

April 6, 2011

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

**Join Meeting of the Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council**

**RE: PARAMEDIC INTERCEPT**

Present – Kathy Norem, Starke County Commissioners;

Mark Smith, Dave Pearman, Mitchell Semans, Tony Radkiewicz, and Marvin McLaughlin, Starke County Council.

Also Present – Kris Rannells, Mary Lynn Ritchie, Lisa Burger, representatives from Starke Memorial Hospital and representative from the county’s fire departments.

Commissioner Norem gave a presentation, “Investing in Our Future”, showing different options for the county in order to establish a paramedic intercept. Option 1 showed a listing of the expense of Starke County EMT salaries for different categories:

- 1. Salaries for EMS \$ 589,479.
- 2. Adding paramedic chase \$ 716,111. - \$ 754,374.
- 3. Make Med. 3 an ALS vehicle \$ 552,632. - \$ 590,895. (would include 1 ALS and 2 BLS

The second option would include using a private ambulance service. Commissioner Norem stated that a company named PROMPT, located in Lake County, IN is interested in providing ambulance service for Starke County. They would be able to provide ALS capabilities.

Option 2:

- 1. Complete privatization, with zero subsidy from county.
- 2. County keeps BLS services & PROMPT works with the county to provide ALS intercept
- 3. County keeps BLS services & PROMPT works with the hospital to provide ALS intercept with zero subsidy from the county.

A discussion followed with the pros and cons of privatization of the ambulance services. If the county would decide to privatize the service, the equipment would be sold. Once they give up the ambulance service, it is difficult to take it back. Giving up the service would affect the county’s tax levy. Concerns were also brought up as to what guarantee the county would have as to the coverage of the county, since that particular company also provides service to other counties.

Commissioner Norem did state she does not want to see complete privatization. Councilman Smith stated the county can not make a decision without advertising it out for other companies to bid.

Dave Combs stating he would like the county to keep building on what they have accomplished because there has been great improvement with everyone working together. It is much better than earlier times. Smith stated they should also keep in mind what effect the state legislation would mean to the county, if township government would be eliminated, and fire districts restructured.

Smith stated, in summary the county needs to establish a plan to provide ALS service at some level, at the scene and to the hospital.

Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see a task group established, which would include the fire departments, to do “gap” analysis and then a cost analysis. She would like to see Kris Rannells, Dave Combs, Dave Pearman, Mitch Semans, and Lisa Burger be on the task group. Also it should include representatives of the hospital and of surrounding fire departments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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ABSENT  
Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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ABSENT  
Jennifer Davis, Member

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Katherine Chaffins, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners