

**Monday, August 1, 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 Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to present their departmental monthly report. Clerk Richie advised the total number of runs made in July was lower than the month of June however the percent of transfers has increased back up to 30%. She also noted their accounts receivable are still more than the 2015 amount. She advised they received a total of \$525.56 from Collection Attorney Jonathan O'Hara and a total of \$369.98 from Small Claims Court. She also noted the County has received a total of \$20,231.86 from MDwise and will be receiving checks from Anthem and Managed Health Services which will be similar to the Medicare Reimbursement the County receives. She stated those extra companies are paying for the year 2013. Clerk Richie noted they are on schedule to collect enough revenue this year to cover their total budget. EMS Director Keith Emigh advised he had a part time EMT resign and they have already been replaced. He is also interviewing for 4 more part time EMTs and 3 more part time Paramedics. In regard to Education he advised they had a CPR Class for all their employees and he took the following classes online: Incipient Fire Fighting Awareness Level; Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems; Emergency Response Team Coordinator; and Incident Command System Awareness Level. Director Emigh noted in regard to Rig Maintenance that they had Rig 3308 towed into the Shop to have the AC compressor belt replaced, an oil change, replacement of a blower motor, replacement of two tires and then had it aligned. Rig 84 had an oil change and the installation of two new batteries; Rig 086 had its high beams go out and a fuse was replaced which restored the lights; Rig 085 had a loose solenoid, two tires installed and then had it aligned. He noted there were times last month the County was operating with no back up rig. Director Emigh advised there was routine base maintenance done at all the bases; and no safety injuries were held during the month. He also noted he is constantly looking for savings on supplies and services.

### **COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

Rik Ritzler, Highway Department Superintendent, appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He advised during the month of July they were very busy with their normal duties such as paving, wedging, brush cutting, culvert replacements, and mowing. He noted they have been putting the work assignments each day on the Facebook page to notify the public. In regard to current bridge replacements he advised Bridge # 78 had its bid opening on July 18<sup>th</sup>; Bridge # 96 will have a replacement with a small culvert; Bridge # 50 will be posted for the opening of bids on September 6<sup>th</sup>; and designs are complete for Bridges # 46 & 47. In regard to current road improvements he noted they had paved and wedged over ten miles of County roadway in the first round of paving. Paving for the second round was made in July and will be ready for paving in the second week of August. They are also planning for a third round of paving in the last week of August. In regard to the highway funding update, the Superintendent listed all the County bridges and their sufficiency rating. He advised when the County is complete with replacements the rating should be over 80. He also noted they should know sometime in August in regard to the funding from the State. He stated they have assisted the Town of Hamlet with their paving. In regard to the INDOT 2021 call for projects the Superintendent advised they have applied for the Yellow Bridge replacement funding to INDOT. They are still waiting on the State's response. In regard to the Work One OJT Program, he advised the program is going well. They have three employees involved in the program and one of them may become a driver. The Superintendent advised there were no injuries reported last month. He also noted an insurance inspector paid them a visit on July 25<sup>th</sup> and observed a brush crew working in progress. Only one suggestion for improvement was made. He stated when an insurance agent is calling he does not notify the County employees.

### **COURTHOUSE AND OLD JAIL RENOVATIONS**

John Kirk of DLZ and Chris Muvceski of Skillman appeared before the Board to discuss the renovation project for the County Courthouse and the old County jail building. They distributed project budget sheets for both buildings with an estimated total of \$3,499,999.00. They stated they were present to ask the Board of Commissioners for their authority to move forward with the project, to open the call for construction documents. Mr. Kirk reviewed some of the issues that will take place during the project such as tuckpointing and window repair at the Courthouse; replacement of the hand rails at the jail building; and new LED lighting at both buildings. He noted primarily it will be all restorative work. Commissioner Norem stated they have three pools of money they can use for this project and they are: the Jail CREDIT money which is not spent on the Lease Payments or the Sheriff's portion of the jail budget; a portion of the regular CREDIT Fund which has not been appropriated for the Highway Department use or the Starke County Economic Development Foundation use; and the \$100,000.00 pledged from Starke County Community Corrections. There was a brief discussion in regard to the opening of the bids. The County stated they would like to open them at a Commissioner meeting when Mr. Muvceski thought it wouldn't take place at a meeting and had scheduled it for August 30<sup>th</sup>. The bid opening meeting was then scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>, a regular Commissioner meeting. He advised he will need to correct the legal notice that was just submitted to the newspaper. Commissioner Norem made a motion to move

forward with the project and issue the construction documents for bid. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem stated she hopes to see Starke County Contractors working on these projects.

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

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and passed with all ayes. The minutes of the July 28<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting could not be approved since the meeting was attended by Commissioner Danford, who was not present for tonight’s meeting, and was not attended by Commissioner Norem.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket in the gross amount of \$219,268.77. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll docket for the pay period ending on July 16<sup>th</sup> with a pay date of July 22<sup>nd</sup> in the total gross amount of \$221,693.31. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised the Hospital has requested an extension of their lease with the new expiration date of August 31, 2016. Commissioner Norem stated the County had committed to having meetings with the public in regard to the hospital lease and is proposing having one in Knox, in North Judson, and in the Oregon-Davis School region. She advised she will work on scheduling those meetings for the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Norem stated they would need to finalize the dates of those meetings at the County Council meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>. She also stated they should have a Joint Special Session on August 29<sup>th</sup> along with the County Council and the Hospital Board to finalize this lease. Attorney Lucas advised an attorney in Indianapolis is currently reviewing the lease and does not yet have it completed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Attorney Marty Bedrock stated he was concerned about properties that the Planning Commission has designated for clean-up and have added their fines and penalties to the property’s tax file. However he stated he feels that amount is more than the property is valued and he is afraid they could lose their fines and penalties if those properties would go up for sale at a delinquent tax sale. He inquired if the Planning Commission would be allowed to purchase the properties. Attorney Lucas stated he will review it to see if it is legitimate and legal.

There being no further business, 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 6:55PM.

**AUGUST 1, 2016**

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Danford, President

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Donald Binkley, Vice President

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Kathryn Norem

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Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners