

**Monday, July 16, 2012**

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President, Kathy Norem, at 7:20PM. President Norem noted a change to that meeting's agenda: delete the discussion in regard to the Owen County presentation since it was already discussed at the County Council meeting.

RE: BRIDGE 51 CONSTRUCTION BIDS

County Attorney, Marty Lucas, verified that all construction bids were received in a timely manner. Auditor Chaffins advised they had; all received before 4:00PM, 7-16-12, in the Auditor's Office. Attorney Lucas opened the bids and read the total base bid from each company: Northern Indiana Construction \$234,596.72; LaPorte Construction \$224,328.25; Tonn & Blank \$303,522.43; JCI Bridge Group \$300,439.52; ANLAAN Corporation \$309,953.85; Yates Construction \$325,445.33; and Pioneer Associates \$247,841.86. President Norem advised Mark Wilson of Wightman Petrie, and Co. Highway Department Superintendent, Steve Siddall will verify that the bids received are compliant with the established bid specifications, and will submit a report back to the Board during this meeting.

RE: VENDOR CLAIMS, PAYROLL CLAIM, MINUTES

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with the employees of the Sheriff's Department, and also the minutes of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the vendor claims, as presented, in the total amount of \$108,284.52. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom, and passed with all ayes. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the payroll claim for the week ending July 7, in the total amount of \$177,810.33. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed with all ayes. Auditor Chaffins gave a brief report on the Monthly Financial Reporting by county departments, noting the departments have improved with their daily depositing. The Board noted they would like to see any department that handles the receipting of monies, to submit a signed document if they have nothing collected during that day. In regard to the other taxing units being compliant with the passing of resolutions/ordinances in regard to the anti-nepotism in employment and contracting, she advised she had not received any documentation from Center Township, Jackson Township, North Bend Township, Washington Township, and also all three of the county's municipalities. Attorney Lucas advised July 1<sup>st</sup> was the date in which the entity was to have a resolution in force. The DLGF advises the budget of that entity, and also the county's 2013 budget, could be reduced for failure to be in compliance.. The Auditor was advised to contact those entities that had not submitted a copy of their resolutions. If there is still no response, a certified letter should be sent.

RE: EMS DEPT.

EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, appeared before the Board to request approval of a contract in regard to cardiac monitoring. He advised the cost would be \$2,181.00 annually and could be paid out of his budget, ambulance supplies, line item 020-2000.07. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes.

The Director also inquired if the Board had made a decision in regard to a price quote that was submitted by Les Jensen, to asphalt seal coat the parking lots of the three EMS bases in the county. President Norem advised him the EMS Department has money left in their budget and they should decide if that was the way they wanted to spend it. Commissioner Davis also noted a price quote had been submitted by Les Jensen in regard to the Annex Building parking lot.

RE: COUNTY HWY DEPT. SCRAP METAL AGREEMENT QUARTERLY RECONCILIATION REPORT

Commissioner Bridegroom advised no scrap metal had been taken to the scrap yard, and there were no towing of county vehicles by Howard & Sons. He inquired in regard to other county departments having vehicles towed and how that would affect this agreement. President Norem advised the agreement only pertains to towing performed by Howard & Sons, of county owned vehicles.

RE: VACATION ACCRUAL CALCULATION CORRECTION

President Norem advised there had been some confusion in the calculation of any employees that accrued vacation time following one year of employment. Using the posted multiplier the total days of vacation time was only 4.994 instead of 5 full days. She advised that the solution suggested by Auditor Chaffins was to change the multiplier for the first year from .192 to .1925 which will calculate correctly the number of vacation days. Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to change the multiplier to .1925, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. President Norem asked the Auditor to notify each department of the correction.

RE: KOONTZ LAKE STOP SIGN

Harold Flynn and Bob Tibbitts, both from the Koontz Lake area, requested the Commissioners reconsider the recently installed stop sign on CR1100E, just north of Anchor Drive. They requested the Board either remove the sign, or install three more, so there would be a four way stop. Commissioner Davis made a motion to take the matter under advisement until she could drive through that area and evaluate the situation. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

RE: STARKE COUNTY BURN BAN

Starke County EMA Director, Ted Bombagetti appeared before the Board to request the County's Burn Ban be extended. He requested it be extended until their next regular scheduled meeting on Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. He noted 87 out of the state's 92 counties have burn bans in effect. Commissioner Davis made a motion to extend the timing of the burn ban, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. Director Bombagetti also noted if the burn ban is for a length of time longer than one week, all three Commissions' signatures were required. President Norem requested the IT Director post the notice of the effective Burn Ban on the county's website with a flashing banner.

**RE: BRIDGE 51 BID REPORT**

Wightman Petrie Engineer, Mark Wilson, and Superintendent Siddall reappeared before the Board to give a report on the status of the construction bids that were opened during the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Wilson advised that since the bids were in compliance with the posted specifications, he is recommending the Board award the bid to the LaPorte Construction Co. as they were the lowest bidder. Superintendent Siddall noted LaPorte Construction Co. has recently constructed Bridge 9 in the county. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the bid award to LaPorte Construction, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes. Mr. Wilson advised he will notify LaPorte Construction. He also stated he will take the bids and construct the information into a spreadsheet reference for the County.

**CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR**

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the contract for the Construction Inspector for the Bridge 51 project in the amount of \$29,880.00, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes. Mr. Wilson advised CenturyLink started that day, in the relocation project they needed to complete, and that all permits had been received. He advised the start date for the Bridge 51 project will be Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, with a 90 day completion time schedule.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Bridegroom noted his concern with individuals smoking at the 4-H fairgrounds, since this is the week of the 4-H fair, and the County is under a Burn Ban. President Norem advised she had spoken with the Fair Board and she advised they are being pro-active. Commissioner Bridegroom noted "no smoking" signs were posted in all the fair ground's buildings.

Commissioner Davis inquired if the County Highway Department's mowing locations could be posted on the GIS on the County's website. She also commented on the Highway Department's good job in regard to the clean up at Bass Lake following the major storm that hit that area on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bridegroom advised he was contacted by a person who was interested in buying property at Bass Lake and they had inquired if they bought the property would they be able to install a pier. It was the consensus of the Board that a pier would not be allowed.

He then reported, in a follow-up to an earlier meeting, the LaPorte Park Dept. is interested in looking into the possibility of receiving grant funding to pursue the purchasing of land at the Lomax Station location. Attorney Lucas stated they would like to develop the Kankakee River for canoeing, and Lomax Station is a historical site. Commissioner Davis noted she would like to see a follow up report Bruce Wakeland, in regard to the creation, in 2011, of the Starke County Forest.

Auditor Chaffins inquired if it is mandatory to hire a consulting company to be in compliance with GASB 34, and hire the Government Fixed Asset Service Company, with an annual fee of \$1,950.00, or if the reporting could be completed by the County themselves. The Board requested she check with the SBOA Auditor who is currently auditing the County.

Ben Haut, of WKVI, invited everyone in attendance to the midnight celebration when their DJ, Tom Berg, sets a new world record. He also advised Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> will be Tom Berg Day in the city of Knox.

Commissioner Bridegroom checked with the Auditor to see if the receipt from Ray's Super Foods, North Judson, had been submitted to NIPSCO. This was in regard to the establishment of a cooling center during the electricity outage from the major storm that hit the County on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. George Dotlich inquired as to why there are not many complaints made in regard to building violations when there are so many different obvious violations throughout the County. Commissioner Bridegroom noted there is a requirement that the complaint filed is to be a written complaint. There was a brief discussion in regard to why people do not file the complaints.

There being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

**July 16, 2012**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Norem, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bridegroom, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Chaffins, Auditor &  
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners