

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 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, Don Binkley and Charlie Chesak present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Commissioner Norem. President Commissioner Binkley was not present for the beginning of this meeting. Commissioner Norem asked if there were any additions or corrections to the posted agenda.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director Travis Clary and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to present the EMS Monthly Report. Clerk Richie advised she had received a total of \$1,356.43 from Collections Attorney Jonathan O'Hara and a total of \$108.94 from Small Claims Court. She advised business during the month of March was relatively slower but transfers had slightly increased. She also stated that Medicare will be changing their account numbers as they are no longer going to be using the social security numbers. She advised it should go into effect around April of 2019. Director Clary advised they have received their final paperwork for the 2016 cost report and they will be receiving the payment from Medicaid within the next 30 days. He noted Clerk Richie is still working on the 2017 report which is due May 31st. Director Clary advised in regard to EMS Personnel that they are still advertising for part time EMTs and Paramedics. He noted he has received some applications and is expecting to be interviewing potential candidates in the coming weeks.

In regard to Education Director Clary advised he has placed some of their Paramedics on a waiting list to attend a cadaver lab in Indianapolis. He noted they recently held a "Stop the Bleed" training in collaboration with the local police departments/fire departments. Director Clary advised they had the Audit and Review with Starke Hospital recently. He stated they trained with the new cardiac monitors with the representatives of Physio Control. The Director noted he will be attending a conference in Indianapolis later on this month. He stated he will receive training in pre-hospital emergency care. He also noted he will be attending a vendor show in Indianapolis to see new products and to network with other EMS Departments.

In regard to Ambulance Maintenance, Director Clary advised they had no major mechanical issues last month; they only had their routine maintenance.

In regard to Base Maintenance, Director Clary noted they will be conducting spring cleaning of all bases. They will be doing some painting, and stripping and waxing the floors.

In regard to Safety, Director Clary stated they had no injuries in March. In regard to Meetings, he advised they have their regular meeting with Pharmacy and the Emergency Department of Starke Hospital. He also noted he had met with FEMA in response to the recent flooding. He stated FEMA was present to go over the EMS equipment/staffing that was utilized by EMS in dealing with the flooding. In regard to Grants, Director Clary advised they have submitted a grant for portable radios, and one for the Lucas Devices. He also noted he is still researching grant opportunities.

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

County Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. First the Superintendent presented his report for FEMA showing the expense his department had in fighting the massive flooding within the County. He advised the flood recovery was broken down into nine sections: 1. Damage Control and Road Closures: 100% complete; 2. Debris Removal and Emergency Repairs: 100% complete; 3. Temporary Repairs to Reopen Roads: 100% complete; 4. Open All county Roads: 100% complete; 5. Temporary Repairs to Improve Roads (Patching, Shoulder Repair, Washouts, etc.): Ongoing; 6. Permanent Repair Assessments: 90% complete; 7. FEMA Reporting Requirements: 50% complete; 8. Scheduling of Permanent Repairs: .5% complete; 9. Completion of Permanent Repairs: 0% complete. He had distributed a FEMA breakdown by category of the expenses that were completed due to the flood recovery. The report showed a total of \$3,232.31 was spent on Debris Removal; Emergency Protective Measures: \$56,501.11; Roads & Bridges, Permanent Repairs: \$1,399,550.00; and Roads & Bridges, Completed Temporary Repairs: \$116,420.68 thus showing a grand total to FEMA of \$1,575,704.10.

Superintendent Ritzler then spoke of Roadway Management. He advised: 1. CR300E Project—he explained the construction will be handled by the SCEDF. 2. PASER ratings, Photographs and other documentation—he advised pictures of all roads were taken last October. He also took pictures following the massive flooding which shows the amount of damage caused by the flood. 3. Road Improvement list; hot mix, cold mix, chip seal, cold in plant recycling, and re-gravel. He noted this list will be completely reprioritized during the next month due to the flooding and the transmission line installation in North Bend and California Townships. 4. PASER ratings. 5. Material—15,000 tons of #11 stone are needed for the chip sealing and pug paving they will be doing this summer. 6. Meeting this month with vendors to set up pilot projects involving their cold mix asphalt. 7. Mowing/brush cutting. The chopper mowers will be beginning this month. He noted they will have 6-7 mowing cycles; and have 2 more chopper

mowers when last year they only had one. 8. Railroad Crossing Marking Grant—he noted this project will be handled by TCS. 9. Patching.

Superintendent Ritzler advised construction has begun on Bridge 58 which is located on CR800S over the Bogus Run, .02 miles east of CR200W. He noted that when this bridge construction is complete the next Bridge project will be on Bridge 36, which is located on CR25N over Eagle Creek, .1 mile west of CR600E. The opening of bids for Bridge 154 is tentatively scheduled for May, 2018.

In regard to Winter Operations, the Superintendent stated they had six snow and ice events during the Month of March which temporarily delayed some of their flood related work.

In regard to the US30 Coalition, he stated they will be having a meeting of the US30 Committee on Wednesday, April 4th at the SCEDF Office. The first draft on the assessment will be discussed and that involves traffic data, engineering data, crash data, property owner data, and overpass/interchange summaries for each intersection road.

Superintendent Ritzler advised of a training schedule for April 17th. The Highway Department will be hosting a regional meeting of IACHES (Indiana Association of County Engineers and Supervisors). It will be held at the Nancy Dembowski Center in Knox.

He also gave a listing of the expected training throughout the next few months.

CADA CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Larry Harris of CADA appeared before the Board to present the CADA Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation for the month of April. Commissioner Norem read the proclamation into the record. It was signed by the Board. (Commissioner Binkley arrived for the meeting at this time.) Pictures were taken for CADA.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE

Planning Commissioner, Terry Stephenson appeared before the Board and requested approval of the Planning Commission's RV Ordinance. He advised the Planning Commission held a public hearing before passing the ordinance. Mr. Stephenson advised the ordinance sites the criteria for the definition of a recreational vehicle and the requirements for a recreational vehicle in their parks. County Attorney Marty Lucas reviewed the ordinance and it was approved by him. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the RV Ordinance. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The RV Ordinance was signed by the Board of Commissioners and the County Auditor.

COUNTY ASSESSOR ASSESSING CONTRACT

Assessor Michelle Snowdon appeared before the Board to report on her assessing bid received at the last meeting on 3/19/18. She advised she had sent an email and faxes of the bid specs to Lexur Appraisal Services and to Equi-Val Tax Solutions but did not receive any bids from them. She advised she only received the bid from Accurate Assessments, the current assessing company. Attorney Lucas reviewed the contract with Accurate Assessment for the years 2019-2022 and approved it. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Accurate Assessments Contract, 2019-2022. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

COUNTY CORONER REPORT ON AUTOPSIES

County Coroner Danny Hoffer appeared before the Board to discuss autopsies. Commissioner Norem asked him why he had submitted invoices for autopsies that were completed from June, 2017 forward in the total amount of \$12,824.00. He stated he thought they had already been paid but when he checked into them he discovered they had not been paid. He stated he needs to keep better track of his autopsy billings. Commissioner Norem advised that she had discovered a Coroner in Lake County who has a Forensic Toxicologist who conducts autopsies for \$1,000.00 each. Commissioner Norem advised she could call for a meeting with that Coroner if he was interested. Since he was interested Commissioner Norem stated she would call for a meeting. Coroner Hoffer advised he would be taking a vacation and Marshall County will cover Starke County while he was gone.

COUNTY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Attorney Lucas advised he had rewritten the Starke County Policy in regard to Political Activities in the workplace and recommended the new policy be updated in the County Employee Handbook. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the political policy. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The policy was signed by the Board President. There was a brief discussion in regard to the posting of signs in the County and advised the Highway Department is particular about the posting of political signs and so is INDOT for posting on the highways. Kenny Wallace, in the audience, advised the City of Knox will advise a candidate if there is a problem with the posting of their signs. If the signs are not moved there will be a \$25.00 fee for the posting of that sign, payable to the City of Knox.

AUDITOR’S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIM DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 3/24/18 with a pay date of 3/29/18 in the total gross amount of \$248,074.20. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$290,964.34. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Minutes from the March 19th meeting.

Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with two ayes. Commissioner Chesak was absent from that meeting.

IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Auditor Chaffins asked the Board if they would like to see the County borrow money from the Rainy Day Fund to put cash into the County General Fund. The purpose would be to build up the cash balance out of the red of the County General Fund and then repay back the Rainy Day Fund before the end of the year. Auditor Chaffins advised the SBOA does not say it is mandatory that you need to borrow money if the fund is back in the black following the tax settlement payment and she advised it would be. The Board decided not to go with the loan from the Rainy Day Fund.

Commissioner Norem stated Director Bob Hinojosa’s retirement from Starke County Community Corrections will take place on Friday, April 6. She stated Mr. Hinojosa has worked for 30 years in Community Corrections and is one of the best in the State. She noted he had started Starke County’s program, gets the grants for the program and has expanded the County’s program. Commissioner Norem noted she could not attend as she will be on vacation and both Commissioner Binkley and Commissioner Chesak also would not be able to attend. They all signed a card for the Director and Commissioner Norem stated they want to thank him for his great work. She noted the Community Corrections Board will be appointing his replacement. She also noted John Thorstad, the County’s Chief Probation Officer had also retired recently and Shawn Mattraw, of SCCC, has taken Mr. Thorstad’s place. Commissioner Binkley stated good luck to both of them. They noted that Starke County Community Corrections, the Circuit Court, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff and the Jail are a good team and do a good job working together.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anita Goodan of WKVI Radio asked the Highway Department Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, asked if 1.4 million is the amount he will be reimbursed from FEMA or if that amount was his cost. He advised that amount was the cost. It is uncertain exactly what the County would receive from FEMA.

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 was adjourned at 7:06PM.

APRIL 2, 2018

Don Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Charles Chesak

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