

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Mike Meadows, CEO of Starke Memorial Hospital, Tom Butler from Lifepoint, and SMH board members Sandy Hansen, Jerry Wilson, Dorothy Bau and Ed Hasneral appeared before the commissioners with a letter of intent signed today between Lifepoint and Community Health Systems. Per Mike Meadows, nothing will change except the Lease and Management details. Mark Milo stated that if the public requests a public hearing the commissioners will schedule one per the contract.

**IN RE: E.M.A. AND E.M.S.**

Mary Lynn Ritchie submitted \$2,322.10 in write-offs. Kent Danford moved to approve passes with 3 ayes. Mary Lynn submitted \$172.30 received from O'Hara Collections and \$185 from the Clerk due to Small Claims collections.

Randy Abbey reported that he had applied for two more grants: \$4,500 for radio operations and \$14,000 for GIS software.

Randy also reported that the remount of the ambulance will be completed between mid December and the end of the year. It will be a new box on an old chassis.

**IN RE: CLEARING COUNTY ROADS AFTER A STORM**

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the commissioners regarding the problem he was having getting the highway employees out after hours to clear trees that are down on the road. He had one last Friday and made a call to the highway interim superintendent and was told that they were not coming out as their overtime was cut. Kevin Kroft was called and he called out two highway guys to take care of the tree across the roadway.

Per Mark Milo, due to financial restraints, there is no overtime so the commissioners must pick and choose what response will be made based on emergency situations as they come up. Kevin said for the sheriff's department to call him and Mark said that they could also call him.

Mark suggested that perhaps the highway could give road-closed signs to the sheriff. Sheriff Cowen stated that they have no room for them in the cars or at the garage. Oscar is to call John Norris and they will decide what type of signs and where to leave them for easy access for the sheriff.

**IN RE: PROPOSED FEES TO BE CHARGED BY SHERIFF**

Sheriff Oscar Cowen stated that the fee for sexual offenders is now in place and wants to raise fees already in place and add some new fees. They do fingerprinting for the schools now and many other sheriff's departments charge for that. Kevin Kroft stated that if it is an ordinance they can charge, but can't just set a fee. Oscar will continue to research.

**IN RE: STARKE COUNTY LANDFILL**

Sammy Sirhan from Superior Environmental appeared before the commissioners stating that they were denied access to the property for testing the last time they were there. The commissioners thought that the owner was OK with the testing, but now he has an attorney and told Superior to call his attorney and wouldn't let them on the property. Sammy Sirhan stated that they need to get in to test as methane gas has been detected at the edges and it is very flammable. Mr. Sirhan received a 60-day extension from the state.

The owner's deed states that there is not nor has there been any landfill on the property.

Mr. Sirhan requested that the auditor send him copies of all past insurance policies for the landfill.

### **IN RE: PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD**

Mike Spika appeared before the board of commissioners insisting that the commissioners do something about Lee Nagai being on the Planning Commission Board appointed as a Republican and running in the election as an independent. Kevin Kroft stated that they were not going to make a decision until after the election, as they did not want their decision to appear to be political.

At this time, the board has 2 democrats, 1 republican, and 1 independent, as the state recognizes Lee Nagai as an independent. They are in compliance with the state statute. Mr. Spika still insists that the commissioners do something as Mr. Nagai can't be trusted if he was put on the board as a republican, voted as a democrat in the primary, and is running for election as an independent. Mark Milo stated that it was up to the other two commissioners and Kevin Kroft stated that no decision would be made at this time.

### **IN RE: PROPOSED ASBESTOS INSPECTION AT STARKE COUNTY JAIL**

Mark Milo moved to sign the agreement letter with United Consulting for the asbestos inspection at the jail seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

### **IN RE: C.R. 300 E PROJECT**

Kent Danford reminded the other commissioners that there is a meeting with INDOT on November 12, 2008, in LaPorte regarding the CR 300 E Project. Jeff Larrison with United Consulting will also attend.

### **IN RE: VENDOR CLAIMS AND PAYROLL CLAIMS**

Mark Milo moved to approve the 11-3-08 vendor claims seconded by Kent Danford with 3 ayes.

Kent Danford moved to approve payroll claims seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

### **IN RE: MINUTES**

Kent Danford moved to approve the October 20, 2008, minutes seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

### **IN RE: COMP. TIME FOR CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER**

Kevin Kroft read the letter sent to the auditor by Judge Hall regarding the comp. time for the chief probation officer. Judge Hall stated that since only 25% of the time is spent on administrative duties, Fritz is not considered an administrator or department head and therefore can accrue comp. time. Martin Bedrock, County Attorney, stated that his salary should be reviewed to see if he is being paid as an administrator.

The commissioners clarified the difference between comp. time and overtime being paid at time and a half.

Kevin Kroft stated that after checking with the State Board of Accounts, highway employees will be paid time and a half for any hours worked over their now 35 hours per week.

### **IN RE: DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYROLL**

Kevin Kroft read the letter from the Auditor requesting that the commissioners make direct deposit for payroll mandatory for all county employees due to the Auditor's supplies budget being cut drastically. Checks for payroll cost approximately \$2000 per year. As of the November 7 payroll, approximately 65% of the employees already have direct deposit.

Mark Milo moved to have the Auditor send letters to those employees who do not have direct deposit and include some of the same information presented to the commissioners before the commissioners make it mandatory.

Other counties have mandatory direct deposit so the auditor is sending a letter to the State Board of Accounts regarding the mandatory direct deposit.

**IN RE: SAN PIERRE MASTER PLAN GRANT**

The commissioners received a letter stating that the San Pierre comprehensive plan has been approved.

**IN RE: COMP TIME ACCRUED BY COURTHOUSE CUSTODIAN**

The commissioners asked about Carl Goodrich accruing five comp. hours per pay period. His hours are supposed to be 7 am to 4 pm with an hour for lunch with a total of 80 hours worked per pay period. Kevin Kroft is going to talk to Carl to see if he has something in writing authorizing him coming in earlier. Kevin is to report on this at the next meeting.

**IN RE: NOVEMBER 10, 2009, COUNCIL MEETING**

Kevin Kroft reminded the other commissioners that they had some appropriations going before the council at their next meeting on November 10 and that they needed to attend.

**CULVER ON CR 400S 1 MILE EAST OF U.S. 421**

Kent Danford stated that the bridge on CR 400S one mile east of U.S. Highway 421 needs the culvert replaced. There was a temporary fix done and now with all the water problems, the repairs need to be done permanently. John Norris is to get with Mark MacKillop, County Surveyor, in order to decide on a correct size and what needs to be done. The highway will do the work per the Surveyor's discretion on the details.

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.

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Kevin Kroft, President

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Kent Danford, Vice President

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Mark Milo, Member

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Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem