

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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, Donald Binkley, and Charlie Chesak present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley at 6:49PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS' RADIO COMPLAINTS

Firemen from Railroad Township, Washington Township, Bass Lake, and Hamlet Fire Departments were present to discuss the status of their radios. Andy Tilleras, Dave Pearman, Les Jensen and Brad Hazelton were present. Andy stated that J & K was at his station working on the radios for over two hours but the radio communication has not improved and they are having more interference now than they were before. He noted they have not yet gained anything. Dave stated there is a fire meeting Tuesday Night in North Judson which is a County Meeting and discussed if J & K should be present. Commissioner Binkley advised he would be present for that meeting. Dave is not certain J & K is making any progress and suggests they start looking for a different radio company. Commissioner Binkley asked them what they would want or asked them if they should keep moving forward with J & K. Sheriff Dulin stopped in at the meeting and stated that he understands why all the firemen are upset. But he also suggested that there are too many firemen giving opinions and stating complaints. He noted they are receiving numerous calls at the Jail and Dispatch from all the County's Fire Departments and Firemen. Sheriff Dulin suggested that one representative of all the fire departments speak on their behalf; to communicate with the Board of Commissioners and with J & K; and they need to be professional. He advised they need to be patient with J & K since they are working on the problem. The Sheriff noted J & K has done a lot of work on their own time.

THE HONEY HOLE RESPONDING TO NOISE COMPLAINTS

Jody Vlach operator of The Honey Hole, at Bass Lake, appeared before the Board of Commissioners to see what she could do to stop the Sheriff's Department of making so many appearances at that business. She asked if the County has a Noise Ordinance on file that specifies the actual noise level that is not allowed at a business. The Board stated they were not aware of a County Noise Ordinance. Ms. Vlach advised she has a band playing every weekend and she has reduced the amount of hours they play and has started the music earlier than before. Sheriff Dulin advised they have made numerous calls out to The Honey Hole due to noise complaints. He stated The Honey Hole had an overdose recently in their parking lot. He warned Ms. Vlach she will be going to jail or the band will be going to jail if the noise is not turned down. He stated they received 75% more calls on The Honey Hole than any other bar in the County. Ms. Vlach asked if they could meet in the middle and the Sheriff advised her to just **turn the music down**.

Commissioner Norem thanked Sheriff Dulin for doing his job. She told Ms. Vlach that since the Sheriff was an elected official they have no jurisdiction over him. She stated she has received a lot of phone calls complaining about The Honey Hole and she has told them to report it to the Police Department. Commissioner Norem asked Auditor Chaffins to search her files to see if there was ever a Noise Ordinance in the County.

OPIOID LITIGATION

Commissioner Norem stated she had read an article in the magazine talking about communities in Indiana being able to join a Class Action Lawsuit to be reimbursed for some of their expenses dealing with Opioids in the County. She stated the State is encouraging Counties to follow through in the collection of lost revenue. Commissioner Norem stated she believed that the article stated that Ice Miller was representing the AIC. She stated she would like to see the County join a Class Action Lawsuit. Attorney Lucas stated he would have a couple of companies create "offers", and present them to the Commissioners to see if they want to do it. He noted he had previously been contacted by Doug Small's firm about this issue. He also stated that the revenue received from a Class Action Lawsuit

could be minimal but the records could last forever. Commissioner Norem noted that this legislation would affect local "CHINS" cases.

STATUS OF NEW CAD SYSTEM

Attorney Lucas advised he was asked to review the new CAD System Contract and he discovered a couple of minor issues. He stated he contacted the Company and they worked out each problem. Auditor Chaffins advised the County had received a \$100,000.00 scholarship which had been written and submitted by EMA Director J. Nier. The Auditor also advised the Probation Department had paid \$30,000.00 and Starke County Community Corrections had paid \$15,000.00 toward the CAD System. She noted those three items were almost ½ half of the expense of the new CAD System.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$163,526.20. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending 9/8/18 with a pay date of 9/14/18 in the total gross amount of \$246,291.71. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4th meeting.

Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Binkley advised they had a Tax Paper to sign showing the unpaid results of the last Tax Sale and the property that would be eligible for the next County Certificate Sale. The paper was signed by the Board.

Auditor Chaffins and Attorney Lucas advised the Starke County Forest will be holding a Celebration; a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Forest for all to see the newly created, accessible drive through the Forest. It will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd at 4PM. Commissioner Norem stated the Park Board will be providing refreshments during that ceremony. Attorney Lucas stated the SCC will be present and so will representatives from the Hardesty Family. The Starke County Forest grant funding received was from Northern Indiana Community Foundation was from Hardesty Memorial Endowment.

Commissioner Norem stated she recently had a meeting with Larry Wickert of the SCEDF, Bob Shaw of Knox Fertilizer, and a representative from Toll Brothers and from Reagent. The meeting was in regard to the Railroad Lead Track and a contract that was made with Starke County in 2004. She stated Mr. Shaw would like to renegotiate the contract because it is creating too much revenue. But she also added the County is to be more active with that railroad maintenance such as they were supposed to line up work for the spraying of weeds along the track. She stated she was not aware of that and now they need to establish a listing of who is responsible for what when it comes to that railway.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The EMS Department, Director Travis Clary and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to discuss the price quote received on a Bi-Pap/Ventilator. He advised that the machine is adult size and comes with an adult master circuit. The price of that machine was \$4,814.75. He noted it is equipment to be accessible in the Transfer rig. Commissioner Norem stated she had told EMS to go ahead and order that equipment. Director Clary stated it will take approximately one month to train his crew on this new equipment. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bi-Pap/Ventilator in the amount of \$4,814.75 out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem stated once again that the transfers will be specially staffed and will have a special rig, when the County receives the signed MOU from Starke Hospital.

Commissioner Norem then asked Auditor Chaffins a question in regard to the County Employee that was retained from a previous termination and was working for the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Norem stated the employee was originally doing copying work for the Clerk's Office but is now doing work for other departments and those departments should list that expense out of their budgets. Auditor Chaffins asked her to get her the information and she will process the transfer of those expenses into the various departments.

There being no additional public comment and no further business, Commissioner Chesak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Special Session at 5:30PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Don Binkley and Kathy Norem present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Don Binkley. Commissioner Charlie Chesak was absent from the meeting.

Present at the Meeting was Shawn Cain, of KIRPC. She advised the purpose of the meeting was to hear presentations of two companies who were applying for the role of Consultant for the preparation of the Starke County Comprehensive Plan.

The first Company to present their presentation was HWC Engineering of 17 S. 6th Street, Suite X, Lafayette, IN 47901. Brian Pohlar and Corey Whitesell presented their information of their company and what it could do for the County. The presentation lasted 45 minutes and they left the room. Following their presentation the two Commissioners and County Attorney Marty Lucas scored them on their presentation and submitted the forms to Shawn Cain.

The second Company to present their presentation was the Troyer Group of 550 Union Street, Mishawaka, IN and Territorial Engineering of 7908 N. SR23, Walkerton, IN. They were represented by Mike Reese and Jonathon Geels of the Troyer Group and Robert Aloji of Territorial Engineering. It had been decided after both of these groups had submitted their files that they were going to work together on this project. They then presented their presentation which also lasted 45 minutes and then they left the room.

The Commissioners and Attorney Lucas scored that presentation and turned them into Shawn Cain. She advised she would appear at their next Commissioner meeting, which will be on October 1st to name the Consulting Company and then schedule the next meeting. She also advised then the other two towns in the County, North Judson and Hamlet, will also be notified on the upcoming meeting.

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 adjourned at 7:37PM.

September 26, 2018

Don Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem

ABSENT _____
Charles Chesak

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