

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in Regular Session at 6:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kathy Norem, Donald Binkley, and Charlie Chesak present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Don Binkley at 6:33PM due to the lateness of the Starke County Council meeting.

ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM ORDINANCE 1ST READING

County Attorney Marty Lucas advised of the 1st Reading of the Onsite Sewage System Ordinance. He stated the newly created ordinance is technical and detailed. It advises of the new certification requirements for workers of a sewer system. It prohibits work done by non-certified contractors. He noted the Ordinance will go into effect on June 1, 2019 and they are allowing plenty of time for the education for the certifications. Attorney Lucas advised there will be a total of 3 readings of the Ordinance. Attorney Lucas asked that the proposed ordinance to be posted on the County Website, and for copies to be available if someone wanted to pick up a copy in the Auditor's Office.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, VENDOR CLAIMS DOCKET, PAYROLL DOCKET

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5th meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$392,251.21. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on 11/3/18 with a pay date of 11/9/18 in the total gross amount of \$244,484.44. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

HRA FORM

The HRA form was submitted to the Board by the Anthem Health Insurance Company. The Board had previously voted for the 2019 health insurance with a reduction in the costs of the insurance and they had decided to reduce the amount of HRA reimbursement to be earned by employees. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the HRA plan and stated the plan will cover a \$1,000.00 per employee and \$2,000.00 per family coverage. Commissioner Norem, after reviewing the form, decided to rescind her motion and to have the form sent back to Anthem for completion. She advised Anthem could fill in the details.

SCEDF CONTRACT

Larry Wickert, the Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed contract between SCEDF and Starke County. Commissioner Norem stated she believes since the County General Fund's 2019 Budget has been cut by the State by 11.4% she feels the amount the SCEDF receives in 2019 should also be cut by 11.4%. She stated she would like a one year contract with that rate cut. She also stated she would like to see the Jail CREDIT rate be reduced by 25% and the Regular CREDIT rate be increased by 25%. Director Wickert advised he did not want a one year contract; that he would prefer a two year agreement. He stated in the second year he would like to see it back up to 12.5 of the total CREDIT. Commissioner Norem stated if she can get the transfer approved it won't be the 12.5 % amount.

Director Wickert then asked about the request to have 33% input in the Executive Committee Members. He advised he would rather see it set at four members. Attorney Lucas advised he thought the County could make an adjustment down to 30%. Commissioner Norem stated they are asking for a minority interest in the Board. Since it isn't a majority interest she thought they could go with the 30%.

Director Wickert then spoke about the payment for performance review. The County is proposing the SCEDF pay a 6% cap but Director Wickert would rather split the cost with the County and set it as a 3% maximum cap. The County had agree to the split cost and will set the 3% cap.

Director Wickert advised he has been asked to assist small businesses who are beginning a business. The County has suggested a revolving loan fund in the amount of \$50,000.00. Director Wickert disagreed and Attorney Lucas advised he wants to discuss this further and determine how it should be worded in the contract. Commissioner Norem asked that the \$50,000.00 amount to remain in the contract. Director

Wickert asked for someone to review the agreement; someone who is familiar with economic development. He noted that at least 80% of the new small businesses fail. He stated he would like to get the last portion discussed organized and be ready for the next meeting. Commissioner Norem stated she would like to see more Commissioner and Councilmen involved in the Executive and Regular SCEDF Board meetings and thinks the time of the meetings need to be changed to a later time. Director Wickert advised he likes having the time of the meetings set at 4PM. He stated when members get off work they come to the meeting. If they were to go home after work they don't always come back in for a meeting. Commissioner Norem advised either they need to change the time of 4PM or they need to change who will be on the committee. Maybe they could appoint someone or they may choose a person to represent them.

TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Commissioner Norem spoke of the large number of newly elected County officials. She made a motion and advised she would like to see them be trained in certain County information prior to taking office. She noted those items would be: Departmental Budgets; the Employee Handbook, Travel Policy and various other County policies; how to complete and submit Vendor Claims; how to complete Payroll Claims; Unemployment; Employee Health Insurance and other benefits; Keys; Security Issues; IT; and Stellar Designation. She noted the date and time of the training will be set and will probably be held during the day. Commissioner Norem stated there will also be special training for the newly elected Council members. She also advised they will be contacted by the State advising of State Training Meetings by the Office they have been elected to, such as Commissioner, Council, Clerk, Recorder, and Coroner. She noted they will be able to submit a claim for reimbursement of \$119.00 for a hotel room, registration, and mileage. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

CORONER RADIO

Newly Elected Coroner, Jack Rosa, inquired about a new 800 radio for the Coroner. Commissioner Norem made a motion to have the IT Director Richard Frank move forward with purchasing the 800 radio. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Binkley advised there is a Solid Waste Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 28th and on Thursday, December 13th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Auditor Chaffins inquired if there will be more security at next year's Council and Commissioner meetings. Commissioner Norem advised the meetings could be held in a Courtroom and since the Courthouse elevator will be repaired next year it would be better to hold the meeting at the Jail Courtroom with police surveillance.

Councilman Freddie Baker advised at the Council and Commissioner meetings he has never seen politics involved in the meeting. He stated it has never played a factor in their meetings.

Antia Goodan of WKVI inquired as to the status of the J & K invoice that was outstanding from the last meeting. Commissioner Binkley stated the invoice is still outstanding because all of the work hasn't been completed yet. They are still repairing the sirens in Railroad Township.

Howard Bailey introduced himself as a newly elected Council member.

Commissioner Binkley advised he wanted to thank Commissioner Norem and Attorney Lucas as he has enjoyed working with them.

There being no additional public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners