

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

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, Charles Chesak 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 Don Binkley at 6:35PM due to the lateness of the County Council Meeting.

SHERIFF BILL DULIN AND ELAINE BEATTY, MORGAN STANLEY & THE INDIANA SHERIFF'S 457(B) RETIREMENT PLAN

Sheriff Bill Dulin and Elaine Beatty of Morgan Stanley appeared before the Board. Sheriff Dulin advised at a recent Merit Board Meeting they had learned of the Federal Voluntary Retirement Savings Program, 457(b). Elaine Beatty advised the program is a governmental program similar to a 401K. She noted there are no county expenses involved with this program; it is available for all jail employees including jailers, dispatchers and cooks. She stated it is a simple payroll deduction before taxes and only applies to the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Beatty advised the 457(b) program was sponsored by seven Sheriffs who own the program; it began in 2008; now has over 800 members and has over \$16 Million in that Fund. She also stated there is no minimum number of employees required to participate in the program. Ms. Beatty stated the Board of Commissioners will need to create and pass an ordinance to allow this program to begin in Starke County. County Attorney Marty Lucas stated he will prepare the Ordinance for the May 1st meeting.

KOONTZ LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO PROBLEMS

Russ Laraviere of the Koontz Lake Fire Department appeared before the Board to discuss the problems the Koontz Lake Fire Department is experiencing with their radios. He asked the County for a plan to get their VHF back working. He also asked for a radio repeater. Councilman Pearman asked why the Washington Township tower wasn't being used. No one seemed to know why it wasn't. Councilman Pearman also advised that the County was responsible for providing a signal to each township and then it was up to the township to distribute the signal to their fire department. Oregon Township Trustee Mark Allen advised he had just installed a new radio antenna at their fire department but it still hasn't improved the system. Commissioner Norem stated she believed a radio committee should be formed and it should include members such as Commissioner Binkley, Councilman Pearman, and former employees Joe Short and Ted Bombagetti who are both on Starke County fire departments. Mr. Laraviere stated he believes the County should be the owner of all the radios and all radio equipment throughout the County. Commissioner Binkley stated if the Koontz Lake radio to radio traffic is not always working that is not a County problem. EMA Director Jacob Lippner advised he will work on the creation of a radio committee. There was a lengthy discussion in regard to the Koontz Lake radios but no solution was reached. Commissioner Binkley advised Mr. Laraviere that the problem was with their equipment and it wasn't the County's problem that their radios aren't working. He asked Mr. Laraviere to take charge and make it work since everything the County suggests is turned down.

RESOLUTION 2017-4-17

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Resolution, 2017-4-17, which allows the County General Fund to transfer a total of \$750,000.00 from the Rainy Day Fund. The money will be transferred back to the Rainy Day Fund prior to December 31, 2017. She advised the County Council had approved this resolution at their meeting also. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, AND VENDOR CLAIM

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3rd meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim Docket for the pay period ending on 4/08/17, with a pay date of 4/13/17 in the total gross amount of \$227,543.95. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the Vendor Claims Docket, Auditor Chaffins advised there was a claim in the docket to Widner & Sons that had been amended by the Highway Department but was not approved by the Vendor. Commissioner Norem suggested they pay for the claim and not table it. Attorney Lucas stated they should approve it without prejudice so that in the event the Highway Department will be responsible for the remainder of the invoice it could be paid. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the

Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$272,935.78 including the claim to Widner & Sons who they are approving without prejudice. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins advised the payment for the tent was included in the vendor claims docket. Commissioner Norem stated 1st Choice Insurance offered to pay for the tent, the tables, and the chairs. She stated Ms. Block will be reimbursing the County for that expense. The Auditor advised Ms. Block had already reimbursed the County.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to deny payment of the invoice from J & K Communications in regard to repairing the radios in the Koontz Lake area. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. President Binkley stated J & K had promised that it would solve the radio problem but it did not work.

Commissioner Norem advised they had received notice from Ed Hasnerl on his resignation from the PTABOA Board. She advised he is a Republican lay person on that Board but since it is a three party board and there is one Democrat and one Republican the new appointee could be from either party. She advised the Press that she would like any interested party to submit a letter to the Auditor’s Office by Friday, April 28th. She noted she would like to see someone with Real Estate experience respond to her request.

She also stated she had spoken to Lee Nagai and William Sonnemaker who are both members of the Redevelopment Board and they are both interested in continuing service on that Board. She also advised Commissioner Binkley and Councilman Hazelton are also both members of the Board. She will see if Judge McLaughlin wants to continue his membership. She would like them to hold a meeting and asked Attorney Lucas to also attend it.

Commissioner Norem advised the Open House for the two remodeling projects will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, April 18th at 11AM. She told WKVI, Mary that she would like her to interview Larry Harris in regard to the Courthouse being secured with a security check point at 8AM, Wednesday April 19th.

Debbie Mix of the County’s Park Board inquired if the Trail Board or the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum have spoken with the Board of Commissioners about an agreement in regard to the trails. Attorney Lucas stated the Trail Board had been present at a previous meeting with an unrelated situation. He advised they would need to present a three way agreement, and present it to the Park Board but so far nothing has been discussed with the Commissioners.

Surveyor Bill Crase advised he has spoken to Department Heads in regard to new computer 911 call button. He stated they were more concerned with the loss of internet service but have been very supporting of the new system. He asked if they could try the new system with the free service for the first 21 days. Surveyor Crase stated the system will fit on 100 computer monitor screens and the annual expense of less than \$500.00 will be paid from the IT Budget. Commissioner Norem made a motion for the Surveyor to proceed with his project. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

The Board asked the Surveyor to check to see if the Koontz Lake Fire Department and the Oregon Township Trustee were still in the building and wanted to make a last statement. He checked and advised they had left the building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no 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 adjourned at 7:48PM.

APRIL 17, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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