

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

October 5, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Scot Dedloff, Highway Foreman, requested that a retired ambulance be transferred to the highway department to replace the service truck. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Scot requested that they be allowed to hire someone to replace Jon Taylor. They are three drivers short and the money is available. The 2010 budget has been approved by the council to hire one more driver. They would like to hire a driver now and train him before winter sets in. Kathy Norem moved for Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, to post for three workdays in the county courthouse and annex and then follow the handbook procedure seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes. Steve and Scot are to interview them and present the qualified applicants to the commissioners.

IN RE: MINUTES

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes of the September 10 and September 21st meetings seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

IN RE: CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Mark Milo moved to approve the October 5 claims. There was some discussion regarding the Hamlet Project claims about the fact that no money has been received from E.D.A. and the Treasurer is concerned about reaching the million dollar mark as claims for Hamlet alone are \$336,186.24. Kathy Norem seconded the motion as long as the treasurer says we have the dollars to pay and the motion passed with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the 9-19-09 payroll. Dan Bridegroom questioned Randy Abbey regarding the high overtime for a couple of the employees. Randy stated that they had people sick and had to cover them. Dan reminded Randy that he is to nail down overtime hours on these employees. The motion was seconded by Dan Bridegroom and passed with 3 ayes (MM with reservations).

IN RE: KOONTZ LAKE DAM EMERGENCY PLAN

Randy Abbey reported that he attended a meeting for the Koontz Lake Dam Emergency Plan. He stated that seventeen homes would be involved. The seepage has been reduced, but the D.N.R. still plans to replace the dam at a future date.

IN RE: H1N1 FLU VIRUS

Randy stated that he had a conference call last Friday regarding the H1N1 virus in North Central Indiana and our district (District #2) is a high risk.

IN RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, submitted the reassessment contract to the commissioners. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE PROCLAMATION

Annette Ohman and Ruth Matsey, representing the Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, requested the commissioners declare a proclamation against domestic violence. Mark Milo moved to approve the proclamation seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

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IN RE: JAIL FIRE

Oscar Cowen, Sheriff, thanked the commissioners for all their assistance at the jail fire. He stated that everyone worked together with the jail staff to keep control of the situation and to make arrangements to transfer inmates.

They are making changes now to do all the needed repairs per the insurance company, and conditions are already better than they have been for years.

The work release with the highway department has been halted until they can review and have better control over what the inmates bring back into the jail.

IN RE: K-9 DRUG TASK FORCE UNIT

Oscar wanted to advise the commissioners that they are in the first stages of process for a K-9 Drug Task Force Unit. They will be handled by Adam Gray who previously was a K-9 handler in Argos and the second will be handled by James Upsall. They will work opposite shifts. He is reviewing information from other counties and will keep the commissioners advised of the progress and will give them a copy of the policies and procedures when completed. Mark Milo moved to allow the Sheriff to move forward with the plans seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

IN RE: TRIDENT INSURANCE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Oscar advised the commissioners that he had sent the requested information to Trident by registered mail two times. It was signed for the first time it was sent, but they claimed they never received it. When First Source Insurance called, Oscar told them he had the card that was signed by them showing proof of receipt, but Oscar sent it again registered mail. Both signature cards were returned to the sheriff and signed by the recipient.

IN RE: COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX STEPS IN NEED OF REPAIR

Ed Reiss appeared before the commissioners with estimates for repair of the courthouse and the annex steps. The estimates are for repair and also replacement. It will be \$460 for the court house and \$1740 for the annex. Mark Milo moved to repair the steps at both the court house and the annex and award the job to Ed Reiss seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: PETITION REGARDING JAIL CONDITIONS

Lynda Draper presented a petition to the commissioners that she has started regarding the condition of the jail. She also informed the commissioners that there is a protest planned for in the future. She will check into any permits that are required. The commissioners explained to her that the D.O.C., at the state and local levels, is involved also. She was advised to bring the petition back when completed.

IN RE: FOOD CONTRACT

Frank Lynch submitted the food contract with the change regarding the mileage completed. Dave Kasvormas has been hired by the Health Board. They are in the process of moving money around to pay for 66 inspections for the rest of 2009. There was discussion about the insurance that will be secured by Mr. Kasvormas per the contract. Kathy Norem moved to approve the contract as amended seconded by Mark Milo subject to insurance review and approved by 1st Source. The motion passed with three ayes.

IN RE: C.R. 300 E PROJECT

Charles Weaver had documents for the commissioners to sign for the C.R. 300 E Project that were approved at an earlier meeting.

IN RE: NORFOLK SOUTHERN TEAM TRACK

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Mr. Weaver also had the agreement between Norfolk Southern Railroad, G & L Corp and the county for the Team Track use one time. Mark Milo moved to sign seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Mr. Weaver also requested a resolution from the commissioners to sign future documents for one time use of the lead track. The commissioners requested that he draw up a document and present it at the next meeting for review by Martin Lucas, County Attorney.

IN RE: REAGENT CHEMICAL

Mr. Weaver also presented a proposal with Reagent Chemicals to build a storage track and passing track to access from the lead track on some county property. Kathy Norem moved to accept the proposal that authorizes the city to fund this addition to the track with no cost to the county seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes 1 abstaining (MM as he may bid on this project).

Kathy Norem moved to allow Reagent to build the spur turnouts and switches, again at no cost to the county and on property owned by the county seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes 1 abstaining (MM abstained again for the same reason).

IN RE: BOND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITH STIMULUS MONEY

Mr. Weaver further advised the commissioners about new bond opportunities available with stimulus money. This would require a public hearing and a resolution to be adopted. Martin Lucas will review this and they will discuss it at a later meeting.

IN RE: CLAIMS FOR HAMLET PROJECT

The Auditor's office called and advised the commissioners that the Treasurer is uncomfortable with paying the claims for the Hamlet Project since that fund is now over \$1 million in the red. Mark Milo moved that in light of this new information the claims previously approved to be paid for the Hamlet Project be held and they will discuss them at the next commissioners' meeting.

IN RE: COURTHOUSE ROOF REPAIRS

A quote was received from Atlas for repairs to the courthouse roof. Mark Milo will call Atlas to clarify some issues the commissioners have.

IN RE: JAIL REPAIRS

Martin Lucas, County Attorney, prepared a resolution finding that there is an emergency need for repairs at the Starke County Jail. Mark Milo moved to approve the resolution seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

IN RE: PETITION TO CLOSE C.R. 1100W NORTH OF U.S. 35

A petition to close C.R. 1100W north of U.S. 35 to the abandoned bridge was received by the commissioners. Mr. Magura was told by the commissioners to secure insurance and he could put up the gate that they are requesting. According to Dan Bridegroom, the property at the end of the road belongs to the State of Indiana. Martin Lucas advised that Mr. Magura contact the Auditor's office as all the landowners must be included in the petition and they must be notified by certified mail.

IN RE: C.R. 150N EAST OF U.S. 35

Mike Spica requested that the speed limit of 45 on C.R. 150N east of U.S. 35 be changed. There is an issue of drivers speeding and there is an unsafe area at the hill approximately 400 feet from U.S. 35 that involves four large oak trees. The commissioners don't feel that changing the speed limit will make any driver slow down, only enforcement by the sheriff's department would help. Mark Milo suggested that Oscar Cowen, Sheriff, be contacted to

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place the speed monitoring equipment at that trouble spot. Dan Bridegroom will call Oscar to request this. Dan will also contact Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, about the four trees.

IN RE: CELL PHONE USE BY COUNTY EMPLOYEES DRIVING COUNTY VEHICLES

Dan Bridegroom brought up the issue of highway employees and sheriff deputies driving while using cell phones. He personally has seen one of the highway employees and a sheriff deputy driving and talking on a cell phone.

The commissioners discussed this and Dan Bridegroom will contact Steve Siddall regarding the problem. He will be advised that there is to be absolutely no cell phones used by highway employees while working and are requesting that Steve take care of this problem or the commissioners will.

IN RE: NEW PHONE SYSTEM

The commissioners discussed the new phone system and financing it vs payment in full out of Cum. Cap. funds. The commissioners feel that the council should make the decision since they are the financial body for the county. Mark Milo moved to approve the new phone system based on the council finding an alternative for payment other than Cum. Cap. seconded by Kathy Norem with the stipulation it be paid for within 5 years and the monthly payment not exceed the budgeted allocation. The motion passed with 3 ayes.

IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS

The commissioners received a letter from the Indiana State Department of Health stating that they may enforce their findings on the Bass Lake Beach and Campgrounds if not corrected. Dan Bridegroom stated that he made a visit to the campground and he personally would not camp there. The commissioners need to request that Mr. Callahan come to a future meeting to discuss conditions at the campground.

Clyde Haniford brought up more issues with the way the campground is run. Much discussion followed with one issue being whether or not there would be winter storage of campers. Mr. Haniford was advised that this would be a zoning problem.

IN RE: JAIL ISSUES

Kathy Norem feels that it is important that we do something about the jail. She feels it needs to be well thought out and well planned. Whatever is done will impact the county long into the future. We will receive a \$50,000 grant for the capital asset management plan. Some of the issues that will be looked at will be the jail, public buildings, hospital, etc. Kathy feels that it should be made known that the jail is a priority.

Mark Milo stated that he feels that there is a need for a full time maintenance person at the jail. The two employees are doing a great job for the annex and courthouse and he thinks it would be helpful if someone were there full time to make repairs as needed.

IN RE: CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (C.A.M.S.)

Kathy Norem stated that there needs to be a committee formed in order to select a firm to help us with the capital asset management plan.

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

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Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

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