

OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room, of the Starke County Annex, Knox, Indiana, with three members present and the Starke County Council with six members present, the following proceedings were held to wit:

**Join Meeting of the Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council**

Present –Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem and Jennifer Davis, Starke County Commissioners;  
Dave Pearman, Judy Benninghoff, Marvin McLaughlin, Mitch Seman, Robert Sims, and Tony Radkiewicz, Starke County Council.  
Also Present – Oscar Cowen, Bill Dulin, Greg Hewitt, of the Starke County Police Department  
and Circuit Court Judge Kim Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05PM by Commissioner President, Dan Bridegroom.

Commissioner Kathy Norem gave a presentation/report of the conference team who had attended the National Institute of Corrections Conference, in Denver, CO August 22 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. She advised the NIC had picked up the expenses of four Starke County attendees to the conference, leaving the expenses of the fifth attendee to be picked up by the county. The conference attendees from Starke County were: Commissioner Kathy Norem, Councilman Dave Pearman, Sheriff Oscar Cowen, Chief Deputy Bill Dulin, and Jail Commander Greg Hewitt. The presentation included the nine phases of the Planning of New Institutions, the Roadmap to Effective Jail Planning, which are project recognition, needs assessment, program development, project definition and implementation plan, design, bidding, construction, occupancy and post occupancy. The complete report is on file in the County Auditor's office.

Commissioner Norem stated a consultant will probably be needed to assist Starke County with a proposed jail project; and also there should be approval of a jail committee, and approval of the RFP (request for proposal), and the source of the RFP funding.

Councilman McLaughlin stated the education of the public for the need of the new jail is imperative.

Commissioner Norem stated a Community Advisory Committee had been formed, consisting of Oscar Cowen, Bill Dulin, Greg Hewitt, Kathy Norem, Dave Pearman, Kim Hall, Marty Lucas, Ted Hayes, Ron Henningsmith and Carol Johnson.

Commissioner Bridegroom made a motion to approve the committee, seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve a consultant who will assist the committee with writing a RFP and guiding the county through the process. Commissioner Bridegroom seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem stated she is aware of one company that could assist with the writing of a RFP and then transition into the project manager as well.

Linda Satkoski and David Hyatt of IU Health-Starke appeared before the combined Boards to present an update from the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting. Mr. Hyatt advised as per the lease agreement with the county, the hospital needs to receive county approval on any capital improvements. A copy of the IU Health-Starke 2012 Capital Spending Request and also the proposal from the hospital to purchase the facility, the equipment, and the real estate from the county, is on file in the Auditor's office. A discussion followed which included the valuing of the property and the responses of the hospital's board concerning the proposal. Ms. Satkoski advised there will a hospital board meeting on Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, and she will return to the Council/Commissioner meeting on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, to give a follow-up Board report. She also advised a committee be formed to hash out the specifics and move forward. When asked what the role of the hospital board would play in this decision, Ms. Satkoski advised they deal with the functioning of the hospital, but not the hospital's financing. Commissioner Bridegroom suggested one Commissioner and at least three Councilmen be placed on that committee. Commissioner Norem stated only three of the seven of the hospital board be placed on the committee. Commissioner Bridegroom volunteered to be on the committee, along with Councilmen McLaughlin, Radkiewicz, and Semans.

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the Boards to ask them to reconsider the elimination of the two patrolmen and increasing the total number of jailers, that was proposed in the 2012 budget. He stated if he were to take two patrolmen off the road and put them into jailer positions, he would either have to lay them off first, and then rehire them back as jailers. Or, he could place them in the jailer position and continue paying them the patrolmen pay. The Sheriff advised, instead of the two full time jailers added to the payroll, he believes he could add to the jailer staff by increasing the budget for part time jailers. He stated a part time jailer earns \$10.98/hour. He would like the Commissioners and the Council to reconsider the cutting of the two patrolmen from the 2012 budget. Commissioner Norem advised the Sheriff to submit a revised budget proposal at the Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, so that any changes could be made at that time before the budgets are officially adopted by the Council.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

**October 3, 2011**

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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Jennifer Davis, Member

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Katherine Chaffins, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners