

ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Commissioner Dan Bridegroom requested that all cell phones either be turned off or on silent mode so as not to disrupt the meeting.

IN RE: MINUTES

Mark Milo moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2009, minutes seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

IN RE: PAYROLL AND VENDOR CLAIMS

Mark Milo moved to approve the 4-18-09 payroll claims subject to further investigation seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the vendor claims in the amount of \$446,341.32 seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

IN RE: E.M.S. AND E.M.A.

Mary Lynn Ritchie reported that she had received \$294.90 from the clerk for small claims and \$229.64 from the collection agency.

Kathy Norem wanted it clarified that EMS transfers would not interfere with a patient response call. Mary Lynn stated that there are at least 2 rigs left to cover the county while doing a transfer. Kathy would like to see the financial records showing it to be worthwhile to do transfers and would like to know how often a transfer interferes with a response call. She stated that patients (acute care) should come first over transfers.

Kathy Norem asked Randy Abbey if we got any FEMA money for the recent flooding. Randy informed her that we did not qualify but that some individuals do. Kathy asked why counties surrounding us got FEMA money and we didn't. Randy stated that the Tippecanoe River got hit a lot harder than the Yellow River or the Kankakee River.

Randy reported that as of 4:00 pm Friday, May 1, 2009, there had been no confirmed cases of Swine Flu in Starke County.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, submitted the 2008 year end report. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Steve reported that if the weather holds they will be starting to shoot calcium chloride tomorrow.

Ken Minett with Butler, Fairman & Seufert reported that a few cities and towns that had sewer projects ready to go have received some stimulus money. He further reported that none of the money we are going for has been let yet.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the right of way certification letters to INDOT for the 3 stimulus projects seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes. If wedging is needed, the contract states how it can be handled.

Kathy asked if we had any bridges eligible for stimulus money, but environmental studies that take approximately 18 months have to be done in order to receive federal funds on bridges.

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Steve stated that they are waiting on United Consulting for cost and proposals for bridge # 156. It has been approximately 2 weeks.

Ken Minett stated that the next step on the stimulus is to advertise for an inspection and he has the RFPs in the process.

Kathy stated for the record that she feels the highway department is doing an incredibly good job.

Ken stated that if we declared Starke County a disaster area last year, we could be eligible for some funds to repair river banks up to \$1,000,000 without a county match, but you still have to go through the process. Ken will get the commissioners more information on this.

IN RE: INSURANCE RENEWAL

Bridget Markin with 1st Source Insurance and Bob Liddenmyer with the Sound Bend Office submitted paperwork and proposals for the insurance renewals. They handle all our insurance except for health insurance. The policy is up for renewal on July 17th. The proposals offer a 10% rate reduction for this renewal. Kathy Norem moved to renew seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

IN RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, stated that the reassessment still had not been decided on by the state legislature. She asked if the County Attorney, Martin Lucas, had found out if Property Systems could issue a cash bond rather than a performance bond. He did not have an answer for this yet.

IN RE: ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal control was discussed. Mark Milo explained how it had been done in the past and that it had probably been too good a job. We need to set up some parameters and not go out on every dog call received. We should only be sending someone out if there is a danger or threat. Dan Bridegroom will research the possibilities.

Mark feels that we should contact Cliff Shelhart in order to get a dialogue going about extreme situations such as "at risk or injured" animals or where people or livestock are at risk. Mark Milo moved to go forward on this seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: MANUFACTURED HOUSING ORDINANCE FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

The planning commission passed a manufactured housing ordinance on April 15, 2009. Bruce Williams, Planning Commission Director, explained the ordinance to the commissioners. With stick built housing, you don't need an engineer, but on manufactured homes you have to have an engineer to do anything to it by federal law. The ordinance was discussed in detail. The commissioners expressed their concerns about some of the verbage and are awaiting further information. Dan Bridegroom moved to table a decision at this time seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

IN RE: UNREGULATED DRAIN TILE

Dennis Estok, Surveyor, feels that we need to do an inventory on all the unregulated drains and decide whose job it is to maintain. They are not under Dennis' control. We need a policy on this in order to let people know whom they need to call. The commissioners have put in some of these drains and without any policy stating who is to maintain them. Dan Bridegroom moved to do the inventory seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

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Kathy Norem feels that they should get permits and that there be a size limit required and who would be responsible for maintenance. She wants to see what can be done about the current problem of plugged drains and alleviating the problem in the future. Both Dennis and Steve will try to identify all the drains that the commissioners put in and then the commissioners will set a policy.

IN RE: BEAVER DAM IN A CULVERT

Rollin McVay complained about a beaver dam in a culvert by his property which was plugging the culvert. The highway department took care of it, but the beaver is still there. The Surveyor will send trappers out to get the beaver and Dennis and Steve Siddall will try to take care of the problem.

IN RE: CR 300E PROJECT

Charlie Weaver, Economic Development Foundation Director, was at the meeting. It was stated that the CR 300E Project could not be moved to the stimulus program as it is not a major collector.

IN RE: HAMLET PROJECT

Charlie Weaver stated that he had secured an agreement with Sysco that they pay the \$725,000 to the state if the state should request repayment of the grant because the project was not completed for the purpose intended. Starke County would repay them \$100,000 per year until repaid. (Agreement is on file in the Auditor's Office.) Kathy Norem moved to accept the agreement seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes. The original is to be attached to the minutes.

IN RE: KNOX INDUSTRIAL PARK LEAD TRACK AGREEMENTS

Norfolk railroad wanted a written agreement regulating the use of the lead track. Mark Milo moved to approve the Lead Track Agreement seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve the siding agreement subject to the changes being made and approved by the county attorney seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve the supplemental agreement between Norfolk, the County, and Reagent Chemical seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve exhibits C1 and C2 seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes. (All agreements are on file in the Auditor's Office.)

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH & CAMPGROUNDS

Mr. Callahan who is leasing the beach and campgrounds submitted invoices toward his lease at the beach. The commissioners will take these under advisement. He asked what had happened to the request to the state to reclaim the beach area (dredging the sand back up to the beach). The commissioners suggested that he check with the county surveyor.

Mr. Callahan wanted to know if he could get some stimulus money in order to dredge the beach. Kathy Norem stated that she would check on this. It may be too late, especially if he needs to get the permits needed. She told him to write it up and submit it as soon as possible since he may have to get permits.

Mr. Callahan stated that there are public access lanes on either side of the beach. He wants to make sure that these stay open and that boats and vehicles are not blocking it. He has contacted the fire chief regarding this. The commissioners are going to have no parking signs posted there.

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IN RE: BASS LAKE EASEMENT CONCERN WITH THE KIPPS

County Attorney, Martin Lucas, asked permission to do a title search on the Bass Lake access area that the Kipps have been concerned about..

IN RE: CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL FUNDS

Mark Milo moved to approve the Congressional school funds report seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: COUNTY FIREWORKS

The Mayor of Knox requested money for help with the fireworks. This request would have to go before the council.

IN RE: G.A.S.B. 34

Mark Milo moved to approve the agreement with Governmental Fixed Assets seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: HIGHWAY SIGN POSTING

A lady in Oregon Twp. requested a "Slow Children Playing" sign. We cannot post these kind of signs as the insurance company claims it makes us liable.

North of Highway 10 on Range Rd. several cases of speeding were reported. The commissioners will have a counter put there and ask the Sheriff to send someone out with a radar gun.

There being no further business to come before the board Kathy Norem moved to adjourn seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners