

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

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 and Don Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Vice-President Don Binkley. Commissioner President Kent Danford was absent from the meeting.

EMS MONTHLY REPORT

EMS Director Keith Emigh and EMS Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to present their monthly departmental report. Clerk Richie advised they had received a total of \$1,249.66 from Collection Attorney Jonathan O'Hara and \$383.00 from Small Claims Court. She advised the runs were increased and so have the collections, but the number of transfers is down. Director Emigh advised he had filled the two full time paramedic spots with Rob Broens and Ryan Burgess. He noted he always has a posting for part timers for both EMT's and Paramedics. He also advised he has been working with an EMT who is trying to get her certification switched to an Indiana State Certification.

In regard to Education Director Emigh advised he had attended a MCI with Pioneer Seed in Plymouth along with the Hamlet and Knox Fire Departments. He noted they also had an extrication exercise with Knox Fire Department.

In regard to Rig Maintenance Director Emigh stated they needed to have Rig 0084 towed to the County Garage by Howard's and Rig 3308 went to the Chevy Garage for air conditioner problems.

In regard to Base Maintenance Director Emigh advised routine base maintenance was done at all the bases and he did have Jackson Air fix the air conditioning unit at the North Judson Base.

He reported there were no injuries during the month of June and he is constantly looking for ways to save money on their supplies and services.

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to present his departmental monthly report. He advised "No Trucks" signs have been placed at the intersections of Toto Road & US35 (westbound); Toto Road & CR300E (northbound); Culver Road & CR300E (southbound); US35 & CR200S (westbound); in an attempt to control the traffic of trucks to the Knox Industrial Park. He advised it has lessened the amount of traffic. For those truck drivers who live on those roads he had issued a permit to them with the understanding they go home unloaded.

In regard to Current Bridge Replacements he advised County Bridge # 78, on CR250W ½ mile south of Toto Road, the project has been advertised and the bid opening will take place on Monday, July 18th. He stated construction should begin in early August and be completed in late September or early October. He advised Bridge # 96 on CR900S, ½ mile west of US421 will be replaced with a culvert. He advised they are looking at using three 36" concrete pipes or a 96" squash pipe. By downsizing the project they will be saving at least \$200,000.00.

In regard to Current Road Improvements the Superintendent advised in June they wedged a total of five miles of asphalt throughout the County and they plan on wedging about five more miles in July. They paved one mile on CR150N and plan on paving at least five more miles in July.

In regard to Highway Funding he advised the required Road and Bridge Asset Management has been submitted and approved. He noted now they are applying for 50/50 matching funds for the following projects in 2016: The replacements of Bridge # 46; Bridge # 47; and Bridge # 50. Roads: cold mix asphalt paving ten mile of county roads; and chip sealing twenty one miles of county roads. The 2017 matching fund applications were for the replacements of Bridges # 36; # 58; and # 154 and cold mix asphalt paving ten miles of county roads and chip sealing of 21 miles of county roads.

In regard to the INDOT 2021 Call for Projects, the Superintendent advised he has presented the County's application for Yellow River Bridge replacement funding to INDOT on 6/27/16 and the grants will be awarded in the next few weeks. INDOT has also announced the availability of up to \$40,000.00 for advanced warning signs and pavement markings at county railroad crossings in the form of a grant. The application of the grant is due July 29, 2016.

In regard to the Intern OJT Program, Superintendent Ritzler advised two of their employees are still in the OJT phase when the County receives salary reimbursement from Work One. One driver has graduated from the program. Another employee has completed the work experience program and has been moved into one of the part time positions.

In regard to Safety, the Superintendent advised there were no days lost to injuries last month. One driver did have a case of poison ivy even after using all the required safety precautions. They are expecting a reduction in their workman's compensation premium due to the fewer accidents and injuries.

ROAD FOR ROADWAY INVENTORY

Charlie Weaver, Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, and Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board. Director Weaver inquired in the Board would consider approving the roadway north of CR550N going into the Hamlet Industrial Park to be added to the County's Road Inventory. He advised the length of the roadway was 1/6 of a mile and would get approximately \$500.00 per year from the State. Commissioner Norem made a motion to add the roadway to the County's Road Inventory. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Director Weaver discussed the railroad crossing on CR300E north of CR50S. He advised a State Statute states a train can't block a railroad crossing more than ten minutes but they have been known to do so. He advised the Police could issue tickets if the train blocks the crossing longer. The train is to be split but they don't like to have to do that. He asked the Board to hang up signs posting a telephone number anyone could call if they are blocked excessively. Commissioner Binkley made a motion approving the installation of signs by the railroad tracks. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem stated they would need to let the railroad company know what is happening.

1st SOURCE INSURANCE MID-TERM REVIEW

Debbie Rykovich and Holly Horan of 1st Source Insurance appeared before the Board to give an update on the health insurance. They advised the PCOR fee is due by July 31st and is \$2.17 per the number of enrolled members. They advised the Loss Ratio is running at 90% but they have confirmed one of the large claimants is no longer insured. Last year's Loss Ratio for the same period was at 64%. They also talked about HIP Link; that Starke County has been signed up for it and they will be working with the qualifying employees who would benefit from the plan.

KATHY ROBB LETTER OF SUPPORT

Kathy Robb, Executive Director, of Knox/Winamac Community Health Center appeared before the Board to ask for a Letter of Support in a grant application. She advised she is asking for a \$650,000.00 grant for a two year term. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve and sign the letter of support. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley then signed the letter.

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

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim for the pay period ending on 6/18/16 with a pay date of June 24th, in the total gross amount of \$218,573.26. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. In regard to Vendor Claims, Commissioner Norem made a motion to change the number recorded to the American Legion Post 92 from #31402 to # 31301 in the amount of \$500.00; table the claim for Greiger Motors for the purchase of the 2016 Jeep by SCCC; and void the claim to ADT made by SCCC. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20th meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem asked that the price quote on the fiber cable be tabled until the next meeting.

IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Commissioner Norem reviewed with Commissioner Binkley the proposed Commissioner budget for 2017. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired as to the status of the hospital agreement as he had not received any communication from the hospital. Commissioner Norem stated she would discuss the situation with him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no further business and no public comment, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56PM.

JULY 5, 2016

ABSENT_____

Kent Danford, PresidentDonald Binkley, Vice President

Kathryn NoremKatherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners