it was the Board of Commissioners, that needs to be a separate meeting of the Commissioners and not held as part of their regular meeting. President Norem inquired if it needs to be advertised like BZA meetings. Attorney Lucas stated he will look into the requirements. President Norem asked if they are the last resort. Attorney Lucas stated they are the next step and the oversight to an office that was Board appointed. Commissioner Davis said she would like to see a checklist of the priorities prior to the Building Review Board meeting. Attorney Lucas stated he will compose a form and he will act as a referee during the meeting. He added, the issues will also need to be carefully defined so that the party knows what is being asked. Mrs. Dotlich advised she is not sure what's the next plan of action is since she will need to confirm with their attorney first. She stated the BZA had denied their appeal. But she did state that Attorney, Steve Dodge advised now it is a building issue and not a permit issue. Mrs. Dotlich also requested the Commissioners review the job performance of the Building Inspector, Bruce Williams. President Norem requested they be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. She advised the complaint should come before the board at a public meeting, but any discussion the Board has, regarding the County's employees, is to be done at an Executive Session of the Commissioner's. Mrs. Dotlich stated their concern is that the proper policies are not being followed by the Building Inspector in his issuing of building permits. President Norem then advised that there are two separate issues: one issue will be addressed by the Board of Commissioner's the other issue will be addressed by the Board of Commissioners in their role as the Building Review Board. Attorney Lucas stated the party's attorney can be present at the meeting, but attorneys are not required, noting that it is common for attorneys to attend the BZA meetings with their clients.

Jim shilling announced he would like to see the public support of the Yellowstone Trail Festival that will be held in August of this year.

John Hensler stated he appreciates the support of the Tourism Board, by the County.

Debbie Mix advised one other statistic is that for every dollar spent on tourism represents \$20.00 of return in the first year.

Dave Pearman recommended Kathy Norem as the Washington Township representative for the CVC Board. But, President Norem advised she has a full workload. Ted Hayes of WKVI recommended Ed Hasnerl, as the Washington Township representative, for the CVC board.

MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS AND PAYROLL CLAIM

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5th meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the payroll for the pay period ending March 3, 2012, in the amount of \$165,955.68. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the vendor claims, noting the Sheriff's withdrawal of the claim to M & M Auto in the amount of \$160.95. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed with all ayes. The total amount of claims approved was \$121,685.10.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised he has received two phone calls in the last week in regard to dog complaints. He stated he had advised the callers to call the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff stated he had received a call from Koontz Lake and he sent an officer to look into the situation.

With there being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

March 19, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners

EXCUTIVE SESSION

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012

The Starke County Board of Commissioners meet in an Executive Session, at 3:30PM, in the office of the County Annex Meeting Room, Knox, IN with Kathy Norem, & Jennifer Davis present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

I can attest the only issue discussed at this meeting was the county's personnel.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM.

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners

