

**April 18, 2011**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom. Commissioner Jennifer Davis was absent.

**IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIM**

Commissioner Norem made the motion to approve the payroll claim dated April 2, 2011 in the amount of \$163,174.07 ; seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with two ayes.

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the April 1<sup>st</sup>, CAMS (Capital Asset Management Study) minutes, seconded by Dan Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the minutes from the April 4<sup>th</sup>, narrow band frequency meeting. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the minutes, and it passed with two ayes. The motion to pass the draft of the minutes of the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Paramedic Intercept, was approved by proclamation, since Commissioner Norm was the only one in attendance. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the minutes of the April 11<sup>th</sup>, CAMS meeting. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion, and it passed with two ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the April 4<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. The final minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were then signed.

**IN RE: CADA PROCLAMATION**

Ruth Matsey, the local representative of the Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) along with Mary Armstrong Smith, the CADA State Director, appeared before the Board of Commissioners to request them to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Starke County. After a presentation by Ms. Matsey and Ms. Smith, the proclamation was signed and sealed by the Commissioners.

**IN RE: GRANT FISCAL AGENT**

Ted Bombagetti, the county EMA Director appeared before the Board of Commissioners to request their signatures on the 2010 Homeland Security Grant Program Sub-Grant Agreement, EDS# C44P-1-280A. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the signing of the grant paperwork, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes and the grant was signed, as the county is the fiscal agent of the grant.

**IN RE: BIDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE MECHANICAL ROOM AT THE STARKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Marty Lucas opened the bids that had been received on the installation of a mechanical room in the basement of the courthouse. The room will house the mechanics involved with the updated repairs that are being installed on the courthouse elevator. The specifications for the bids were submitted to the construction companies by building maintenance employee, Carl Goodrich. The two submitted bids were from Simoni Construction for materials and labor, in the amount of \$ 5,091.38 and Montgomery Construction, for materials and labor, in the amount of \$ 5,000.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to go with the lower bid, seconded by Dan Bridegroom. The motion was passed and Montgomery Construction was awarded the bid.

**IN RE: REQUEST TO ATTEND MEETINGS**

Commissioner Bridegroom read a request from the Starke County Assessor, Rhonda Milner, to attend a tax inheritance meeting in Winamac. The only expense would be her mileage. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The request was granted.

Commissioner Bridegroom also read a request from the Starke County Recorder, Lisa Minix, who was requesting to attend a FIDLAR seminar in Iowa. The majority of the expense will be handled by the software company. FIDLAR is the newly installed software in the Recorder's Office. The only expense to the county would be the two night stay, at government rates, and mileage to Merrillville, since that is where they would be picked up. The request is for both the Recorder and the Deputy Recorder to attend the seminar. The Recorder has money in the budget to cover the expense of a part time person. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The request was granted.

**IN RE: REPAIRS OF BRIDGE # 156 OVER ROBBINS DITCH**

Lee Nagai appeared before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the Bridge 156 project. He stated, presently the bridge is a total reconstruction project. Mr. Nagai requested to see the written scope of work in the preliminary agreement with the engineering company. Steve Siddall, the county Highway Superintendent, stated Mr. Nagai had already received the Appendix D, which is the only thing the county has at this time. Mr. Nagai advised the work could be classified as a bridge deck maintenance, and could cost less than \$ 200,000.00. Currently the match for the federal grant is at \$ 230,000.00. Discussion was held in regards to if the county turned down the grant funding, would that hurt the county in the future. Also, the funding can not be transferred to another project in the county. They believed the county received the grant funding in the second round and would have to get back into the line up for any future grant programs. Mr. Nagai advised he hadn't brought any of the paperwork with him to the meeting. But, he stated, everything would be taken off the bridge, down to the abutments. Commissioner Bridegroom issued a concern in regards to staying higher than the 100 year flood plain. Mr. Nagai stated the bridge deck would be raised at least six inches. He also stated that federal money requires a hydraulic analysis and a model. He also stated that the deck reconstruction would increase the clearance of the bridge and this project would not need a hydraulics study. The bridge doesn't impact the backwater effect at all. The abutments are in good shape and this would just be a maintenance project. He advised there are engineering costs associated with doing a design. Mr. Siddall advised he believed May 20<sup>th</sup> is the next deadline involved with the federal grant. The county would have to pay for the work done up to date if they change their mind about the grant. There was then a discussion as to the requirements regarding bids for the project. Mr. Nagai stated he will be submitting a sketch, not a design of the bridge. He also stated the bridge could be open as soon as this fall for the farmers. Commissioner Norem made a motion to proceed with Lee Nagai's sketch to move the bridge project forward. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion. It passed with two ayes. The Commissioners advised Mr. Nagai work together with Mr. Siddall and get back to the Commissioners with prices on the proposed bridge project. The Commissioners will need to make a decision to go ahead with Mr. Nagai's proposed repairs, or to go ahead with the federal grant. If the Nagai proposal is accepted, the next step would be to get permission from the DNR. If the project doesn't pass with the DNR the project is over. Commissioner Norem requested a timeline than would be involved in the process, from sketch through DNR approval. Marty Lucas advised the amount of repairs that require a bid is \$ 75,000.00. The Commissioners advised Mr. Nagai that Steve and or Dan are the contact people for the project.

**IN RE: TREASURER'S REPORTS 47TR**

Commissioner Norem announced at the last meeting the Treasurer, Linda Belork, was asked to submit to the Board, all the 2010 copies of Form 47TR and the same report for the first few months of 2011. The Treasurer did not show for the meeting. She had previously submitted the March, 2011 report to the Commissioners, but not the others. Kathy Norem stated she had a discussion with the SBOA auditor, who is currently auditing the treasurer's office, and that the Form 47TR is not in balance, and the numbers do not match on the report. Dan Bridegroom stated the report is basically a balance sheet for the county. Councilman Pearman

inquired from the audience what the procedure is when an elected official refuses to do their job. Marty Lucas advised there is a procedure to follow and he will forward that information on to the council.

**IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH**

Commissioner Bridegroom announced he had spoken with Mr. Callahan and Dan had been invited to do a walkthrough of the beach. It will be approximately 18 days late in opening. Dan advised there would not be any mooring stations and the DNR had approved both of the piers. A question was asked by Clyde Haniford if the beach was installing shore stations, and if they are installing camp sites. Dan replied that those questions had not been asked. Dan stated that the DNR approved the piers and so far everything has been completed by the book.

**IN RE: IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Steve Dodge appeared before the Board with a request for the Commissioners to consider a proposition in which the county would receive 3.427 acres in land in return extinguish the past due taxes on the other 2.573 parcel of a 6.0 acre piece of property. The property is owned by the US. Railway Vest Corp. and they owe an estimated \$ 16,000.00 in back taxes. Marty Lucas stated he has a conflict of interest with this request since the property involved is next to the Eichelberg property and the Budka property. Mr. Lucas is a representative of the Budka property. Mr. Dodge stated this was just in a discussion mode for now, and possible the county could get another attorney involved in this situation.

Dr. Alexander, the County Health Officer, appeared before the Board to request the office of the newly appointed Sanitarian, Chris Dalton, be moved back into the Health Department section of the Courthouse building. She would like to see Mr. Bombagetti, the EMA Director, and Mr. Dalton exchange offices. The Sanitarian's office is currently located in the Planning Commissioner's office. The Commissioners agreed to Dr. Alexander's request to switch the offices.

Marty Lucas stated that HB292 does not affect the county's proposed restrictions on firearms ordinance. He stated the ordinance will require a public hearing. The Commissioners requested the ordinance be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Norem read a letter they had received from Carpets By Kevin, concerning the carpeting in the Annex Building. They stated they were concerned about the expense, at this time.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated they had received an invoice from Vermillion Services in the amount of \$ 1,343.00 which wasn't included in the original project. The invoice was for the replacement lens and three licenses at the jail. The lens in the lobby of the jail had been replaced from the original one installed.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated Evelyn Skronski is the contact person for the county regarding census information.

Commissioner Bridegroom requested the Auditor and or the county attorney look into the situation of the Treasurer passing out checks after signing them before the claims process is complete in the Auditor's office.

The request for keys for the new county Sanitarian, Chris Dalton was approved with a motion from Kathy Norem, seconded by Dan Bridegroom. The request for keys from the extension office, Alan Kurtz, was approved with a stipulation that the key be received from Jim, and returned to Jim after the meeting is over. The approval motion was made by Dan and seconded by Kathy.

Commissioner Bridegroom announced that the Surveyor, Dennis Estok, received word from KIRPC that the grant to clean the Yellow River is back on.

At this time, Commissioner Norem made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with two ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice-President

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ABSENT  
Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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