

MONDAY, MAY 15, 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 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 6:22PM due to the lateness of the County Council Meeting. Commissioner Charles Cheask was absent from the meeting.

SCEDF DIRECTOR'S CREDIT APPROPRIATIONS

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver advised he has a rough draft of the appropriations of the 2017 CREDIT Fund that would require Commissioner approval prior to getting the Council approval. He advised he has the SCEDF Contract of \$180,000.00, the \$15,000.00 for the Hamlet Firewell, the \$45,000.00 for the repaving of the North Judson Industrial Park Drive, and the 50% for the Bridge/Highway Expenditures. Commissioner Norem asked Director Weaver to add the \$80,000.00 from the SCILL Center to the unappropriated portion of the Foundation's funding. He advised the Commissioners had a rollover of \$32,787.06 that was not spent in 2016 and an additional amount of \$165,791.00 available to them. He wanted to know how much they wanted to appropriate. Commissioner Norem advised they would let him know.

HEAVY TRUCK ORDINANCE

County Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler presented the 3rd reading of the County's Heavy Duty Truck Ordinance. He stated there were adjustments to Section IV of the ordinance changing the weight to 80,000 to match the State and to Section VII that the permits will be free of charge. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised changing the weight to 80,000 actually simplified the ordinance. The public hearing for the ordinance opened at 6:31PM. Mark Milo asked what will be the annual cost to implement this ordinance. Superintendent Ritzler advised it will be included in his base pay. The Superintendent noted the ordinance was created in order to establish the truck routes in the County which was required by the State for use of their special revenue. He also noted he did not want to obstruct any farming in the County. Attorney Lucas stated the ordinance will be looking for repeated road trips. The Superintendent stated they were aware that some large trucks will take the County roads to avoid traffic on the highways and the ordinance will be used to stop that. The public hearing closed at 6:42PM. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Attorney Lucas noted the Heavy Duty Truck Ordinance will go into effect on June 1st, 2017.

CORONER ISSUES

Coroner Danny Hoffer appeared before the Board to ask about the Coroner's cooler which is leaking water out of its condenser. They advised him to get in touch with Eldon Jackson, of Jackson Refrigeration, to have him check it out. The Coroner also advised he would have Jackson look into the lock on the door also. He then advised before he had moved into the new Coroner Building he had two Coroner cameras stolen out of the Coroner's Office (his personal business garage) worth approximately \$700.00 each. He advised the Sheriff's Department had a report of the theft and he will be dropping off a copy of that to the Auditor's Department. The Sheriff's Department does have one of the cameras back as it turned up in the Pawn Shop. The criminal has been ordered to pay restitution and when they do the money is to be receipted into the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Coroner Hoffer was advised to purchase a camera to replace the other one that is still missing, and it is to be purchased from the CCD Fund.

Coroner Hoffer then began talking about the LaPorte Hospital having a better relationship with the LaPorte County Coroner than Coroner Hoffer has with the Knox Hospital. He advised the LaPorte Hospital will let the LaPorte County Coroner know if a death is from an OD and then the Coroner does not need to pay for an autopsy. He stated he does not have that procedure in place with the Knox Hospital. Commissioner Norem asked if the LaPorte County Coroner has a policy with the hospital in place. She told him to talk to the LaPorte County Coroner to see if they do have one in place. Attorney Lucas stated it would either be a policy or a letter of agreement with the Coroner.

Coroner Hoffer also advised he is in need of internet service at the Coroner's Building. Sheriff Dulin advised the Coroner could connect to the Jail's WIFI with the proper password, but he may also need a booster.

AMENDMENT TO COUNTY NEPOTISM ORDINANCE

Attorney Marty Lucas advised the County had created their Anti-Nepotism Ordinance in 2011 and the State created theirs in 2012. In 2014 the County amended their ordinance changing the relative status of husband and wife to spouse. The State had noted in the past that the County can adopt a stricter ordinance than the State's. Attorney Lucas advised he had created a remedial amendment to the County's Anti-Nepotism Ordinance that would not change the ordinance just to clarify it. He read the proposed amendment into the record. After the first reading Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the amendment, Starke County Commissioners' Ordinance 2017-0515, Ethics: Clarifying Amendment to Anti-Nepotism Ordinance of 2011. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley advised the EMA Council had met and voted to follow the actions of the County's Board of Commissioners. He then stated EMA Director Jacob Lippner's employment had been terminated effective 5/15/17. He noted MaryLynn Richie will continue in that position with backup from State EMA Officer Ted Bombagetti, until a replacement is named. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this action. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised Assessor Rhonda Milner will resign her position as the County Assessor effective Friday, May 26th. The Democratic Party Director, Kenny Wallace, stated the Democratic Party will be holding a Caucus on Thursday, May 25th to name the successor to that position.

Commissioner Binkley advised the County had received a resignation notice from the IT Director Brian Pinson but since then Director Pinson had changed his mind. Commissioner Binkley noted the County is still looking for a new IT Director.

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

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1st meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Sessions and Regular Session that was held on May 4th. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$380,303.48. Commissioner Binkley 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 May 5th, 2017 with a pay date of May 12th, 2017, in the total gross amount of \$233,287.30. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised she had received a telephone call from DNR Officer Keith Wildeman in regard to a pier and an easement being installed at Koontz Lake. He wanted to know if the Board of Commissioners had given them permission to install the pier and easement. She advised the Board had not issued that authority. He advised he will be contacting them to advise them they would have a certain number of days to remove the pier or they will be fined. In regard to an issue at Bass Lake, Attorney Lucas advised he has spoken with the gentleman and advised him to speak directly with the Bass Lake Conservancy District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Auditor Chaffins asked the status on an invoice from J & K Communications in regard to the radio issues with the Koontz Lake Fire Department. The Commissioners advised the invoice was not to be paid, that J & K should be contacted.

Auditor Chaffins turned in a list received from Maintenance Director Jim Coad in regard to window tinting requested by the Prosecutor's Office in Office Space in the County Courthouse and in the Annex II Building, in the total amount of \$1,226.00. Director Coad had also requested a fan control switch and new fencing around the condensing units. Commissioner Norem made a motion to move forward on all of those requests as they still have money left from the original project. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

EMS Director Keith Emigh had a question in regard to the Anti-Nepotism Ordinance. He advised he has a husband and wife who work together and the wife is in a Supervisory Position and does supervise her husband. He wondered if she could do that since the husband and wife were both employed with the County when the Anti-Nepotism Ordinance had gone into effect. Attorney Lucas inquired if she was the Supervisor at that time and Director Emigh advised she had not been that she was made a Supervisor after the Ordinance was in effect. Attorney Lucas advised that would be a violation of the Anti-Nepotism Ordinance and their employment would need to change.

Starke County Council President Freddie Baker inquired if a letter had been sent to the Hospital in regard to the Capital Asset Reporting since the new hospital has never filed a Capital Asset Report yet. Auditor Chaffins advised she had been in contact with Secretary Renay Hochstedler, who was speaking with the CEO but no date had been set. It was decided Councilman Baker and Commissioner Norem will set up a time to meet with the CEO to introduce themselves and speak with the CEO about the Capital Asset Reporting.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

MAY 15, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

ABSENT _____
Charles Chesak

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Thursday, May 24, 2017

The Starke County Board of Commissioners meet in an Executive Session, at 3:00PM, in the Meeting Room of the Starke County Annex Building with Commissioners Kathy Norem, Charles Chesak, & Don Binkley, County Attorney, Marty Lucas, and County Deputy Auditor, Sara Dingman present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was held to receive information in regard to a personnel matter, Pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 part (b)(6)(B).

I can attest the only issue discussed at this meeting was in regard to a personnel matter. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36PM.

Sara Dingman, Deputy Auditor

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