

Monday, July 2, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00am in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem, and Jennifer Davis present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President, Kathy Norem. She noted a few changes to the posted agenda: Jim Shilling at 10:15AM, and the discussion of the county's burn ban will be added to the County Highway Department's report..

RE: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIMS & VENDOR CLAIMS

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18th meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19th Municode Work Session, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the pay claim for the pay period ending on June 23, 2012, in the amount of \$167,846.69. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the vendor claims, as submitted, in the total amount of \$417,248.41. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

RE: CONTRACT WITH PULASKI COUNTY TO HOUSE STARKE COUNTY INMATES

Sheriff, Oscar Cowen, appeared before the Board to request approval of the "Jail Housing Agreement" between Starke County and Pulaski County. He advised the agreement has already been approved by the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners, and the Pulaski County Sheriff. The agreement states, that Pulaski County will assist Starke County in maintaining the number of incarcerated inmates in the Starke County jail to a maximum number of sixty two, Pulaski County is willing to house any excess number of inmates at their facility for a cost of \$20.00 per day per inmate. Pulaski County agrees to house, feed and provide medical care to the Starke County inmates while they are incarcerated in the Pulaski County Jail. The agreement is subject to termination at either party's request. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve this agreement, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: EMS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, and EMS Dept. Clerk, MaryLynn Ritchie, appeared before the Board to give the monthly EMS report. Clerk Ritchie gave her report on the number of runs and the billing process. She advised \$477.24 was received from collections attorney, Jonathan O'Hara, and \$205.00 from the Starke County Clerk, from small claims. She inquired if the county was willing to negotiate down a particular patient's billing, due to a set amount he was receiving from his settlement. The Board advised they are not willing to make any agreements to negotiate down any ones billing. Clerk Ritchie advised, in regard to the EMA Department, she had the grant application that would reimburse half of her salary and half of the EMA Director's salary plus half of their payroll benefits. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the signing of the application, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, appeared before the Board and advised the oxygen cascade system that the EMS department is utilizing, is outdated, but has been addressed. He noted he had given County Attorney, Marty Lucas, a copy of the proposed contract for his review, in regard to their cardiac monitors. He also submitted a copy of a proposal he received from Les Jensen in regard to applying a blacktop sealer to the parking lots of all three EMS bases in the county. The proposal total cost for all three bases is \$1,725.00. President Norem inquired if he had the funding to pay for that expense and the Director advised he will look for the funding. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to table the proposed project until it could be researched further, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he will have the County Highway Superintendent check out each EMS base parking lot.

RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

County Highway Superintendent, Steve Siddall, and Mark Wilson, engineer with Wightman & Petrie, appeared before the Board to discuss the update of the Bridge 51 replacement. Mr. Wilson advised bid packages are available at the County Auditor's office. The bid process will be advertised in the Leader the weeks of June 28th and July 5th. The bids will be opened at the next Commissioner's meeting on Monday, July 16th. He is requesting the bids opening be held early on in the meeting, so their Company could review the bids to see if the construction companies are in compliance with the specifications listed in the bid notice. He added his Company would be able to report back to the Board at that same meeting which could allow a construction company to be chosen at that night's meeting. He noted the construction for the replacement of Bridge 51 should be able to begin by August 1st. He stated the only utility company that is located near the bridge is CenturyLink and they are relocating their lines around the guard rails of the bridge. He also noted that the only permit they need approved is with the Army Corps of Engineering and he does not foresee a problem with obtaining their approval. Mr. Wilson also noted the construction inspector will be required for the project, and is not a part of the design agreement. The cost of such an inspector will be \$29,880.00. He submitted a copy of the inspector contract to Attorney Lucas for his review. President Norem advised to include that inspector issue on the July 16th meeting agenda also.

Superintendent Siddall advised Bridge 9 will receive its final inspection that morning at 10:00AM and will soon be open to traffic. He noted that Bridge 62 should be open to traffic in approximately two weeks.

President Norem advised they have received several requests to have a stop sign installed on CR1100E, north of Anchor Drive at Koontz Lake. She noted the intersection is on a hill top and is by the Slipaway Bay subdivision. She suggested a stop sign be installed for only the northbound traffic, to relieve the safety concerns at that location. Commissioner Bridegroom inquired if this issue would require advertising. Attorney Lucas stated that installing a stop sign is different than establishing a new speed limit for an area, but he would research the issue. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to install a stop sign at that location, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

President Norem advised the County's Burn Ban is up for renewal. She advised she had spoken with the Fire Chiefs of the county's various fire departments and it was the consensus of those Fire Chiefs to rescind the burn ban for now, but reconsider putting it back into effect if the County was experiencing another dry spell. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to rescind the burn ban with a possible reinstatement, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem urged all Starke County citizens to use extreme care with any type of burning, and if they have any questions they should call their local department's Fire Chief.

Superintendent Siddall advised they need to discuss the county purchasing a generator for the county highway department to utilize in the event of another power outage. He stated during the major storm on Friday, June 29th, their department did not have any radio communication with any of their vehicles until the power came back on. He would like to have a generator to keep not only the radios operating, but also the fuel pumps at the garage. He did advise that the big generator went to Pulaski County. Commissioner Bridegroom advised he will speak with EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti. Patty Bush, of the Bass Lake Conservancy District, advised they have three large generators, and are only currently using one of the three. If the County would be interested in using any of their generators, she advised them to call Tom Jordan.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Bridget Markin, of 1st Source Insurance Company, appeared before the Board with the proposed renewals of the County's worker's compensation insurance and the liability insurance. She advised the cost of the liability insurance will be increasing by 3%, \$ 3,182.00 for a total cost of \$137,691. Also she is recommending the County change insurance carriers for their worker's compensation coverage. She advised the estimated cost for next year's renewal, staying with the present company, would be \$139,000.00. If the County changes carriers to Downey Insurance for their w/c coverage, the cost of next year's premium would be \$123,175. She also advised for an additional fee of \$1,115.00. Annually, the County's deductible amount could be reduced from the \$5,000.00 deductible, which is currently in effect, down to \$1,000.00 deductible. Ms. Markin also advised the Board should consider establishing a safety committee to try to decrease the number and severity of the w/c claims in the County. A meeting was scheduled for Friday, July 6th at 10:00AM, in the Annex Building Meeting Room. Attorney Lucas advised he would like to see the format of the proposal she submitted be reworked since it was difficult to read, but noted the contents appeared to be in order and could be approved. President Norem stated she would like to have it posted on the July 16th meeting's agenda to have a discussion in regard to the change of the physician provider for the County employee's worker's compensation claims. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the proposal as presented by Ms. Markin, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

County Treasurer, Kasey Clark, appeared before the Board to receive approval to attend a two day seminar in South Bend in regard to working with Excel spreadsheets. She advised the cost of the session is \$128.00. She noted that she has the extra money in her budget since she will not be in need of all her extra help appropriations. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve her request, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Jim Shilling, representing the Starke County Historical Society, appeared before the Board to present a follow-up to his request to be given storage space at the County's storage warehouse. He presented a price quote he had received from Tim Benson to construct walls for a thirty x fifty foot storage room, in the amount of \$2,200.00, which includes both material and labor. He noted the room will be kept locked. He also stated he would not need to have electrical work installed in the room. Commissioner Davis made a motion to allow the Historical Society to use space at the storage warehouse, and to pay for the construction expense out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Mr. Shilling was advised the Historical Society's insurance will be responsible for the materials the Society will have in storage at the warehouse.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised he has received some price quotes for "no smoking" signs to be posted on the county's property. He advised metal signs would be approximately \$35.00-40.00 each, laminate signs \$18.00 and PVC signs \$24.00. President Norem noted presently only the employees are not allowed to smoke on the county's property, but that restriction does not apply to the public. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to designate all the county properties, including the grounds, as a completely smoke free campus. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. President Norem noted this policy exceed the State's current "no smoking" regulations. She advised any property within the perimeter of the city's sidewalks is the restricted area, noting that pertains to the Courthouse, Annex Building, Jail, the County Highway Department property, EMS bases, and the warehouse. Attorney Lucas advised any property the County leases is not under the county's regulations, pertaining to the hospital, and the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. Commissioner Bridegroom asked Attorney Lucas to see if there any height requirements when posting signs with posts. President Norem requested Auditor Chaffins contact the State to get the specific wording for the proposed signs.

President Norem requested the Board complete the calendar for the month of July as to the Commissioners' Office Hours at their office in the Courthouse. The calendar was completed and will be posted accordingly by the Auditor. President Norem advised no one has shown an interest in serving on the CVC Board. Since the appointment is required to be a Democrat, Commissioner Davis requested the Democratic Party Chairperson, Kenneth Wallace announce the Board vacancy at the next Democratic Party meeting. Norem stated they would like to see the vacancy be filled by a local innkeeper in the county, but it is not mandatory.

President Norem announced the joint meeting of the Board of Commissioners with the North Judson Town Board on Thursday, July 12, at 4PM, at the North Judson Civic Center meeting room, in regard to the North Judson industrial park.

President Norem requested Attorney Lucas draft a resolution in regard to the Board Vice-President being granted the signatory authority, to sign documents, in the absence of the Board's President.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:52AM.

July 2, 2012

Kathy Norem, President

Dan Bridegroom, Vice President

Jennifer Davis

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &
Secretary to the Commissioners

