

SPECIAL SESSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014

The Starke County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session at 11:45AM, in the Meeting Room of the Starke County Annex Building, Knox, IN with Commissioners Kathy Norem & Kent Danford, County Attorney Marty Lucas, and County Auditor, Katherine Chaffins present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Kent Danford. Absent from the meeting was Commissioner Jennifer Davis.

Commissioner Danford inquired as to which item to discuss first. Commissioner Norem stated the police officers first. He then asked Commissioner Norem to take the lead on the explanation of the situation. Commissioner Norem advised due to unusual circumstances the Commissioners are taking the place of the Sheriff in the process for the selection of officers which is due to the mediation session regarding a federal court case. She noted the Sheriff's Merit Board had met, reviewed the applicants, and presented to the Commissioners a written report of their findings. She stated they had prioritized five candidates and from those five she was prepared to make a motion to direct the Sheriff's Department to offer employment to Richard Simpson and John Page contingent of their passing the pre-employment drug testing and psych evaluation. She also noted if a third officer's position would become open before the end of the year they are recommending Seth Johnson for that position. Commissioner Danford seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem stated the board has discussed some proposed changes in regard to their search for a new EMS Director. She stated they are proposing changing the posted requirements in order to broaden the search for a new Director. Commissioner Danford stated also discussed was a reduction of the salary of the EMS Director to a range of \$38,000.00 - \$45,000.00 commensurate by their certification and experience. Commissioner Danford noted broadening the range would allow for EMTs to also be allowed to apply for the position. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the search for the new EMS Director and the proposed salary range. Commissioner Danford seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the posting will state: a high school diploma or GED is required, post high school education preferred; 5 to 7 years previous experience in public safety administration and emergency medical service preferred; current unrestricted Indiana paramedic licensure preferred; and possession of valid Indiana driver's license and a demonstrated safe driving record. She advised the posting will be for three days. Commissioner Danford also noted the new EMS Director will also have a County vehicle to drive.

Commissioner Norem advised the County now has two employees that due to an illness can only return to work with light duty status, since both of them have lifting restrictions. She advised they would like to have Attorney Lucas do some research into this issue and they will discuss it at their regular meeting on Tuesday September 2nd.

There being no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Danford. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 11:53AM.

August 25, 2014

ABSENT _____
JENNIFER DAVIS, PRESIDENT

KENT DANFORD, VICE-PRESIDENT

KATHRYN NOREM

KATHERINE CHAFFINS, AUDITOR
& SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS