

# THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS AT THIS TIME

October 23, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in **special** session at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, Mark Milo was not present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

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

Council people Jennifer Davis and Mark Smith along with Charlie Weaver, Development Foundation and Randy Mitchell, K.I.R.P.C. attended this meeting with Kathy Norem and Dan Bridegroom.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview applicants for the Capital Management Plan that will be paid for by the \$50,000 grant.

Mr. Gareis explained that they assist communities that are looking to change their economics such as tracking interest to create jobs, interest new people to relocate to the community, keep current residents in the community, improve the quality of life, and attract people that commute to work to move into the community. They study all the assets of the county, the present condition, the future demand for services and develop a plan to look forward.

After the presentation, the council and commissioner members in attendance explained what they are looking for. In the past and since the new council and commissioners have come on board, they found there was no long term plan for the county. Mark Smith stated that they have just been stamping out fires as they come. The sewage leak in the prosecutor's office and the new phone system were used as examples. It has been reactive response to problems as they arise and no future planning. They are looking to sustain, improve and replace as a long term plan would indicate.

Mr. Gareis stated that he understands that they would like to check all the county assets, look at present utilization and prioritize future movement.

The members present would like Mr. Gareis to come back with a different scope of plan to present to them as they have explained their wants and needs for this plan. They would also like Mr. Gareis to send them previous studies done by D.C.I. for counties similar in size to Starke County prior to the next meeting.

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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NOT PRESENT

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Mark Milo, Member

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Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

November 2, 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: MINUTES

Kathy Norem moved to approve the 10-19-09 commissioner minutes seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

## IN RE: PAYROLL AND VENDOR CLAIMS

Kathy Norem moved to approve the payroll for 10-17-09 seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes (Mark Milo with reservations).

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Mark Milo moved to approve the November claims and the October Hamlet Project claims that had been on hold seconded by Kathy Norem with ayes.

## **IN RE: E.M.S.**

Mary Lynn Ritchie submitted the elderly write offs in the amount of \$1475.23. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mary Lynn reported receipts of \$152.65 from O'Hara and \$309.00 from the Starke County Clerk.

Mary Lynn informed the commissioners that the EFT deposits from Medicare that she had been working on were finally being accepted. She received the first payment Friday and the remittance breakdown for that payment today.

Randy Abbey stated that he was asked by the firemen if we could store the E.D.I.T.H. house at the Grovertown base on U.S. 30 as they were having trouble with vandalism. Dan Bridegroom stated that we would have to check with our insurance carrier. The fire association has it insured but Dan will call First Source Insurance to check our liability.

## **IN RE: HIGHWAY**

Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, stated that last month the insurance company did a walk through and made suggestions. The only thing they haven't corrected is the hoist which they deemed unsafe. Steve has put in for an additional to replace the hoist with one a little bigger so it would lift the highway trucks as well. Steve will have quotes by the council meeting.

Steve reported that the Toto Road project is complete except for some berm work they are doing. There are some jointed areas that they don't like, but these are being addressed. Striping for the center of the road would cost approximately \$7,000. The commissioners do not feel that this is feasible at this time.

Rich Singleton reported that the cut in the road on C.R. 250 N was not repaired properly by the petitioner. Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, will check it out and make sure the petitioner repairs this properly.

Mr. Singleton also wishes that the commissioners wouldn't keep allowing road cuts on C.R. 250N as they are losing the ditch bank. Mark Milo stated that an existing pipe doesn't even need a permit to repair and to cut the road to do the repairs.

Mark further stated that we need a policy for standards for repairs being done when roads are cut.

## **IN RE: BASS LAKE PETITION FOR FLOODING ON C.R. 210**

A petition had been received by the commissioners at a previous meeting about flooding at Bass Lake on C.R. 210. It drains but very slowly. Steve Siddall stated that Reith Riley raised the road, but not enough. He feels it should be raised more. Steve also said that the drain there is not ours. Mark Milo stated that we could pursue this as a drain project as it does affect the county road, but there is no place to drain it except as a sub surface drain which would need easement rights. Dan Bridegroom will call Bill Montgomery to entertain a solution to the problem. He is also going to call some of the property owners on the petition who are adjacent to the area.

## **IN RE: KNOX LEAD TRACK FOR REAGENT PROJECT**

Van Janovic with Territorial Engineering and Charles Weaver, Economic Development Director, submitted contracts for the Knox Lead Track for the Reagent Project. The City of Knox is committing to over \$200,000 for the 981 feet of track. They are asking the county to execute the contract with no legal requirements for money from the county. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. The project was bid through the City of Knox Board of Works. There will be a second bid for the ballast work.

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## **IN RE: NORTH JUDSON OAKWOOD EXTENSION PROJECT & INDUSTRIAL PARK**

There was discussion on an extension project for Oakwood street in the town of North Judson.

Charlie Weaver discussed the need for water main extensions to provide water pressure for the North Judson Industrial Park. Charlie said that North Judson is looking for some kind of a joint project.

## **IN RE: STARKE COUNTY JAIL**

Jack Krause with CCI, which is a construction management firm, appeared before the commissioners. He stated that they just finished the Marshall County Jail and were now working on a jail in Michigan City and an expansion at Kalamazoo, Michigan. He wanted to give the commissioners an idea of the project and the cost. He stated that they also did Miami County's Jail. He would be happy to help the commissioners along the way with their plans for jail expansion or even a new jail.

There was discussion on how to judge how many beds are needed for a jail and that a trend analysis would be needed.

Kathy Norem stated that we should be receiving \$500,000 from Joe Donnelly's office for jail renovations. Kathy wanted to know if we could start a jail fund for the future building of a new jail. Martin Lucas, County Attorney, stated that this would depend on the terms of the grant.

Mr. Krause stated that we should be very careful how we spend the \$500,000, so that we are not throwing good money after bad.

Mr. Krause further stated that 150 beds would not be out of line and certainly not less than 125.

## **IN RE: KOONTZ LAKE REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT**

Steve Dodge stated that the Koontz Lake Regional Sewer District wants to create a Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) on a site that the Site Review Committee approves. They wanted to make the commissioners aware of what's going on.

Ken Jones with Wightman Petrie, representing the project team and the district, is going before the planning commission for a public hearing later this month. He submitted a Koontz Lake Clean Water Plant Primary Plat and Preliminary Plan for the commissioners to review.

The site being considered is approximately 200 feet wide and ¼ mile deep—4.9 acres. They won't need the full acreage, and they are steering away from the wetlands part of the property. This is all a heads up before they come before the commissioners in early December.

## **IN RE: PORTER STARKE SERVICES CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Porter Starke Services sent a renewal contract for the Employee Assistance Program. The commissioners requested that someone from Porter Starke come to a meeting and answer some questions that they have about the program before approving the contract.

## **IN RE: HOME RULE ORDINANCE #2009-29**

The Starke County Drainage Board submitted an ordinance to the council to transfer dormant Starke County Drainage Reconstruction funds to the same ditch in the Starke County Drainage Maintenance fund. Council Attorney, Martin Lucas, stated that he found an ordinance allowing transfer of maintenance funds but could not find one regarding reconstruction funds. He checked and found out from the State Board of Accounts that if a "home rule" was adopted by the commissioners, it would be acceptable. Mr. Lucas drafted a "home rule" for the commissioners to consider. Mark Milo moved to approve Home Rule Ordinance #2009-29 seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes. (The ordinance is on file in the Auditor's Office.)

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## **IN RE: NEW PHONE SYSTEM**

Bob Smith, I.T. Director, submitted the contract with Embarq for commissioner approval. Bob reported that the boring under the road was completed Wednesday and we are now waiting on the equipment that was ordered. He stated that everything is on schedule and on track.

## **IN RE: FOOD SERVICE INSPECTOR**

Kathy Norem asked about the insurance for the proposed contracted food inspector. She questioned how we can make him pay \$10,000 for insurance when they will only be making \$14,000 total for the whole year. The insurance company said that we could make him a part time employee with the stipulation he will not be made full time, that there would be no benefits, and no unemployment, etc. The commissioners want the Health Board to address this issue. Dan Bridegroom said that he would stop and talk to Robert Howard, Health Board President, regarding this.

## **IN RE: HOSPITAL BOARD RESIGNATION**

Kathy Norem reported that Dr. Tom Browne is resigning from the Hospital Board. His replacement does not have to be a physician as Dr. Fritz is also on the board and policy only requires one.

## **IN RE: COMMISSIONER OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours for Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, are cancelled due to Veteran's Day.

Office hours for Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (the night before Thanksgiving), will be held by Mark Milo from 4 to 6 pm.

## **IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH AND CAMPGROUNDS**

Mr. Callahan called Mark Milo and informed him that he is working on and with the issues addressed and will have it ready for the commissioners before he opens in the spring.

Clyde Haniford reported that a group of kids across the street at the beach were yanking out shore stations, drinking, cussing and urinating on the beach in broad daylight. Dan Bridegroom told him that he should have called the sheriff and to do so if it happens again. Kathy Norem reiterated that the police should have been called as there was nothing the commissioners could do after the fact.

## **IN RE: JAIL PROTEST**

Linda Draper discussed the petition regarding the jail protest and will submit all paperwork at a later time. The protest is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, from 2 to 4 pm.

## **IN RE: STEP REPAIRS AT COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX**

Ed Reiss discussed the pick-up of the steps for the courthouse. The company will charge \$350 for deliver, but Mr. Reiss stated it could do it for \$150 not \$60 as he had previously stated. Mr. Reiss also submitted his invoice for the completed work.

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

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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Mark Milo, Member

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor &

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Secretary to the Commissioners

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