

July 7th, 2008

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 3:45 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MAIL

The commissioners received the report for Community Services of Starke County for 2007, from Joan Haugh.

They also received a request from Marshall Starke Development for \$40,000.

They mentioned that there would be a Starke County Council meeting on July 14th.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

John Norris, Highway Interim Superintendent, reported that \$96,710 has been submitted to FEMA for flood damage. If accepted, the county would get 75% of that reimbursed. Kevin Kroft added that Governor Daniels is trying to raise that to 90%, but it has not passed as of yet.

Kent Danford submitted a letter from the DNR that permits are issued to authorize glacial stone (native stone) to be put along the shoreline of Bass Lake on SR 10. This is to stop the road washout.

John Norris reported that Toto Road has been open since last Thursday. He said they will return with the grader to smooth out the road after the rain stops. There will also be work done at the end of the culvert and shoulder work will be done when it all settles.

He reported that County Road 600 North would be closed between County Road 900 East and County Road 800 East by the Oregon Davis School to do bridge repairs. They expect these repairs to be Thursday and Friday July 10th-11th. There will be an announcement made by the radio station and the newspaper when John confirms the work will be done, based on the weather.

Kevin Kroft made a presentation of the American Flag to John Norris for the highway garage from The American Legion. The garage flag is tattered and John said it would be replaced tomorrow.

John Norris asked for permission to add the highway department to the county Internet. The highway has not had Internet service since the death of the former highway superintendent. Mark Milo moved to allow Internet set up by the IT Coordinator, Robert J Smith. Kent Danford seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes.

Jeff Larrison appeared with the September 2006 inspection report. No bridges are down and none need to be closed. John Norris is aware of any needed work and he will address it as indicated.

In September of 2008 the next round of inspections will start. The book with the CD was given to the commissioners and the highway.

Jeff Larrison asked for the commissioners' permission to write a letter to INDOT requesting the transfer of money for the Toto Road project to go to the 300 East project. This letter will be ready at the next meeting for the commissioners to sign.

John Norris reminded the commissioners to send a letter to all department heads that have access to the highway fuel tanks. The gate has been left open more than once. There was a catalytic converter cut from a highway truck and stolen when the gate was left open. The fuel pump registers who is using the pump after hours. If any damage or theft is committed, the person leaving the gate open will be held responsible. (Auditor's Note: This letter has been sent.)

IN RE: 2009 BUDGETS

The proposed 2009 salaries and budgets were submitted to the commissioners, for their approval to forward to the county council. Kevin Kroft moved to send the budgets to the council, with the recommendation that no new positions will be added to any offices until budget matters are settled but any vacated position could be filled. Kent Danford seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes.

IN RE: E.M.S.

Mark Milo moved to accept FMLA for Lisa King (EMS employee), Kent Danford seconded and it passed with three ayes.

Mary Lynn Ritchie with EMS presented a proposal from Able Disposal for garbage removal from the Knox EMS base. Mark Milo moved to approve the proposal, seconded by Kent Danford with three ayes.

Mary Lynn reported write offs in the amount of \$3,014.52. Kent Danford moved to approve the write offs, seconded by Mark Milo, with three ayes.

Mary Lynn also reported \$55 collected by the clerk and \$634.66 by O'Hara.

IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Rhonda Milner, Starke County Assessor, appeared regarding tax-exempt property issues with Starke Memorial Hospital. According to the lease and Charlie Weaver, who helped write the lease, they should have been paying real estate taxes since 1996. Now the new office building should be taxed also. Kevin Kroft made a motion for Martin Bedrock, County Attorney, to review the lease and discuss it with Mike Meadows, the hospital CEO. Kent Danford seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes.

IN RE: TAX SALE ISSUES

Rhonda told the commissioners that issues have come up about improvements that are on more than one parcel or lot. Dona Hoban, Starke County Deputy Auditor, explained to the commissioners about a property that had sold on tax sale where there has been a court order to return the money paid at the sale. The property owner, who lost the property at the time of transfer, has already been paid more than \$16,000. Marc Griffin, a tax sale attorney, said it is state statute that the assessor combines these properties and sells them as one property at a tax sale. Dona told the commissioners that she had sent the notice of petition to SRI, the county's tax sale company, to Brad Engler's attention. No response was received. When the auditor received the court order, Dona contacted SRI again. At that time, SRI did respond and told Dona that the county must pay back the money and the surplus amount that was paid to the property owner. Mark Milo stated that we hire SRI to run the tax sale and we pay them to handle these things and make sure all state statutes are followed. Therefore, Mark Milo moved that Martin Bedrock contact SRI regarding this issue and have them pay the surplus back, since they are responsible for following the tax sale laws. Kent Danford seconded this motion, and it passed with three ayes.

Dona reported to the commissioners that Marilyn Folkers, Starke County Treasurer, stated that there would be no tax sale in 2008 due to the tax bills not being on time. Kevin Kroft said that the auditor and treasurer would need to make this decision together.

IN RE: SAN PIERRE

Beverly Santicola appeared and asked the commissioners for their permission in applying for an INDOT grant again this year for San Pierre. Mark Milo moved to approve, seconded by Kent Danford, with three ayes. The commissioners signed the request and she said she would send a copy to the auditor.

Beverly also reported that the old Texaco station and bank building in San Pierre are falling down and dangerous. Mark Milo said that David Singleton, County Sanitarian, reported at the last meeting that that building was to be torn down in

30 days. It was reported that the owner of the old bank building is in jail and refuses to sell the property at a reasonable amount. Mark Milo moved for her to apply for a grant to remove blight and slum, seconded by Kent Danford. It passed with three ayes.

IN RE: I.T. CONFERENCE

Robert J Smith, IT Coordinator, appeared and asked the commissioners for their permission for him to attend an IT meeting for all IT coordinators who work for Indiana counties. The meeting will be held in Lafayette July 10th-11th. Kevin Kroft moved to allow Robert to ask the council for the money to cover the expenses, seconded by Mark Milo, with three ayes. Kevin Kroft said that if the council approves it to be paid out of the commissioners' budget, they would need to create a new line item to pay from.

IN RE: DAVIS TWP. FIRE TRUCK GRANT

Kent Danford moved to sign the grant report for the Davis Twp. Fire truck. The motion was seconded by Mark Milo and passed with three ayes.

IN RE: G.I.S. CONTRACT

Mark Milo moved to sign the GIS contract to share information with Group One Software. Kent Danford seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes.

IN RE: CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Kent Danford moved to approve the June 14th payroll, seconded by Mark Milo with three ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve the June 28th payroll, seconded by Kent Danford with three ayes.

Mark Milo moved to approve the claims, seconded by Kent Danford with three ayes.

IN RE: EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING

The information from the last meeting was given to Kent Danford, as he was not present at that meeting.

IN RE: N.I.P.S.C.O.

Martin Bedrock reported that the NIPSCO attorney said he is not authorized to negotiate any damages done at County Road 550 North. The commissioners told him to take it to court then. Mark Milo moved to approve this, seconded by Kent Danford, with three ayes.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, Kevin Kroft moved to adjourn.

Kevin Kroft, President

Kent Danford, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Michaelene J Houston, Auditor