

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

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 Charles Chesak, Kathy Norem, and Donald Binkley 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 6:38PM due to the County Council meeting.

SCEDF DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION APPROVAL

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board with a request for approval on a Vendor Claim. He explained he was asking for the approval on the appropriation of the economic portion of the CREDIT Fund for the purpose of purchasing a Highway Department radar recorder WTRAXPRO in order to monitor the traffic of US30 for the proposed highway project. He advised the total amount of the purchase would be \$3,235.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the appropriation request. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

KOONTZ LAKE CONSERVANCY

Marty Wolf of Koontz Lake appeared before the Board representing the Koontz Lake Conservancy. He thanked the Board for helping get their petition approved for the creation of the Conservancy. He advised the next step for them is presenting their plans to the Court in January. He advised their mission is to clean the lake and maintain it. He noted that it will be watershed management as weeds and algae grow in the lake. Mr. Wolf stated they are looking for a group to work with such as a drainage board. Commissioner Norem advised they could meet with the Marshall Starke Drainage Board and should contact County Surveyor Bill Crase to obtain more information. Mr. Wolf stated they have been planning on the installation, if so approved by the DNR, of a lake aeration system. He noted they would be installing three air compressors and the engineering company has been very specific as to where they would want them installed in the lake and need approval if they are placed on County property. Commissioner Norem advised they could approve the placement on County property but not on State property as several of the easements are owned by the State. Mr. Wolf advised they are meeting with the DNR on January 18th and the DNR needs to approve the plan. He advised he will be sending the parcel numbers of the areas where the air compressors would need to be installed. Commissioner Norem advised she will be attending that meeting with the DNR and recommended they get in touch with Surveyor Crase for him to attend also. She also noted Attorney Lucas is very interested and very knowledgeable in this type of project.

**REQUEST TO USE STATE TAX REFUND FOR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT;
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF LOW WEBSITE FOR TAX BILLING INFORMATION**

Treasurer Kasey Clark appeared before the Board with a request that she received from the AIC in regard to using the State of Indiana's income tax refund as a payment for the County's property delinquent tax billings. She stated there is usually around a \$1,000,000.00 outstanding in tax billings at the end of the year. Treasurer Clark advised the County would need to sign up with the State by January 1, 2018. County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired is there would be a fee for that and was advised the State would charge \$20.00 per taxpayer. He noted that was a risk for the County since the majority of State Income Tax refunds tend to be small and there could be a possibility the \$20.00 fee would not be covered by the refund and then the County would be liable for that difference. Attorney Lucas stated he would like to review this agreement first before the Board makes their decision.

In a different matter, Treasurer Clark stated she had received information at a recent meeting with LOW in regard to their creation of a website which would allow tax payers to look up their tax billing information, and other information on their property. Treasurer Clark stated with this website in place it would reduce the number of telephone calls her office would receive. Commissioner Norem inquired if the Treasurer would be able to reduce the number of helpers she has in her office. Clark advised she only has one deputy and she was asked if that deputy could then work part time hours. She also stated there is a charge for the website of \$12,000.00 per year but that the first year would be free. It also stated on the price quote she had submitted to the Board that there was an installation fee of \$10,000.00

but she was not familiar with that charge. She noted that both Allen County and Porter County use that website.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT BRIDGE INSPECTION COMPANY

Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board with the scoring of their Bridge Inspection RFPs. He advised three companies scored highly and three companies scored low. He advised the three high companies were United Consulting with 375 points; Butler, Fairman, Seufert with 260 points; and USI (who is the current bridge inspector) with 220 points. He recommended the County should choose United Consulting. He advised the representative for that company will be Starke County resident Terry Minix. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the United Consulting Company as the 2018 Bridge Inspection Company. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

1ST SOURCE INSURANCE 2018 HEALTH INSURANCE

Holly Horan and Debbie Rykovich of 1st Source Insurance appeared before the Board to discuss the 2018 Health Insurance. They advised the Anthem renewal of the policy came in at a 14.5% renewal but they had reduced the renewal rate to a 7.25% increase. They advised the dental will be moved to be covered by Anthem in 2018. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Anthem renewal for 2018 to be the same coverage as 2017 and also include the dental coverage. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem advised the rates will be increased to the employees also as the single coverage employee pays 15% of their monthly premium and all other coverage pays 22% of their monthly premium.

Commissioner Binkley signed all the paperwork for the health insurance.

AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, AND VENDOR CLAIM

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay period ending on November 4, 2017 with a pay date of November 9, 2017 in the total gross amount of \$228,653.23. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$158,627.11. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Building Corporation Vendor Claims Docket in the total gross amount of \$136,885.45. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and passed with two ayes.

UTV ORDINANCE, 2ND READING

Attorney Lucas advised this was considered the second reading of the UTV Ordinance and the public hearing on the ordinance will take place at the next meeting on December 4, 2017. He also noted in the ordinance it states the County's "highway" which mean County roads as the actual highways are owned by the Federal government or the State.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In regard to the request for GIS information the County had received from Matthew Rummel, GIS Coordinator for Christopher Burke Engineering, Commissioner Norem asked the Auditor to write Mr. Rummel a letter requesting to know why they would want the GIS information. She stated she believes they are requesting the information to be used in the creation of funding for the maintenance of the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers. Commissioner Norem made a motion to write them a letter for more information. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the PERU Excessive Loss Insurance for Inmates for 2018. Commissioner Chesak seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. It is an annual renewal of the current agreement.

Commissioner Norem advised she had received a letter from Mike Skinner stating he was interested in serving on the City of Knox' Planning Commission. She advised since he is a resident of the City of Knox and does not live in the two mile radius of the City the Board of Commissioners could not appoint him to that entity. She also advised she will prepare a listing of the board vacancies that will be open for appointment in 2018 and will present it at their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Chesak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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