

April 4, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room, of the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, Indiana, with two members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Joint Meeting of the Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council

Re: "NARROW BANDING" RADIO FREQUENCY

Starke County Commissioners: Dan Bridegroom and Kathy Norem, Starke County Council Members: Mark Smith, Marvin McLaughlin, Tony Radkiewicz, and Mitch Semans, EMA Director: Ted Bombagetti, representatives from the county's police and fire departments met with John Sullivan, and Bob Gonsiorowski of Miner Electronics Corporation. All fire departments were represented except for Washington Township.

Mr. Sullivan advised effective 12/31/2012 the FCC was mandating that no one will be allowed to transmit on a wide ban frequency. At that time all transmissions must be done on a narrow band frequency. He believes 50-60% of the county's radio equipment is probably already narrow band capable. He advised what is imperative to do at this time, is every department in the county who uses any type of radios, complete an inventory list of all equipment, including portable and mobile radios, pagers, repeaters, receivers, and sirens. He stated the equipment would be replaced on a one for one basis and that is why it is important to list everything. In addition all the licenses will also need to comply with the narrow banding. If not compliant by 12/31/2012 the FCC could cause you to cease operations. All two way radio users will be required to have their licenses modified also. Kathy Norem inquired if they would assist with the preparation of grants. Mr. Gonsiorowski stated they could assist with grants but not prepare them for the county. He did recommend that all of the requests from all departments go into the one grant for the county. He also added, the 911 system in the county could possibly be included in the grant, since the majority of calls is dispatched to emergency departments via the radio equipment. The present county 911 system is on its last leg of support. He advised most police radios are already compliant.

Mr. Bombagetti stated that the grant application process has not started yet. It usually will begin with a grant workshop class, followed by a grant submitting time frame of approximately one month. No dates have been set yet. Ted stated this is a competitive grant, and he will be attending the workshop when it is scheduled. He also stressed the importance of returning the completed inventory lists so he has the information together when he completes the grant proposal. Bob stated they needed to record the model and serial number of the equipment and if they can't locate those numbers, to take a picture of the equipment.

Councilman Smith restated the importance of all the departments returning their inventory lists, as soon as possible.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

ABSENT
Jennifer Davis, Member

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners