

MONDAY, MAY 1, 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, Don Binkley and Charlie Chesak present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley.

RE: EMS MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director Keith Emigh and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board. Clerk Richie advised the number of runs for the month of April had increased over previous months and so had the amount of account receivable. She advised a total of \$198.89 was received by the Small Claims Court and \$640.44 was received from Collections Attorney Jonathan O'Hara. Clerk Richie advised she has been working with Auditor Chaffins in compiling the 2016 Medicaid Cost Report. She stated she had some reports that needed their signature and it would be ready to be sent it. The due date of the report is May 31st. Clerk Richie advised almost all the EMS invoices recently submitted have been done electronically. She advised filing electronically allows for faster corrections and refiling claims along with quicker payment time.

Director Emigh advised he has been on the EMS Recertification process with the State. The process occurs every two years. He noted that their State EMS District 2 Representative Chris Jones has taken another job and the State has not yet replaced him.

Director Emigh stated he is working on researching for and applying for grants for the EMS Service.

Director Emigh advised he had received one part time EMT application last month. He stated they have gotten the word out that they are always taking applications for part time EMTs or Paramedics. He advised it is a constant battle to fill their schedule with part time employees based on their availability.

Director Emigh stated they had another Q and A Session with the hospital and it went very well. He noted he has also been working with the hospital to assist them with the loss of their 800 radio system. He thought it should be back-up and running that week.

Director Emigh stated he had to send out 0514 to Town and Country in Plymouth for an overheating issue. He noted a sensor was causing the overheating. He advised he had also spoken with Rik of the Highway Department in have someone from the Garage to try to get the old 0514 started so they could get it out to the Highway Garage. The rest of the rigs had routine maintenance done.

Director Emigh advised they had routine base maintenance completed at all of the bases.

He also stated he had one of their full time employees injured on the job. She is getting some more tests done on May 15th. He stated she had a swollen left arm and possibly has an impacted nerve.

RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He advised in regard to the Winter Operations, the amount of snow fall for the 2016-2017 winter season has progressively decreased since the 2013-2014 season, showing 26.32 inches last winter and 91.95 inches in 2013-2014. The amount of all other events, mile cleared, salt and sand used, and plow hours had all decreased also.

In regard to the APWA Snow Conference, Superintendent Ritzler stated it dealt with three different themes: Public Works as First Responders; How to get the boots on the ground to respond to training; and Integration of old school and new technology. He listed the different training sessions he had attended: Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) training; Winter Operations Plan including GPS integration; How to Spec a salt storage building; How to calibrate ground speed controllers for salt spreading; How to cope "When it all goes Wrong"; Public works as emergency responder; Winter Solutions; and How to take the second step in bine creation. He advised some of the take-aways from the Snow Conference were training and new ideas; access to vendors; and networking with other Supervisors. He noted next year's conference will be held in Indianapolis.

In regard to the Bridge Projects, he advised the replacement of Bridge 50 on CR1150E one mile south of SR10 is complete and open to traffic. He advised the replacement of Bridge 46 began on April 20th and the replacement of Bridge 47 should begin on May 22nd.

Superintendent Ritzler advised they have replaced thirty culverts so far this year and expects to replace an additional number more.

In regard to training he advised in April they learned First Aid/CPR and the use of defibrillators; Temporary Traffic Control; and ERC and Bridge ERC certification. Upcoming training include the Roadway Safety; Chainsaw and Bucket Truck Safety; IACHES Conference in Indianapolis; and PASER Training.

Superintendent Ritzler advised they have all six of their mowing tractors out mowing and two of their brush choppers out. They are well into their first pass of the County. He advised in regard to Roof Repairs and Resealing their office roof was replaced in April and the sealing should be completed in the next two months.

He also reported the HB1002 Funding Report has passed in the State. It involves: 10 cent per gallon increase in gas tax; \$15.00 registration fee for all vehicles less than 26,000 lbs. (is actually a wheel tax); and a three to one match for Counties under 50,000 population. He advised they need to find a reliable source for the match funding. He stated he will be providing options to both the Council and the Commissioners at their next meetings.

Heavy Truck Ordinance

Superintendent Ritzler advised they had a Heavy Truck Ordinance Working Group meeting on Thursday, April 20th and it produced the following changes: a general exemption for Registered Farm Vehicles; changes to applicability to vehicles servicing AFOs and CAFOs; an increase of the threshold weight to 38,000 lbs.; and a few clean up edits. The subject of the Heavy Truck Ordinance was then opened up to the public and a Public Hearing was opened by President Binkley at 6:34PM. There was an open discussion throughout the public hearing. Lee Nagai inquired as to the total gross weight of a vehicle. He stated on page four of the ordinance it posts the weight as being 56,000 lbs. however he felt it should be 80,000 lbs. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised he would make the change to the existing ordinance. Superintendent Ritzler advised the purpose of the ordinance was to attempt to stop one time

trucks, or trucks that are purposely avoiding the use of the highways. He stated he would like to have a plan to “hot mix” roads. He feels that chipped sealed roads will be out or replaced by hot mix or cold mix roads. There was also a brief discussion in regard to the NIPSCO project in the southeastern portion of the County and the reimbursement the County will receive from NIPSCO when the project is complete. The public hearing was closed at 6:58PM. Commissioner Norem made a motion to move the ordinance forward to its 3rd reading with the changes noted at this meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The ordinance will be available for adoption at the May 15th meeting.

RE: AUDITOR’S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL CLAIMS DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total amount of \$267,964.93. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Building Corporation Claims Docket in the total amount of \$170,606.27. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 4/22/17 with a pay date of 4/28/17 in the total amount of \$234,859.75. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17th meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Commissioner Binkley signed the document authorizing employee Donna Flier to receive her County keys. It was noted Commissioner Chesak will be receiving the County keys from former Commissioner Kent Danford.

Attorney Lucas advised he will be preparing the ordinance for the Sheriff’s new retirement policy.

Commissioner Norem stated she had spoken to all the members of the Redevelopment Commission except Councilman Hazelton and they had all advised they are all staying on the Commission. She stated she would like to see Attorney Lucas establish the first meeting and to meet with them. Commissioner Norem reappointed Brad Hazelton, Lee Nagai, Marvin McLaughlin, Donald Binkley and William Sonnemaker to the TIF Redevelopment Commission for a one year term. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem asked Auditor Chaffins to forward the names and their emails to Attorney Lucas for him to establish the meeting.

Commissioner Norem advised the IT Director, Brian Pinson, will be resigning around June 1st to go to work for the Indiana Supreme Court. She noted the Circuit Court will be going paperless on August 1st and may need to restructure the County’s IT Department. She stated she will speak with Judge Hall to see if they will need to make revisions to the IT Department.

Commissioner Norem stated the Courthouse Security would like to purchase an X-ray machine for use with the Courthouse Security Scanning checkpoint. She advised Larry Keiser had forwarded her a governmental agency selling a used machine on an internet governmental surplus website. Commissioner Norem stated she will call the Agency and look into it.

Commissioner Norem stated she would like the Board to have an Executive Session together with the Park Board in regard to possible litigation in reference to the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. She also noted she would like to schedule the County’s Executive Session for that day also. A tentative day and time was set for Thursday, May 4th at 5:15PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Henry inquired about the CVC Board and their claim to pay the Starke County Chamber of Commerce. She was told the CVC Board is on the agenda for discussion at the next County Council meeting.

Tom Kasten appeared before the Board with paperwork in regard to work he has been hired to do to put in a septic system in a subdivision in the Bass Lake area. He presented maps to the Board and asked them how they would want him to proceed to that property. They advised Attorney Lucas will need to review the paperwork and will advise at the next meeting.

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 7:27PM.

May 1, 2017

Don Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

Charles Chesak

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