

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

May 22nd, 2009

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

IN RE: ASSISTANCE

The commissioners met with David Terrell, the Director of Indiana Office of Community Affairs, Anne Hazlett, Executive Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and Sarah Simpson, Indiana Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Land Resource Council.

They came to talk to the commissioners about assistance they can offer with projects, such as Sysco and the broadband grant. They help counties build capacity. Capacity is like a product and these two departments will assist communities to be more attractive to companies who are looking for new areas or companies that already exist and want to expand. They help the community to “shape” their product.

Kathy Norem asked if they will fund economic development of roads. They said they will work with INDOT and also sewer installation assistance.

Kathy asked if the USDA will provide funds for a new jail. Hazlett said no, but that there is a rural development regional director that Terrell will contact to see if they can assist with that.

Kathy asked if they can provide grant money for development of comprehensive strategic plan for Starke County. Terrell said he will check to see who might assist with this from his office.

Kathy asked about a Starke County woman whose house is ready to fall into the Yellow River. She found information online that says the USDA can provide grant funds, if the county was declared a disaster area, but Starke County was not. They will also check on this and get back to the commissioners with the information. There is an Indiana Housing Community Authority that might also be able to assist.

Anne Hazlett talked about agricultural growth in Indiana. She was not aware that we have a land use plan in place. She will check to see if the USDA has any rural development grant money.

The commissioners told them that the county will be more dependant on grant funds in the future.

The commissioners said that the strengths in the county are:

Strong Economic Development:

Charles Weaver, Buildable Land, Rail Spur, Airport, Hopsital, Willing and Trainable Workforce, SCILL Center, and Bass Lake.

Agricultural:

Mint, Confined Hog Feeding Operations (3), Starke County Co-Op, and Farmers' Market.

IN RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Pat Mitchell appeared to ask the commissioners for permission to purchase three cell phones for Starke County Community Corrections for the field officer and security in the field. Mark Milo questioned how they will pay for the two year contract. Mitchell said their grant is approved for two more years, and if and when the grant runs out, they will

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be self funded by fees, etc. Mark Milo moved to approve the purchase of three cell phones for Community Corrections, seconded by Kathy Norem, with three ayes.

Pat Mitchell told the commissioners that he is very interested in helping them obtain funds for the jail housing issue. He suggested they form a housing commission for jail and he will gladly volunteer to serve on that committee. He knows of DOC grants that are available if you have a housing commission in place to apply.

Kathy said she will call Oscar Cowen and they will meet with Pat before the next commissioners meeting, to discuss options.

Mark Milo moved to allow Starke County Community Corrections to have use of a retired vehicle from the Sheriff's Dept. The details will be worked out after being reviewed by the attorney. Kathy Norem seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes. Dan said he will call Martin Lucas and advise him of the change, and ask that he report his findings to the commissioners at the next meeting.

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

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

May 22nd, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in **executive** session at 10:15 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

I, Dona Hoban, Deputy Auditor, do hereby certify that no other business was discussed other than what was posted.

Witness my hand and the Auditor's seal this 22nd day of May, 2009.

Dona Hoban