

December 1, 2011

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 2:00PM in the meeting room, of the Starke County Annex, Knox, Indiana, with two members present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Present – Kathy Norem & Dan Bridegroom, Starke County Commissioners;

Also Present – Paul Mathewson, EMS Director; Mary Lynn Ritchie, EMS Clerk; representatives from IU Health Facility-Starke: Linda Satkowski, Dave Hyatt, and Craig Felte; Sandy Hansen and Ted Hayes, Hospital Board members; and Marty Lucas, County Attorney.

President Dan Bridegroom called the meeting to order. He advised the issue to be addressed at today’s meeting is the county’s EMS Department and the IU Health Facility-Starke need to contract for ALS & BLS transfers. Starke County EMS Director, Paul Mathewson, gave a presentation on Starke County’s proposed “on call paramedic system”. He advised Medic 3, which is stationed at the Knox EMS base, less than one minute away from the hospital, will be equipped with ALS equipment. He advised he has been working with Starke County officials to order the ALS equipment before the end of this year, and also advised the State application will be ready for the Commissioner’s approval at their Dec. 5th meeting. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, stated he will have the revised/corrected contract back to the Director in the AM, as the contract is a requirement of the State application. Director Mathewson advised the county’s goal is to have the ALS program in place by March 1st, 2012. Commissioner Norem added the county has budgeted for the ALS program in their 2012 budget, and do have money available from their 2011 budget, to purchase ALS equipment. Director Mathewson stated has been receiving price quotes for the equipment for the ALS program.

Linda Satkowski, CEO of IU Health-Starke, presented a statement from the hospital: In the spirit of partnership and with the desire to see the level of health care services continue to increase in Starke County, IU Health Starke Hospital proposes to hold off on contracting with any ambulance services and to work with the Starke County EMS service under the following conditions:

1. The program is implemented by April 1st, 2012.
2. The response time for the county ambulance to reach the hospital for an ALS transfer is expected to be ten minutes, in the case of the first transfer.
3. The county agrees to transports patients of all types and diseases, including psychiatric patients.
4. The county agrees to what defines long distance transfers.

Attorney Lucas added the county sheriff’s department might be needed in the transfer of psychiatric patients. David Hyatt stated the hospital is requesting Director Mathewson give the hospital reports on the progress of the county’s ALS program. Commissioner Norem stated the Commissioners are also requesting the same progress reports.

With there being no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bridegroom. The motion passed with two ayes, and the meeting adjourned at 2:25PM.

December 1, 2011

Dan Bridegroom, President

Kathy Norem, Vice President

ABSENT
Jennifer Davis, Member

Katherine Chaffins, Auditor and
Secretary to the Commissioners