

# ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS

August 16, 2010

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

## **IN RE: PAYROLL**

Kathy Norem moved to approve the payroll claims seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: MINUTES**

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, July 30, August 2, August 4 and August 9<sup>th</sup> meetings seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: HANDICAP ACCESS FOR JAIL**

Marjorie Hefner came before the commissioners to request a handicap access for the jail. She talked about visits she had made to the jail. One of the times the person with her was in a wheel chair and they allowed her to take them through the back. On another visit, the person in the wheel chair could not get in as they would not allow them to go around to the back and she had to wait in the car while Mrs. Hefner went in.

Mrs. Hefner stated that the A.D.A. law went into effect in 1990 and she feels that no matter what you go to the jail for, it should be made safer and easier for people to enter the jail.

The commissioners agreed with her and will add it to the list of things that need to be done at the jail. Dan Bridegroom moved to get quotes and get the process started seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: COUNTY AUCTION**

Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, stated that September 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> would be good dates for him to have the sale and he needs the commissioners' approval before he goes to the auctioneer, Bill Ozinski.

If the date is agreeable with the auctioneer, it will be Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am. If this date does not work they will go for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Steve will get the list of items for auction to the auditor for advertising.

Jennifer Davis moved that if a purchaser buys an old squad car, they will have to sign a waiver that County Attorney Martin Lucas will draw up. The motion was seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. The explorer is not to be sold, it is to be given to the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission vehicle is to be given to the highway department for use by the mowers.

## **IN RE: HIGHWAY**

Steve Siddall reported that he locked in the price of salt with only a two cent increase. He further reported that we are ready for winter.

He is getting some quotes for replacement exhaust fans for the highway garage.

The commissioners feel that six sick days are adequate for the highway department. They also stated that the highway trucks will be given back to the employees for take home during the winter months. The commissioners did some calculations and feel it is more cost effective. The dates for truck take home will be November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> unless the weather dictates an earlier date, per motion by Jennifer Davis and

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seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. Jennifer Davis moved to allow only six sick days for highway employees seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

The commissioners want Steve to set up another meeting for the commissioners with the highway workers.

## **IN RE: ENERGY GRANT**

Midwest Lighting Solutions, who submitted their bid on July 21<sup>st</sup> via e-mail for \$32,580, got the bid as the best and lowest proposal as they were the only ones who were totally USA made. Banner Electric had something coming from Canada. The above was passed with a motion by Jennifer Davis and seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: CARPET REPAIRS AT ANNEX BUILDING**

The condition of the carpeting in the annex was discussed and how to repair it. Some of it can be re-stretched and re-glued as long as the rubber backing is intact. The reason it is buckling is that the glue was bad. Kathy Norem moved to get quotes to repair the carpeting seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: ANIMAL CONTROL**

Dan Bridegroom reported that the animal control officer for the City of Knox is Tom Bozant. He is on an on-call basis. He charges them \$12 per animal and a \$4 transfer fee. Dan does not feel this transfer fee would be feasible out in the county, as he could have to go all the way from Koontz Lake to San Pierre and thinks some kind of "per mile" basis should be set up. Kathy Norem moved to have County Attorney Martin Lucas come up with an agreement seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem suggested contracting with the township trustees to license the dogs and give the trustees 50 cents for each fee. Martin will look into this and the commissioners will also discuss this with the council. They will also check about including North Judson and Hamlet.

## **IN RE: FIRST COMMISSIONER MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**

Due to the first Monday being a holiday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Due to the council also meeting that day for the first reading of the 2011 budgets, the commissioners will hold their meeting at 7 pm instead of 9 am. The above was passed by a motion from Kathy Norem and seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: STATE ROAD 23 PROJECT BY I.N.D.O.T.**

The state of Indiana submitted two offers to purchase county owned property along the right of way of Highway 23 at Koontz Lake in order to complete the S.R. 23 project to move the dam. \$3750 was submitted for one parcel and \$1100 for the other. Jennifer Davis moved to accept both offers seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem is worried about the Davison property and would like to make sure that I.N.D.O.T. compensates them enough for their septic as well. Kathy would like all three commissioners to go to I.N.D.O.T. as a group. Dan Bridegroom will go talk to the appraiser regarding this on Thursday at 10 am while they are at the site. Dave Singleton, County Sanitarian, is going out there to do a perk test to see if the septic can be relocated.

## **IN RE: F.M.L.A. REQUEST FOR HEALTH DEPT. EMPLOYEE**

Kathy Norem approved the request of a health department employee for an F.M.L.A. leave of absence seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

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An interim replacement was discussed with the state and the Health Board President, Bob Howard. Kathy Norem said that there are also data forms to be filled out with the immunizations.

Dan Bridegroom is worried about imposing more monetary concerns on our citizens. They need someone at least for immunizations and helping with food inspections.

The state said that they would help out, but so far we have seen nothing on this.

The commissioners want to make sure they are able to take care of business. Jennifer Davis will check with Dr. Fritz, County Health Officer, on this.

## **IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUND**

Dan Bridegroom reported that there are still some items that are not compliant at the beach and campgrounds.

The state won't make a decision on the permits for Mr. Callahan's construction on the beach until the commissioners approve or deny the request, which the commissioners won't do until he is compliant. Jennifer Davis moved to not recommend the construction as he is not compliant. If he were compliant, it might be a different scenario. The motion was seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom would like a more stringent lease/contract drawn up for the beach and campground. Kathy Norem stated that as no receipts have been issued towards the rent, Mr. Callahan is also late with the rent.

The commissioners are not going to go another year with how things are. Initiating action to terminate the lease might be an option or voluntary renegotiation. If he keeps getting written up by the state, the commissioners will have leverage to revoke the lease.

The commissioners have authority over the piers—how many piers, how many boats, etc. Rules are in effect as to how to determine whether or not the boats are moored or abandoned.

Kathy Norem moved to send notice of breach of lease to Mr. Callahan seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes 1 nay (JD). County Attorney Martin Lucas is to send him a notice that he is in default of his lease as he has a pattern of failure to meet state standards.

## **IN RE: KOONTZ LAKE SEWER DISTRICT GRANT AWARD**

The commissioners are in receipt of a grant award letter from the state in the amount of \$1,034,000 for the K.L.S.D.

## **IN RE: FOREST PROPERTY IN WASHINGTON TWP.**

In response to a third call from Bruce Wakeland, the commissioners will go look at the forest when the weather is cooler and the mosquitoes aren't biting. Dan Bridegroom will talk to Mr. Wakeland about a "windshield" tour Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners will meet at the annex at 5 pm to go out there and drive through the property.

## **IN RE: C.R. 300E PROJECT**

The commissioners received a letter from Territorial Engineering giving notice that surveyors would be on the property in regards to the C.R. 300E Project.

## **IN RE: STARKE COUNTY LANDFILL**

Dan Bridegroom reported that he is waiting for a report from Weaver and Booz on the landfill. The current owners of the landfill would like to sell back the property to the

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county. The commissioners want it looked up as to what was paid for the property at the tax sale.

County Attorney Martin Lucas stated that the appraised value of the property is probably negative as it has been a landfill not yet completely cleaned up. The commissioners could also offer to purchase an easement to the property for clean up to take place.

IN RE: VICTIM RIGHTS STATEMENT FOR SHANNON WATTS CASE

The commissioners are in receipt of a “Victim Rights Statement” from the clerk of the circuit court regarding the Shannon Watts case. Kathy Norem will fill them out and return them to the clerk.

IN RE: RAILS TO TRAILS

Martin Lucas submitted a change order for the Rails to Trails. He stated that this would be no cost to the county. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

The commissioners are having the highway department check to see what can be done on the gravel road that the Rails to Trails crosses to make sure the snow plow doesn’t damage the Rail’s black top.

IN RE: INTERSECTION ACCIDENTS DUE TO HIGH BRUSH & CROPS

Dan Bridegroom reported that accidents at some of the intersections he has been called about are actually state intersections. Steve Siddall is to go to I.N.D.O.T. to ask them to cut these back.

IN RE: BOA SHORES ROAD RIGHT OF WAY AND PARK AREA

Deb Mix asked if there was any progress on the Boa Shore property. Jennifer Davis stated that she is not in favor of abandoning property and if we need to do something about the drainage, then we should take care of it.

Martin Lucas said that there are probably 20 or 30 similar places in the county and he feels the Boa Shores Property Association are doing exactly as intended with the park area. Bill Egan was representing Boa Shores.

Dan Bridegroom is also not in favor of abandoning the property but he will have Steve Siddall or the County Surveyor Dennis Estok look at the drainage issues.

The Mixes had a retaining wall but the previous commissioners made them remove it.

Martin Lucas will come up with a document between the county and the Boa Shores Property Owners for the park area.

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS

Clyde Haniford thanked the board of commissioners on their actions regarding the Bass Lake Beach and Campgrounds.

There being no further business to come before the board, Kathy Norem moved to adjourn seconded by Jennifer Davis with 3 ayes.

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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Jennifer Davis

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor &  
Secretary to the Commissioners