

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018

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, Donald Binkley, and Charlie Chesak 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 6:43PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

BRIDGE 154 BID OPENING

Due to the absence of Highway Department Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, Inspector Bob Lorenz appeared before the Board in regard to the opening of bids for the Bridge 154 Project. County Attorney Marty Lucas verified that the bids had been received in a timely manner. Auditor Chaffins noted they had all been received prior to 4:00PM today. Attorney Lucas opened the bids and advised of the bids received:

1. LaPorte Construction, LaPorte, IN \$400,643.00
2. Reith Riley, Gary, IN \$499,820.15
3. JCI Bridge Group, LaPorte, IN \$437,975.39.

Bob Lorenz advised the engineer's projected cost was \$409,140.00. He took the bids to review and verify they followed the advertised specs.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT AND LEASE AGREEMENT

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He presented printed copies of his report. He then advised he had a company who wanted to lease ½ acre in the Hamlet East Development right next to the REMC Substation. Commissioner Norem advised Commissioner Binkley, Attorney Lucas, and she had attended a meeting last week and they met the organization who was interested in that property. She advised the company is EZ Blockchain and they will be creating a data center which will be a generalized technology site but they are contingent on REMC. Sergi and Luis of EZ Blockchain and REMC Employee Dave Howell also appeared before the Board. Director Wickert noted this company will be utilizing a great amount of electricity and could become one of REMC's largest customers. He submitted a copy of the lease to the Board. Attorney Lucas advised he had revised the proposed lease but he did not have a legal location on the lease. Director Wickert advised he will be able to get the location. He then inquired if the Board should require a deposit on the lease. He stated they are paying REMC a large amount up front. Commissioner Binkley asked if the ground would be restored back if they were to close up. Attorney Lucas noted that was covered in the lease. Director Wickert advised they would like to open up their business on July 1st, and he will have someone remove the corn from that location. He stated EZ Blockchain will need to review the lease and then advise. He noted they would need to make a road, lay cement down for the comfort pads, and install a fence surrounding the property. Commissioner Norem stated she would like Marty to work on the deposit issue; that they would be willing to make it an advance of so many months of rent. Attorney Lucas advised he would need more information for the lease such as the dimension and exact location of the property. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the finalized version of the lease after Attorney Lucas updates the lease. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

BRIDGE 154

Bob Lorenz, Inspector for the Highway Department, returned to the meeting and advised the bids received were in order and passed the inspection. He stated he is recommending LaPorte Construction's bid. Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept the lowest bid for Bridge 154, LaPorte Construction in the amount of \$400,643.00. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem inquired if LaPorte Construction has met the County's Fair Bidding Ordinance. Mr. Lorenz advised they have.

SHERIFF DULIN REQUEST TO CREATE A NEW EMPLOYEE POSITION

Sheriff Dulin appeared before the Board to present the creation of a new position, Jail Sergeant to both the day shift and the night shift of full time Jailers. He advised with all the requests to move inmates going to court, the hospital, or where ever. He noted this would not be a new employee but a current employee who would receive a pay raise of .45 cents or approximately \$1,000.00 increase per year. He stated it would cut down on the amount of overtime and comp time. Commissioner Norem noted they would be a shift captain and made a motion to approve the position. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Sheriff Dulin advised they have been selected as a Law Enforcement Training Facility and that training provide jailer school also. He noted that would make it easier to provides training for the jailers.

Sheriff Dulin then asked if he could create an impound release fee of \$25.00 and that would be placed into the Sheriff's Department Retirement Fund. He advised other counties are implementing this fee at various amounts. Attorney Lucas advised the Board to table this issue for now why he researches the state statute covering this fee.

Sheriff Dulin then brought up the Golf Cart Ordinance and asked if a fee be created if there is a delay in the renewal of his registration. He stated he would like to see a fee of \$10.00 or \$25.00 and would like for it to go into effect by July

1st. Commissioner Norem and Commissioner Binkley both advised the Sheriff should wait until the July 1st, 2019 date before the penalty would go into effect so that all the owners could be notified. Sheriff Dulin responded if he would have to wait that long he would rather Attorney Lucas reviews and renews the whole ordinance.

SCCC REQUEST FOR USE OF DEBIT CARD UPDATE

Starke County Community Corrections Director Shawn Matraw and Clerk Jennifer Strickland appeared before the Board to present an update on their request for a credit card. They had instead checked into the possibility of their bank allowing a debit card for miscellaneous expenditures. Director Matraw advised the bank had approved the use of the debit card and Clerk Strickland and he would be responsible for the card. Clerk Strickland would advise the Auditor of any purchases made using the card. It would be a deduction of their monthly amount reported to the Auditor. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the debit card that was requested by SCCC. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IT DIRECTOR'S REQUEST FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

IT Director Richard Franks appeared before the Board with requests for some capital expenditure items. He advised the first item was to purchase a new CAD System to be used in the Dispatch area of the Jail. He noted also the Court, Probation, and the Prosecutor in the County would have access to it also along with local fire departments and police departments. He showed the first quote was in the amount of \$534,772.90 but is licenses differently on each computer and each module. The second quote was in the amount of \$253,555.00, from Caliber, and is the one the Sheriff prefers. The Sheriff stated 62 Indiana counties are currently using this system. Director Franks noted they would also have an annual maintenance fee and a subscription fee. The Sheriff stated they are still working on talking with outside fire departments and police departments to see if they would be willing to contribute to this CAD update. Commissioner Norem inquired if the bid process would need to be followed in this situation. Attorney Lucas stated he did not think so as it was not a public works project; it is a service. Director Franks advised he is working with EMA Director J. Nier about completing two different grants that would be providing partial funding for this CAD System and possibly for the purchase of upgrading computers throughout the County. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to table this discussion for two weeks so they can seek how much each entity would be willing to pay and also see how they do with the grant applications. Sheriff Dulin noted Community Corrections and the Probation Department will be paying and so far he has heard North Judson is willing to pay a little. He noted they could possibly bill the other entities for maintenance.

Director Franks then presented the price quotes he had received for upgrading the County's telephone system. He advised this was a software based solution that runs off a server. The County would receive new telephones though. He stated he had received three price quotes. The first quote was from Allstar Communications with a backup solution. He noted that price was \$62,526.00; the GTI price quote was \$60,149.00 with no backup; and the NEC quote was for \$64,160.00 with no backup. He stated he would recommend the Allstar Communications Company. He noted they do have a maintenance option and he does recommend it. He advised on our current telephone system the maintenance program had expired and that is why it is so difficult now to get a phone repaired. Director Franks suggested using Verizon or ATT for the backup and then the telephones would never go down again when the power goes off which is what happens with the system we have today. Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept the bid from AllStar Communication with the backup system in the amount of \$62,526.00. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised this should be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Director Franks then discussed the backup server he would like to purchase. He stated it would be used for onside and offside backups. He advised the first quote he had was in the amount of \$55,380.62 and the second quote was \$36,069.09. Commissioner Norem inquired if those two quotes were pricing exactly the same equipment and Director Franks advised yes it was. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see a third price quote. Director Franks then distributed a spreadsheet by department of the number of computers they have and the number they would like to replace. He advised the departments who are looking to purchase do not have the appropriation for computers in their budgets. Commissioner Norem advised it is a capital expenditure. Director Franks advised the grants he was working on should be completed by the end of this month.

2019 COMMISSIONER BUDGET

Commissioner Norem advised the 2019 budgets are now due and she explained how she arrived at the amounts she was requesting for 2019. She explained the Commissioner's budget by line. She showed a \$7,000.00 increase in the Attorney's line and a 10% increase in health insurance. She also stated she would decrease the amount of liability insurance by \$12,000.00, and the rest of the other items were staying the same as 2018. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

REGIONAL STELLAR COMMUNITIES

Commissioner Norem advised she had attended a meeting last week along with Commissioner Binkley and Attorney Lucas. She advised in the past Stellar Communities only pertained to cities and towns but now they have created Regional Stellar Communities which would be available to Counties also. She advised in this situation the County, along with the County Seat, and one other participant would need to participate. She noted she thought the Town of North Judson, or the Town of Hamlet would also participate or maybe they both would. She noted if the County participates in this program it would help in obtaining a lot of grant funding. Commissioner Norem stated in order to qualify the County would need a 5 Year Plan and a cost of \$50,000.00. She said OCRA provides grant funding and if

qualified they would only need a 10% match. She also noted the County would need a letter of intent, a planning grant, and an income survey. In regard to the income survey she stated the records are showing that Starke County is 44% compliant and they would need to be 51%. She stated she thought the amount of salary on the record is not current. She stated to hire out an income survey she received a price quote of \$8,000.00 and to provide the work within the County by the County themselves the cost would be \$3,250.00. She stated she did not think the County would be able to complete the work themselves. She made a motion to proceed with the letter of intent and to hire an income survey in the amount of \$8,000.00. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the request for an annex key for the Deputy Treasurer, Debbie Keiper. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

In May a County employee was terminated and she filed a grievance for the Commissioners to review. There was an Executive Session and the Board talked to the Department Head and the employee. Commissioner Norem stated they want to reinstate the employee for regular clerk pay, full time with benefits as the Clerk to the Commissioners until a suitable job is found. She stated the employee will receive back pay since the termination, their vacation time they had at the termination, and longevity. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve this grievance response. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the gross amount of \$427,198.76. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on June 2, with a pay date of June 8, in the total gross amount of \$251,184.32. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4th meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

SCEDF Director Larry Wickert stated he was happy the County is willing to participate in the Regional Stellar Community Program and he believes North Judson is interested also.

Jeff Berg brought a white cross approximately 3-4 feet high and decorated with a purple ribbon up to the Board and he spoke of the County Soldiers who were killed as a result of World War 1. He stated he had first presented this speech at the cemetery on Memorial Day. He stated there were 8 County soldiers who lost their lives during World War 1 were Albert Williams, Harry Keller, Columbus Shilling, Joseph Regnald, Frank Clifford Garbison, John Earl Good, Charlie Andy, and Walter Wallace. He stated there was not ever any County Memorial honoring these soldiers. He stated he had bought 8 white crosses with purple ribbons and placed one at each of the 8 soldiers' graves.

There being no 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 adjourned at 8:22PM.

JUNE 18, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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