

September 19, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:15pm, in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bridegroom. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll for the period ending 9-3-11, in the amount of \$164,409.05; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

RE: MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 6th, Sept. 8th, and Sept. 9th meetings, making note she was absent from the Sept. 9th meeting; Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and advised the minutes reflected her absence. The motion passed with all ayes and the minutes were approved. Also signed were the final minutes of the August 18th meeting.

RE: RECORDER'S SOFTWARE

Lisa Minix, Starke County Recorder, and FIDLAR software representative, Greg Bachman, appeared before the Board to discuss the availability of online documents. She stated, as was requested by the Board, she contacted several counties to see how they address this issue. She advised several counties are already offering the online service, and have not been experiencing any problems. She stated there is a \$1.00 fee per page, based on a state statute, but they had not been charging for it. Mr. Bachman stated his company covers forty counties in Indiana and all but two provide that service online. Marty Lucas stated his concern had been the exclusivity of only that one vendor providing that service. Commissioner Norem inquired if providing that service online would reduce the amount of staffing needed in the Recorder's Office and Mrs. Minix stated no, because they would still have people appearing in person. Commissioner Bridegroom stated it would facilitate the searches. Recorder Minix stated that the statutory fee is: \$1.00 per page if the size of the page was smaller than 8 ½ x 14 inches, and \$2.00 is larger than that size. The fees are receipted into the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund, which helps maintain the Recorder's Office. Marty Lucas stated he believed, as a consumer, that this was not a fair way to bill the consumer. Mr. Bachman advised after three minutes of inactivity, the consumer is logged off, thus reducing the chance of any excessive billing. Marty advised the County should allow a one year contract with FIDLAR. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would like FIDLAR to give a six month reporting to the County. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve their contract contingent on a one year term. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. Recorder Minix also stated, in regard to the Bulk User Agreement, she would submit the paperwork back to the company with a \$1,000.00 amount for "liquidated damages".

RE: ANGIE MONAHAN & THE CHOICE PROGRAM

Angie Monahan, and her husband, Ken, appeared before the Board to address the issue of home health care in Starke County, and the elimination of the Choice program services availability for all of Starke County. Mrs. Monahan advised, Starke County lost their Choice provider when Starke Memorial Hospital lost its home health agency, which left a large population of Starke County residents without Choice assisted coverage. She is requesting support in expanding the coverage area as well as continuing to encourage the newly acquired IU Health-Starke to return the Choice program. Currently, the area of Starke County north of US30, which is where the Monahans reside, is no longer covered by anyone's Choice program. Mr. Monahan advised they are also concerned for other area residents whose coverage has fallen through the cracks. The Commissioners thanked Mrs. Monahan for bringing the issue to the county's attention, and advised they will be checking into the situation.

RE: TREASURER'S 47TR REPORT

Interim Deputy Treasurer, Kasey Clark, appeared before the Board to present the Treasurer's August 47TR report. She advised she is still currently correcting records in the Treasurer's Office.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Tracy Shorter, Pulaski County Commissioner, and Beth Taylor, both of Knox-Winamac Community Health Center, 1002 Edgewood Dr., Knox, appeared before the Board to discuss what their facility could do to assist the county employees with accumulating their points for the CIGNA health insurance. They will be looking into the possibility of the facility presenting seminars to the employees as a way for the employees to earn points toward their 2012 coverage.

Joe Short, Starke County IT Director, appeared before the Board requesting permission to attend a conference on September 27, 2011 in Fort Wayne. The request was approved. Commissioner Norem advised they could pay any of the expense for him to attend, from the travel expense line item of the Commissioner's budget, of the county general fund.

Director Short then advised the Board of a situation that has developed concerning the video arraignment that is recorded at the jail. He stated when the AC is running, the city court can not hear the recording, since the noise from the AC is overpowering the audio being recorded. He advised there is not a sensitivity adjustment on the microphone. He stated he would look into changing the location for taping inside the jail.

Commissioner Bridegroom asked Director Short to look into setting up the fuel pumps at the County Highway Department to enable the tracking of miles traveled along with the fuel usage per card.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated the concrete will be poured on Tuesday, 9-27-11 at Bridge 156. Also, the beams will be delivered soon. He stated the county has received a complaint in regard to a church sign at the intersection of US35 & CR500S. He advised the county will be looking into the complaint.

Commissioner Bridegroom stated the County Highway Department was looking into purchasing a pickup truck, which was part of the appropriation approval they had received from the County Council. An appropriation had been approved, in the amount of \$200,000.00

in which to purchase a new, large county truck. He stated the remainder of that appropriation could be used to purchase a new pickup truck, specifically a 2012 Ford F250XLT, 4WD with a crew cab. Council Pearman, who was in attendance at the Board meeting, advised the Council now believes they had incorrectly allowed the county highway department to receive, essentially, "a blank check" in which to purchase vehicles. Commissioner Bridegroom stated County Highway Department Supervisor, Steve Siddall, had received two price quotes on pickup trucks. The first quote was from Dobson Ford, in Winamac, in the amount of \$38,310.06 and the second bid was from Oliver Ford, in Plymouth, in the amount of \$38,244.06. It had been decided they would go with the purchase of the vehicle from Oliver Ford, and a claim for payment of the truck had been included in the total claims that were submitted for approval. Auditor Chaffins inquired as to what the amount was that would require the county to obtain written price quotes. Attorney Lucas was researching the answer. When asked, Commissioner Bridegroom stated the ¾ ton pickup truck was needed to assist in the snow plowing at the EMS bases, in subdivisions, and at the lakes where the roads are narrower. He stated he would like to see the purchase of the truck remain a Ford so that the county fleet would be uniform. He also stated the Knox Ford dealership did not show an interest in giving the county a quote without receiving an order for the truck.

Commissioner Bridegroom then announced he had received a call from Don White requesting the Commissioners look into the condition of the yard, at the North Judson Industrial Site. Bridegroom stated the yard had not been mowed in a long time and would like to send out the county highway department to mow it. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the mowing of the NJ Industrial Site by the County Highway Department; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion was approved with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem advised there are three ways the Commissioners could handle vendor claims: 1. Deny; 2. Table; or 3. Ask for more information. She stated there was an issue with a claim that had been submitted by the Starke County Community Corrections, in the amount of \$2,841.00 which appeared to her, to be bad debts of the SCCC. Commissioner Norem then made a motion to approve the vendor claims totaling \$412,342.40; minus the claim from the SCCC in the amount of \$2,841.00 and minus the claim to Oliver Ford in the amount of \$38,244.06. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. They advised when claims are denied, they can be corrected by the submitting department, and then resubmitted for approval. Commissioner Bridegroom stated he would have Steve Siddall get the specs together for a basic pickup truck and obtain price quotes.

Commissioner Davis inquired if Commissioner Norem had spoken to Starke Memorial about the county using the drug screen services of Midwest Toxicology instead of the hospital's services, in the screening of highway department workers. Commissioner Davis stated she felt, if the hospital was aware of the timeframe the county was looking at, if given a chance, possibly the hospital would change their current procedures.

Commissioner Bridegroom also stated he is still working on getting all the cell phones in the county listed on the same account, to allow for one monthly billing.

There being no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18PM.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice-President

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

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