

June 20, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom at 8:05PM. He proposed a change to the posted agenda; to begin the meeting with the proposed Dog Kennel Ordinance. Commissioner Norem made a motion to amend the agenda moving the dog kennel ordinance issue as the first item to be discussed, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING DOG KENNELS IN THE COUNTY

Bruce Williams, Administrator/Building Commissioner appeared before the Board to submit the latest revision of the proposed ordinance regulating dog kennels in the county. He advised the planning commission has been working on a dog kennel ordinance for the last 4 years. The ordinance would give the BZA guidelines when considering permits for dog kennels. Steve Dodge gave a summary of the planning commission's involvement with the dog kennel ordinance. Commissioner Norem stated, in full disclosure, that she has bred dogs in the past, and she does have a variance from the BZA to operate a dog kennel. She stated she is opposed to the ordinances, both prior ones and now the current version proposed by the planning commission, as presented. She advised that the attendance of approximately 60 citizens in the audience show that people are concerned. She continued, the current one is much better, but there are still issues with it, especially with limiting the number of dogs kept outside to 6.

Steve Dodge advised a dog kennel ordinance would cut down the number of cases to go before the BZA and Mr. Williams would be able to make the decision of issuing dog kennel permits. In 2006 the State abolished the dog tax that was handled on a township level. It was replaced with a county option dog tax. The County is currently working on the ordinance to enforce a county option dog tax. The meeting was opened up for public comment. Some of the citizens that spoke include Dr. Valerie Johnson, John Johnson, Perry Bope, Art Norem, Glen Norem, Debbie Norem, Jeke Lovely, Doug Corey, Bill Bope, and Kenny Wallace. The largest concern of the public was the limit to the number of outside dogs, and how the proposed ordinance would affect those who have hunting dogs. They advised it should be broken down into hobbist and commercial kennels and what the minimum number of acres of land would be required to operate a kennel.

Commissioner Norem advised the proposal was a definite improvement over the last one, but stated this ordinance is not there yet. She then made a motion to deny this particular ordinance. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem then made a motion for the ordinance to be sent back to the planning commission for further work.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem then inquired of Dr. Johnson, if she would assist the planning commission in their revision of the ordinance. Glen Norem, Doug Corey and Dr. Valerie Johnson all volunteered to assist the planning commission. Commissioner Bridegroom stated the importance of the county having a dog kennel ordinance and that the Planning Commission meets every 3rd Wednesday, at 6:30pm.

IN RE: ORDINANCE FOR FLOOD HAZARD AREAS FOR STARKE COUNTY

Bruce Williams then presented to the Board the proposed Ordinance for Flood Hazard Areas for Starke County. He advised the importance of establishing such an ordinance for the county. He stated it would maintain a good standing with FEMA and would also assist insurance companies. Without a county ordinance, Starke County would not qualify for FEMA assistance. Commissioner Norem made a statement that the 4 County Drain Board of Starke County unanimously voted to support the ordinance. She then made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. A copy of the ordinance, number 2011-04, is on file in the Auditor's office.

IN RE: STEVE DODGE'S CLAIM

In reference to a previously discussed incident regarding property he had purchased at a tax sale, Steve Dodge stated he was advised by SRI to prepare a court order to be reimbursed for his expense. The property should not have been sold at the tax sale, since the property owner had filed bankruptcy in California. But, there wasn't any way for the County to know of the bankruptcy. Marty Lucas reviewed the paperwork and noted it was in order. The claim total is \$8,458.03. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the paperwork, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: RAILROAD VEST PROPERTY

Commissioner Bridegroom stated he is concerned with the paperwork the Board received which stated that Mr. Wade Allen is "probably" the owner of the property. Steve Dodge stated Mr. Allen had only received a Quit Claim Deed on the property, and is willing to proceed if Mr. Allen can establish a marketable title. There would not be any risk to the county. Commissioner Norem made a motion to allow Mr. Dodge to proceed with the paperwork, with the offer for settlement be contingent on Mr. Allen's marketable title. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

IN RE: BRIDGE PROGRESS REPORT

Ken Minett, of Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, appeared before the Board to give an update of the status of the three bridge projects in Starke County. He advised that the borings on bridge # 156 should begin on Tuesday, June 21st. He noted the water has been too deep, over 10 feet deep, and they might need to hire a licensed diver to go into the water to measure the footings. When asked to estimate a ball park figure for the cost of a diver, he advised a couple of thousands. The Commissioners advised him to wait until the July 5th meeting of the Board, and wait until the water had a chance to recede. Mr. Minett also stated the field surveys on all three bridges, 9, 62, and 156 have all been completed, showing the hydraulic calculations. He should have the report ready for the next meeting and also the borings on 156, after it is completed. He advised he would be in attendance at the July 5th meeting.

IN RE: TREASURER'S 47TR MONTHLY REPORT

Commissioner Bridegroom reported they had received the Treasurer's 47TR report for the month of May. He noted the report should be filed by the 16th of the month, and this report was submitted late. He also stated the figures on the report are not in balance.

IN RE: IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bridegroom advised the appointment to the Visitor's Association Board will be announced at the July 5th meeting. He then announced the request from the Starke County Development Foundation President, Charlie Weaver, to sign the reimbursement monies for the Hamlet Project Grant. Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept and sign the paperwork to close out the Hamlet Project Grant. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion. The motion passed and the papers were signed. Commissioner Bridegroom also signed an Economic Development Acceptance Report prepared by Mr. Vanjanovich. Also he signed the paperwork for the CR300E & SR8 project.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to take under advisement, until the July 5th meeting, the quotes received on the testing and inspection services of life safety systems. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Norem stated she would like to see James Coad summarize the proposals and present them at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bridegroom read a request from KIRPC, requesting the amount of \$9345.20 be included in the county's 2012 budget. The rate is calculated by assessing a .40 charge per citizen of Starke County, as per the 2010 census, which is listed at 23,363. He also stated Starke County is the only northern county still on the list of possible counties to be approved to receive FEMA assistance.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated he had received a complaint about illegal parking, on Shuski Road at Bass Lake. The area is posted as a fire access lane. He will have Scott, from the highway department, inspect the signs in that area.

The Starke County Auditor advised the Commissioners of a situation regarding the water and sewer bills that have been received from the city. The courthouse currently has two meters, but neither one of the meters is working properly and over time the city has just been continually estimated their usage. She stated that she questioned the billings because the amount paid at the Courthouse is quite a bit higher than the usage at the Annex Building. The Commissioners advised the City should replace the upstairs meter, and will check into what can be done to address the meter, which shows the usage for the public restrooms, in the basement.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated that Bass Lake Beach recently had their state inspection and the only problem had been a shower with no shower head, and two light bulbs that were not working properly, otherwise they passed with no problem. He did comment on the fact the driveway is having problems with the stone washing away. He stated they need to develop a good base first on the drive, before the driveway could be built up.

IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIM

Commissioner Norem made the motion to approve the payroll claim dated June 11, 2011 in the amount of \$168,656.83; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with two ayes.

IN RE: MINUTES

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the draft of the June 6th Commissioner's meeting, Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. The final minutes of the May 16th and May 19th meetings were then signed.

IN RE: VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the claims as submitted by the Auditor's Office, except the following claims: a request for mileage by Jonathan Pratt, part time temporary deputy Prosecutor, for not having adequate documentation; the claim from the Sheriff's Department for MPH in the amount of \$23.62. (They advised the Sheriff's Department could pay for this expense out of their Commissary fund.); and the Treasurer's request in the amount of \$5,000.00 for postage. The total amount of claims submitted for approval is \$97,940.40. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to accept the price quote from Warner Electric to replace the emergency lights in the County Annex Building. The total amount of the quote is \$1072.00 and is to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm.

June 20, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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