

October 20th, 2008

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 3:45 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: SAN PIERRE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Kent Danford moved to approve the letter authorizing KIRPC as Starke County's representative for the San Pierre Community Project, seconded by Kevin Kroft. It passed with two ayes. (Mark Milo was not yet present).

IN RE: MINUTES, PAYROLL & CLAIMS

Kent Danford moved to approve the minutes from the October 6th meeting, seconded by Mark Milo and it passed with three ayes.

Kent Danford moved to approve the October 4th payroll, seconded by Mark Milo, with three ayes.

Kent Danford moved to approve the October 20th claims, seconded by mark Milo, passing with three ayes.

IN RE: DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMPENSATORY TIME

There was a question regarding Eric Fritz, Chief Probation Officer, accruing compensatory time. There was a commissioner vote January 12th of 2004 that made all department heads and those in administrative positions ineligible for comp time or any other compensation above their salary and benefits. The commissioners confirmed that this has not changed and that Eric would not be eligible for comp time as he is Chief Probation Officer and considered a "Department Head".

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

John Norris, Interim Superintendent, appeared with a letter from Donnie Binkley requesting the highway remove trees from a ditch on the South side of Toto Road. The commissioners discussed this and agreed that the highway will take care of this.

John requested that the commissioners make a decision regarding a sale for the unused highway items. The commissioners agree that a sale needs to be held before the end of the year. John is going to get things set up for this.

John was instructed to get the figures together for the deicer purchase that was presented at the last meeting. He reports that six gallons at \$1 per gallon would be needed for one ton. It would cost about \$30 per ton for sand, salt and deicer mixture.

IN RE: DAVIS TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

Robin Latimer, Davis Township Trustee, appeared regarding the issue of the Davis Township Advisory Board position that was brought up to the commissioners at the last meeting. Robin had copies of her letter she received from the state. The commissioners agreed that she needs to follow the state statute and if Ms Pflugshaupt (new appointment) wishes to pursue this matter, she needs to file it in small claims court.

IN RE: KINGS LAKE SUB GATES

Byron Walters and Rhonda Milner appeared regarding gates put up in Kings Lake Subdivision, by Tommie Williams. Mr. Walters owns property in that subdivision, as do the commissioners and other taxpayers whom are being denied access to their property due to the four gates put up by Mr. Williams. Kent Danford moved to approve the auditor

sending a letter to Mr. Williams instructing him to remove the four gates within 30 days. Mark Milo seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes.

IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT APPEAL

Rhonda Milner reported that Starke Memorial Hospital will be appealing the assessed value of the property that has unpaid taxes for the past 11 years. The hospital is not disputing the taxes due. They are appealing the value.

IN RE: E.M.S./E.M.A.

Randy Abbey, EMS/EMA Director, appeared with a grant to be signed by the Commissioners. It is for the "800 Megahertz Radios". There is no county match required. Mark Milo moved to approve, seconded by Kent Danford and it passed with three ayes.

Randy presented a letter requesting a copy of our GIS Data by the State of Indiana, paying the county \$17,000 by grant, if needed. Kent Danford moved to approve, seconded by Mark Milo, with three ayes.

Randy told the commissioners that the council asked for the 2009 requested budget to be cut, and in doing that they cut out four shifts for EMS bases. Now the council wants another 6% cut, which would force the EMS to cut another four shifts, and leave only two bases manned, instead of the four. He does not feel it is in the best interest of the residents of the county. Mark Milo feels, and the other commissioners agreed, that other offices, such as Planning Commission and Surveyor, should be cut before cutting the ambulance budget that far. They asked that Randy keep them informed.

IN RE: REPUBLICAN PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Lee Nagai and Jack Hudgens appeared regarding Lee's appointment to the Planning Commission, as the republican appointee. Brenda Stenajovic, Republican Chairperson, brought this up at the last meeting because Lee has voted as a Democrat in two primaries and is now running for Surveyor as an Independent. Jack feels that it is allowable because the law states that there can be no more than two appointees from the same party. There are currently two democrats, one republican and Nagai.

Martin Bedrock, County Attorney, reads the statute but says that the law states there must be "two republicans and two democrats", instead of saying "no more than two per party." After much discussion the commissioners decided to table this discussion until the next commissioners meeting.

IN RE: E.M.S. EMPLOYEE'S WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Dona Hoban, Deputy Auditor, informed the commissioners that an EMS employee called her today to tell her that a surgery she had scheduled through worker's comp., had been canceled. The employee reported on the 28th of August that she had been injured on the 22nd. The employee is now claiming to have been injured again on the 27th, without reporting it. Glenda, with Worker's Compensation, asked the employee to write out all the facts and e-mail them to her.

IN RE: MAIL

The commissioners received a letter from Viola Woods concerning the invalidation of two properties that sold in the 2005 tax sale. SRI, the county's tax sale company, said that according to state statute, she would receive her money back. Martin Bedrock will continue to correspond with her regarding this invalidation.

The commissioners received a risk control letter from Trident Insurance Services. They read and discussed the letter, but no action was taken at this time.

The commissioners received a letter from Superior Environmental regarding the landfill. Martin Bedrock read and returned the letter to the commissioners. Mark Milo moved to approve the Auditor sending a letter to Sammy Sirhan, seconded by Kent Danford and it passed with three ayes.

Kent Danford moved to approve and sign the Excess Liability Trust Fund Application, seconded by Mark Milo with three ayes.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, Kent Danford moved to adjourn, seconded by Mark Milo, with three ayes.

Kevin Kroft, President

Kent Danford, Vice President

Mark Milo, Member

Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem