

## **MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016**

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 Kent Danford, Kathy Norem 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 Kent Danford at 6:14PM.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS HOSPITAL MEETING**

Commissioner Kathy Norem presented a statement to those present which included hospital employees, advising of the County's response to the Hospital issue. She advised that she appreciated those who had attended the meeting and she would like to give a statement as to what the hospital employees have been told. She noted they are a small community and rumors are abundant. She stated the County has never made any specifics as to what is being required in the hospital setting. Commissioner Norem stated they depend on the hospital for their medical care and services. They are very willing to provide documents and copies of emails to anyone interested. Commissioner Norem made a motion to extend the notice period by 90 days which is different than the lease period, and they plan to schedule a number of public meetings within the next 90 days and encourage a dialog by employees and people who use the services of the hospital. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. She noted the group from the County would include one Commissioner and 2-3 Councilmembers, along with the CHS to discuss the lease agreement. There was then a time of listening to the comments of the public. A lot of current employees and interested public were in attendance for that portion of the meeting.

At 6:47PM a break was taken. At 6:57PM Commissioner Danford called the meeting to order and began the rest of the meeting.

### **CADA PROCLAMATION**

Anita Ohman of CADA was present for the meeting and proposed that the Board of Commissioners declare April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Commissioner Norem read aloud the Proclamation and then the Board signed the Proclamation. Ms. Ohman advised their slogan is "It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child".

### **EMA DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Jacob Lippner, the EMA Director, appeared before the Board. He advised since he was hired he had been very busy searching for grants, had experienced radio issues, worked with severe weather radios, established LEPC, and NIXLE. He noted he had worked on the grant for ½ reimbursement of his salary and ¼ reimbursement of Mary Lynn's pay since she is employed as his half time assistant. He noted in regard to his radio issues, he will need to replace approximately thirty four radios. In regard to the severe weather radios he gave away 45 radios between Friday and the next Monday. He is attempting to get more of those radios. In the LEPC he has had 3 meetings so far this year with more scheduled. He noted he has earned 7 points thus far for the LEPC. He advised that NIXLE is a free mass alerting system. He advised he currently has between 700-800 people currently on it and is also working on getting more people set up with it.

### **LETTR OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A letter of acknowledgement of the 90 Day Extension Notice was received. Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept the letter. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The President, Commissioner Danford, signed the letter.

### **INMATE MEDICAL INSURANCE**

Commissioner Norem stated she has been working on the Inmate Medicaid Applications since Sheriff Dulin brought it to their attention a couple of meetings ago. She stated it had become a new law on 9/1/15. She advised the Sheriff has several options available to him and he has chosen to use the navigator. The applications are to be processed during a 14 day health assessment period. She advised there is a \$15.00 charge for the process, and the goal or purpose of it is to get an inmate signed up prior to his being released from jail. If they already have Medicaid their Medicaid benefit will be suspended while they are incarcerated. The County can currently be reimbursed for inmates who are on Medicaid and if they have signed the state agreement they will send a bill to the Family Services Administration. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the County's involvement in this program. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised she will email them tomorrow for a copy of the contract and then get their signatures.

### **RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: PAYROLL CLAIM, VENDOR CLAIMS**

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the payroll claim voucher for the pay period ending on 3/12/16 with a pay date of 3/18/16 in the total gross amount of \$212,288.68. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims voucher minus the invoice to Knox Auto Supply in the amount of \$77.22 which was a duplicate payment, and also minus the per diem expense for three employees who have already received payment for actual receipts in the amount of \$72.00, for a total of \$339,846.02. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

### **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Coroner Danny Hoffer appeared before the Board and advised he was getting concerned with receiving 2015 invoices from Adam Gray who had never submitted them to the County for payment and he stated he did not want to use his 2016 budget

for payment of those invoices. Deputy Auditor CarLa Thomas advised she was instructed by Auditor Katherine Chaffins that those invoices are to be encumbrance. Coroner Hoffer advised he would like to make sure the garage door at the new morgue will be big enough to put the vehicle into the garage. Commissioner Norem advised the Department Heads had met several times with DLZ and they are only one week behind in reporting to Skillman to be on schedule.

MINUTES: Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Jacob Lippner appeared once again along with a copy of his last grant document to receive a signature on grant number CFDA 97.047. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the grant document. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and passed with all ayes.

In regard to the DNR letter concerning the gypsy moths Commissioner Danford advised he had spoken with the DNR who advised the Board had been receiving the same letter for several years. But, this year was the first time they needed to respond to the letter. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the response to the letter. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the report on Weaver and Boos, Commissioner Norem advised she had received a response from Weaver and Boos that the gas testing at the County Landfill is below normal. She advised she had received a proposal from the Highway Department for mowing at the Landfill as long as he is able to use the mower deck from the Airport. She advised the total cost for the preparation would be \$ 288.48; the total cost for two workers mowing would be \$363.48 each time for two times; so the preparation and the two passes would equal \$ 1,015.44. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the Highway Department to do the mowing of the Landfill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norem and passed with all ayes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kenny Wallace inquired as to how long the County had to provide mowing at the Landfill that the County should just sell out the Landfill. Commissioner Danford advised they had just bought back the Landfill and that the County should never had sold it in the first place.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

**MARCH 21, 2016**

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Kent Danford, President

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Donald Binkley, Vice President

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Kathy Norem

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Carla Thomas, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Auditor

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