

## MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019

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 Charlie Chesak and Bryan Cavender present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Charlie Chesak at 6:00PM.

### EMS MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director Travis Clary and EMS Clerk MaryLynn Ritchie appeared before the Board to present their monthly departmental report. Clerk Ritchie presented the amount received from Johnathon O'Hara being \$2,994.10. She stated there was no small claims payment to present this month. She advised that their transfers are up 34% this month, which is how much she has got billed. She explained of the runs she has billed 34% of them came out of the hospital as transfers. She reported they are up \$143,713.54 in collections from this point in 2018. Director Clary presented his operation report. He stated the transfer unit has been operating for 12 hours a day for the past three months. They have been seeing excellent numbers out of that unit. They continue to branch outside of their normal 50 mile radius, and everything has been going smoothly. The hours of operation for that unit depend on the call volume coming out of Starke Hospital, but typically they are running 0800-2000 hours. They continue to work closely with Starke Hospital to ensure they are meeting their needs. They are pleased with their services, and were recently commended for their efforts at a recent meeting with the CNO, and emergency department directors. They have actually been receiving call from other facilities that have found out about the transfer unit.

Director Clary reported that they continue to have a full time staff of EMT's and Paramedics. He stated he is very proud that they have a great retention of employees and he is aware of many area services that are in crisis trying to find staffing. He reported that there are less than 2000 paramedics in the State of Indiana. He stated he has recently trained the Bass Lake Fire Department on CPR. They are now certified for another 2 years. He also reported that he trained 2 members from the Railroad Township Fire Department on CPR. He provided CPR training to a local daycare. They held their monthly A & R with Starke Hospital. He stated they will be doing some annual in-house training in the coming months for blood borne pathogens. They are also trying the new glidescope-go video laryngoscope for intubations. It is a fantastic tool and hope to get a grant funding soon for them. In safety Director Clary reported they has a Paramedic get a small laceration on an accident scene. It was believed to have been cut by glass, and was seen at our outpatient clinic for treatment. She was back to work that day. Director Clary reported in ambulance maintenance they have had the following completed on their vehicles:  
Unit # 86 (Medic 2) Received transmission sensor work. He stated he also had them do an oil change, repair fuel leak, and front end alignment while it was at Dobson Ford in Winamac.  
Unit # 85 (Medic 1) Received DEF system repairs, and oil change, and also had warranty work performed on its fuel injectors. The work was performed at Auto Park GMC in Plymouth.  
Unit # 0514 (Medic 5) Received an oil change, and some front end work.  
Unit # 4230 (Medic 3) The newest ambulance will be going into Ford here in Knox this week to have an oil change. He stated he chose to take it there due to it still being under warranty.

Director Clary stated they had a garage door operator issue with our Medic 5 base in Grovertown. He stated he had that resolved in one day, they repainted the garage doors at Medic 3 here in Knox, as they were in great need. Clary advised that he is proud to say that they received another generous \$2,000.00 from Starke United. The money is to go towards the purchase of a new ALS non-transport vehicle. He is continuing to work on grants for new ambulance stretchers, and now the glide scope go's. He stated he is also pursuing some interest he has had in getting a Lucas Device for our Medic 2 transfer unit. Director Clary reported he continues to attend overdose fatality review team meetings and any meeting he is able to that pertains to the subject. We continue to lead our state in overdose, and he hopes that we can come up with some solutions quickly to combat this crisis. He is also now on the child fatality review team that was recently put together by our prosecutor's office. He advised he was then invited to be a part of the CPT (Child Protection Team.) by DCS. He also attended the recent communications meeting. He has had frequent meetings with Laporte, Starke, and Porter Hospitals. He stated he will continue to be involved as much as possible with our community.

Director Clary advised he is requesting the permission of the Board of Commissioners to allow him to trade-in his current vehicle toward the purchase of an SUV ALS non-transport vehicle for his

department. He would pay the remainder of the invoice with the grant money he has received toward this purchase. This purchase would be through Chicago Motors. After further discussion by the Board of Commissioners Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the purchase of an SUV ALS non-transport vehicle for his department, a trade-in of either the EMA or IT Department vehicle worth \$1,500.00, and \$1,500.00 will be paid from Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

## **COUNTY HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT**

Rik Ritzler, Superintendent of the County Highway Department, appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He reported that the rain delayed a lot of projects that they were trying to do. He reported Bridge #7 is in design, Bridge #154 had approach work completed today and the guardrail will go in tomorrow and could be open on Wednesday, if not then it will be open early next week. Bridge #140 was awarded, they are thinking about starting on it in October however that may be delayed until the spring because of the culvert that collapsed on 700E. He reported culvert cleaning is done, they did more culvert replacements this month. They had 21 to do by October and they now have 15 done. Bridge cleaning is done and bridge sealing will be done in September. Ritzler reported under roadwork the intersection improvement at Bass Lake was done, the HMA overlay on 25N got pushed back into July that they were awarded because of the rain delays. They canceled the round 1 of chip sealing because they were hoping to get good weather in June and just didn't get it. They will be doing 10 miles to the next round of chip sealing that they will start on in August and September, which will make it 30 miles of chip seal. He reported they got to start their cold mix paving last week, crack sealing will begin in late August, the cross walk at Boa Shores will be done in July or August. He stated they received a FEMA reimbursement today, they received \$58,000 back this year, he just signed the category z damage report today, they should be receiving \$260,000 for that, this money will be put right back into roadways.

Superintendent Ritzler reported that he has been coordinating with Bill Crase about the culvert collapse on CR700E between CR600N and CR700N. He explained the four different types of repairs for the culvert collapse that they could do. He reported that on the LTAP intersection analysis and speed studies. The Starke County Highway department is requesting LTAP's assistance in assessing the safety of three intersections:

1. CR 300 East at Toto Road – 300 East zig-zags north and south across Toto Road at the bottom of the crest of a hill, which creates challenges in terms of visibility. Additionally, 300 East runs into the Knox Industrial Park, with long-term plans to upgrade the pavement to Toto Road in order to accommodate truck traffic. North/South traffic stops: East/West traffic does not.
2. CR 500 S. at CR 260 West – 260 West T's into 500 South. The surrounding area is densely populated, and the terrain is uneven. Traffic on 500 S. does not stop.
3. CR 250 W. at CR 700 S. – This is a two-way stop North and South on 250 W. Residents in the area are complaining about poor visibility and excessive vehicle speed and cite the number of children living in the area as a concern.

He presented a speed study from Bass Lake at CR210 from 625E to Sportyz, he stated this has been a concern for a while. They did traffic recording there in December just before Christmas, he stated the count was done over three days and they had 1,792 vehicles. They will be doing this count again this weekend so that they will have a count for the off season and a count for the peak season. He will report this information during the next meeting. He explained that when you use this data, the program they have is a speed enforcement evaluator which takes the data and adds a speed enforcement tolerance. In their system they have added a 10MPH tolerance. He stated the data shows that people tend to go slower going to Sportyz than they do coming back from Sportyz. He has not spoken to Bill Dulin yet about this but another thing this program can do is print out the optimal enforcement times for speed limit, they could send someone out for two hours during the time in which people generally speed the most. He will be discussing this with Bill and he could provide this information to his department. This can be performed at any area in the county and we can use that data to make decisions.

Superintendent Ritzler reported a little more detail about his cold mix paving round. So far they have completed paving on 700S, 200E, and 600 E. He presented a chart showing the rest of the roads left to pave for round 1. He stated they are getting grindings and millings from Reith-Riley, the amount they are going to receive is estimated at 5-15 miles of grindings. After this round of paving is done they will be making millings out of the grindings so that it can be run back through the pug mill, this will cost about 1/3 of what it cost now to make cold mix asphalt because of this extra material round one could end up being 20-25 miles instead of 13 miles. He then presented a chart regarding work assignments showing what they do when they are engaged in a paving day. He stated last month he went to a

conference for Highway Engineers and Supervisors, there was a Road Scholar class there about asset management, and additional 7 of his employees went to this class. He also stated that our county does their own bridge construction inspection and not many counties do this as there are six tests you have to pass to become certified. Right now, Ritzler, Bob Lorenz, and Rachel Oesterreich are certified but he would like to get a couple more certified. Stephen David and Shawn McCarty went and took their first test about a week ago and they both passed the first test. Under upcoming training they have a Crack Sealing Training on 7/23/2019, LTAP Road Scholar #5 Roadway Safety on 08/31/2019.

Superintendent Ritzler reported that he is not advocating the US30 project, but advocating in the interests of Starke County. Not much has changed since his last report, they have completed all our internal data collections and planning. If there is no change in status by the next time we are invoiced for our dues and/or if INDOT has begun to complete their smaller scale projects on US30 it is recommended we do not pay. He reported under the Stellar Communities Application they are meeting with DLZ tomorrow to discuss specific design topics related to several of our proposed Stellar projects and presented a chart representing those proposed projects. Ritzler reported on the INDOT inquires, INDOT wanted him to talk to the individual department and he did this but if we do not get satisfaction from this meeting INDOT will meet with him. The inquiry updates are as follows:

1. Koontz Lake Dam and fishing area mowing- Completed
2. Koontz Lake flooding Iroquois/SR23 – Awaiting a response, may place catch basin
3. Bass Lake realignment of SR10 – INDOT is looking for old plans
4. No passing zone on US35 near 500S – pending INDOT investigation
5. State maintenance done by County – pending meeting with INDOT
6. BLPOA building drainage issue- Awaiting response

Superintendent Ritzler then presented a fuel report chart, the chart shows the fuel usage by each department. He stated his department's fuel usage is down from last year at this time, mainly because of the different activities they do. He stated will be adding the fuel usage chart to his report every month for their records. He also presented an intersection analysis they get from Purdue LTAP, most of them are low cost, and they have only have one that was a high cost improvement.

Commissioner Chesak stated they are tabling the next agenda item regarding the Planning Commission's Minor Nuisance Ordinance.

## **ROADS AND DRAINAGE BOA SHORES**

Guy Tardi came before the Board of Commissioners for road and drainage concerns at Boa Shores. Mr. Tardi asked if the roads at Boa Shores will be tar and chipped or paved this year. Superintendent Ritzler explained that most of the Boa Shores roads are a 5-6 passer rating, which would denote chip sealing. He then asked if Mr. Tardi would like to wait another year or so and have them paved instead because they don't generally pave roads that are rated 5-6, currently they have too many other roads that are rated 1, 2, and 3 that need paved. He stated if the residents don't want it chip sealed again they could have to wait a few years until it deteriorates and then they could pave it. Mr. Tardi stated he believes the residents would want to wait a few years and have it paved even though at every meeting the residents are asking when their roads are going to be paved. Superintendent Ritzler explained it is difficult to justify paving a road that is a 5 or 6 when they have other roads in the county that rate as a 2. After further discussion about paving and chip sealing Boas Shores between Mr. Tardi and Ritzler it was decided that Mr. Tardi would relay this information to the President of Boa Shores and then get back to Ritzler about what the residents would like to do.

Mr. Tardi also expressed his concerns for the ditch lines, he stated three years ago he had a gentleman come out and he showed him all the ditch lines including the saplings growing in it, the leaves, and the branches. He stated if it weren't for the residents in Boa Shores that clean these out the water would never be running. He stated the gentleman told him that all the ditch tax money they have been paying over the years was giving to Purdue University. At another time he called Bill to come out and look at their water problems, he stated that Bill told them they have some money but they don't have enough money because they want to much to do even one section. So here we stand nothing has been cleaned for umpteen years. He stated after talking to Bill several times he is still waiting for this problem to be fixed. He stated it seems like nothing is happening other than the residents cleaning the ditch out themselves. Surveyor Crase indicated there is only one regulated drain in Boa Shores, the rest of them are private roadside ditches. He indicated last year they went in and sprayed the ditch to take care of the saplings and they also went in to remove a few trees. He indicated that the problem is there are places where people have tiled it closed on their own which catches all the debris, there are other places that are open, and then there are areas that you can't get a piece of machinery in there because of the housing

being so close together which drives the price up. A few years ago they bid the job and one block of Boa Shores come in at over \$40,000. The Bass Lake Surface drains do not pull in that kind of money. After further discussion regarding the Boa Sores drains it was decided that Commissioner Chesak, Mr. Tardi, and Surveyor Crase will take a look at the area.

#### **4-WAY STOP REQUEST**

Joe Peverelle came before the Board of Commissioners to request a 4-way stop at the intersection of 700S and 250W. He stated he has called the highway department for three years now to request a 4-way stop at this intersection. He stated this area is a virtual race track and a neighbor went to the junkyard and got a slow sign to put up in this area. Superintendent Ritzler advised that slow signs actually make the problem worse at times. Ritzler also advised the is having Purdue come look at the intersection because it is going to make the intersection more dangerous when/if they put up the signs because traffic will drive right through those signs.

After further discussion about the 4-way stop sign request at the intersection of 700S and 250W, it was decided to wait until the outcome of the study to determine whether or not this intersection will be turned from a 2-way stop to a 4-way stop.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Matt Noonan came before the Board of Commissioners to present an update from the Communications Committee. He stated a couple issues have arrived since the last time they have met, on 06/18/2019 he did testing at the North Judson site and determined there was a site issue causing radio issues. At that time he called J & K Communications as the county was still under a service agreement and warranty. He stated the inspection from J & K discovered that the voter was not working. It was showing enabled at dispatch but on site is was not enabled so the transmitter was not working at all. He advised the A/C unit was not working properly as well. He stated he had Artic Air come out and fix the A/C unit as it was considered an emergency. He explained that J & K did confirm that the voter system was not working, they were able to enable the voter itself. He stated there were software updates that happened inside of dispatch that might have caused the issue but he does not know for sure. He stated after that it did start working a little bit but later that night they ended up having to call J & K back out as he went back out there and did more radio testing and it was not working. That is when he decided to call Artic Air, when the A/C unit was fixed it seemed to be working correctly. He stated the service contract with J & K ends today on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Noonan then presented the board with a quote from J & K for a 1-year renewal on the service contract. The total amount for this would be \$42,010.20. He explained without the service contract J & K with charge for time and supplies.

Mr. Noonan advised we have 30 days to decide if we want to renew the contract or not. He stated right now every time we would call J & K and they access our system remotely we do not pay as that is covered by the service contract. However, if we do not renew our service contract that will not be covered. He explained the breakdown of the service contract renewal quote. He stated one question that mat come up is asking other vendors to work on our system. He stated he has asked this before and there are three vendors that do this type of work being: ERS, J & K, and Minor. Minor and ERS are Motorola dealers and for them to work on our current system we would have to redo our entire infrastructure inside of dispatch and they have advised our county that they will not work on our system. Mr. Noonan also presented a quote from J & K to replace the damaged cat five cable on the North Judson water tower, the quote amount is \$2,005.00. Mr. Noonan asked if we insure our sites. Attorney Lucas stated he believes we do have insurance coverage as we have had a claim before for a lightning strike years ago at one of our tower locations. After further discussion regarding the service contract and insurance coverage on our tower locations, Commissioner Chesak asked to have the service contract put on the agenda for the joint meeting with the Starke County Council on July 15, 2019 and also asked Auditor Oesterreich to get with Carrie Block regarding our insurance coverage on the tower locations. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to accept the quote as presented for the coax cable fix, this bill is to be paid out of CEDIT. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**EMA – INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT COORDINATOR**

EMA Director J. Nier came before the Board of Commissioners to introduce the new district coordinator. Sharon Murlock stated she is with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in the local government support section. She also introduced Stormy Friday as the new District 2 liaison. She explained that the assessment is changing a little bit as the emphases are focused in different areas. She explained the assessment breaks down into six parts and the purpose of the assessment is to assess the level of preparedness within the county. She explained that the county is eligible to receive up to 50% of the pay reimbursement for up to three people within the county. She explained there are certain requirements that have to be met in order to be eligible for the reimbursement. She explained in the event that there is a disaster the county can receive up to 75% reimbursement. The assessment helps to make sure the county is doing the things they need to do beforehand for us being able to be put in the position of being able to get 75% reimbursement for disasters. The assessment is considered a roadmap for the EMA’s to follow.

**AUDITOR’S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET**

Commissioner Chesak asked for a motion to approve the vendor claims in the amount of 1,360,349.80. Commissioner Cavender made the motion, Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 06/15/19 with a pay date of 06/21/19, in the total gross amount of \$257,360.11. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion, the motion passed with both ayes. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17<sup>st</sup> meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with both ayes.

Commissioner Chesak advised they will be tabling the Solid Waste Agreement until the next Commissioner’s meeting. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Dan Gumz to the Technical Advisory Board for the KRBC. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak brought up the Bass Lake easement in question. Commissioner Cavender stated a survey was done on the easement in question, which came at no cost to the county, he stated it is a 16’ wide easement. Commissioner Chesak advised the complaint about the easement was that there was people parking in the easement. He advised this easement was on SR10, he stated he would like to put no parking signs up at this easement. Commissioner Cavender made a motion to put up the “no parking” signs, one on each side of the easement. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

After no public comment Commissioner Cavender made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**JULY 1, 2019**

ABSENT

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Charlie Chesak, President

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Kathryn Norem, Vice-President

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Bryan Cavender

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Rachel Oesterreich, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners