

**MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016**

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 Vice-President Don Binkley at 6:38PM. Commissioner President Kent Danford was absent.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE**

Terry Stephenson, Building Commissioner, appeared before the Board with an Amendment to the Planning Commission's Unsafe Building Law Ordinance. He advised a Public Hearing has been held for this Ordinance and there were people both for it and against it. Since there were a lot of individuals in attendance for the meeting, Commissioner Binkley opened the floor for public comment. The individuals that spoke were from the Koontz Lake and Bass Lake areas and were all in favor of the Ordinance. Starke County Clerk Vicki Cooley advised Mr. Stephenson is only one person who will be enforcing that ordinance. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the authority to make changes has been given from the State to each County to process. Commissioner Norem stated it is a challenge as both lakes are in her Commissioner District.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Unsafe Building Law Ordinance and asked everyone present to have patience with getting everything cleaned up. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Mr. Stephenson advised the Planning Commission will be voting on the bill Wednesday Night at their meeting. Commissioner Norem stated her and Terry will be attending the Koontz Lake Annual Meeting but Mr. Stephenson will not be speaking at that meeting.

There was a brief discussion between Mr. Stephenson and the Board of Commissioners in regard to the County's CAFO Ordinance. Mr. Stephenson advised the Planning Commissioner is wanting to amend that Ordinance. No action was taken in this regard.

#### **ROAD CREATED BY PETRO ST., SAN PIERRE**

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present two price quotes for the request to create a road for a new home in San Pierre. Superintendent Ritzler advised to expand Petro Road by 200 yards west toward Jackson, a gravel road, would cost approximately \$5,000.00. He advised this quote would have a cul-de-sac so the trucks could turn around. To expand the road west and then north to Green St. would cost approximately \$15,450.00. The property owner, Gus Eckert, inquired if this would affect the property owned by Alex Grezenko. Rik advised he was not familiar with that property. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the quote for the 200 yards with the cul-de-sac in the amount of \$5,000.00. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Superintendent Ritzler advised he will add this road to his inventory listing after it is complete.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORT—EMA DEPARTMENT**

EMA Director Jacob Lippner appeared before the Board to present an update on his department. In regard to radios he advised he would like to drop the 800 radios as the primary and make it the VHF radios. He stated the 800 radios are very expensive and the money they will save on the VHF radios he could spend to install repeaters in the outside areas to improve communications with any of the various fire departments. Sheriff Bill Dulin stated there are some dead spots in the County. He advised he is in favor with switching the 800 radios to secondary and the VHF to primary as long as it does not affect any emergencies.

In regard to an open grant Director Lippner is waiting to write a Letter of Intent as he is looking on using the grant for physical security or cyber security needs. He has until June to get that completed.

#### **AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, VENDOR CLAIMS**

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Claims Docket as presented in the amount of \$111,297.37 which also includes the 2016 Primary Election Workers' Pay. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim for the Pay Period ending on 5/7/16 with a Pay Date of 5/13/16 in the total gross amount of \$220,519.67. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, 5-2-16, as presented. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

Section 179D Allocation: Commissioner Binkley signed the Allocation listing the following properties: Old Starke County Jail, Starke County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, and the Starke County Circuit Court.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Annual Report of the Congressional School Fund in the amount of \$14,725.34. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The report was signed by the Board.

SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board with a page from the last OCRA Grant to change the owner of the property at the end of the grant. He advised the original paperwork had listed the County as the owner but the actual owner will be SCILL. Attorney Lucas advised he had reviewed it and it is fine. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the document, seconded by Commissioner Binkley. The motion passed with all ayes. Since President Kent Danford's name was listed on the form it needed to be changed to show the Vice-President Don Binkley was signing the form.

Attorney Lucas advised he had created a new Resolution, Starke County Commissioners Resolution 2016-0516, Internal Account Control: Internal Controls Committee. He advised we have received word from the State that this Resolution was

required to be created, and he also noted this Resolution goes along with the recent Resolution created on Materiality. He explained the Resolution calls for the creation of a Committee consisting of the Ex Officio Auditor and two others preferably from the Public, from an insurance company or banking. The Committee can only have two members of one party and one member of the other party. He also noted as time goes by this Resolution could become more definitive. He also noted the Committee could be formed the same way as some of the County Boards, to advertise for membership. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this Resolution. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Jim Coad and Mike Gerhart, Custodians at the Annex Building and the Courthouse appeared before the Board. In regard to the HVAC System at the County Courthouse Commissioner Norem advised they had received three different scenarios:

1. Establishing a four furnace system, one in each quadrant of the Courthouse Basement, which would effectively concern with heat and AC on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with a cost of approximately \$70,000.00. If this system is chosen they would also need to purchase new window air conditioners on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. But that price was not included.
2. A VRF System which would provide heat and AC to all three floors but that system has received mixed reviews from other sources and has an estimated cost of \$350,000.00.
3. Commissioner Norem asked them to provide any other option they could look at within their budget and they advised of a four coil pipe system but the price was \$185,000.00 more than the VRF System, making it approximately \$535,000.00. She stated this was not cost effective.

Custodian Coad and Custodian Gerhart advised they were in favor of the four furnace system because this would be a better way to guarantee heat in the Courthouse. Custodian Coad advised if a VRF System went down they would completely lose the heat but if one of the four furnaces went down heat would be provided by the other three. Custodian Gerhart, who has experience in maintenance and repairing furnaces, advised he would be able to work with those furnaces. They advised they are more comfortable with the four furnace system. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the four furnace system. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem informed Clerk Vicki Cooley they will work with her in establishing AC by purchasing new window air conditioners and to move her furniture around for better flow of those AC units.

Commissioner Norem advised she had completed a press release asking for four positions to fill on the County's CVC Board, three Republicans and one Democrat. She advised she had submitted that information to the local radio station and the local newspaper.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Betty Dotlich advised they also have a position they need to fill on the City of Knox's Planning Commission due to the death of MJ Bendt. Commissioner Norem advised the appointee would need to be a Republican and reside in Knox's two mile area, just outside of the City.

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 7:36PM.

**MAY 16, 2016**

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

Kent Danford, President

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Donald Binkley, Vice President

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Kathy Norem

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