

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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 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 6:25PM due to the lateness of the County Council meeting. Commissioner Norem was absent from the meeting.

PAVING BIDS OPENED

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board and advised the bids will be opened in regard to the CR300E Paving Project. County Attorney Marty Lucas verified with Auditor Chaffins that the bids were received in a timely manner, before 4PM that day. She advised they were all received on time.

Attorney Lucas then opened the first bid and the results were as follows:

1. Walsh & Kelly, South Bend, IN \$149,300.00
2. Phend & Brown, Milford, IN \$196,320.00
3. E & B Paving, Rochester, IN \$158,232.00
4. Reith & Riley, LaPorte, IN \$143,428.00

Superintendent Ritzler advised that the engineer's estimate for the paving project was \$150,000.00. He stated he will review the bids with Mark Wilson, of JPR and will get back to the Board later on in the meeting. He also noted that the Starke County Economic Development Foundation will be paying the County Match for the CR300E Paving Project.

DOLLAR STORE TO BE LOCATED ON CR200S, EAST OF US35

Superintendent Ritzler then advised he also wanted to talk to the Board in regard to the movement of the Dollar Store to the CR200S - US35, south side location. He stated he was informed of the move approximately three weeks ago and had attended the last Knox Planning Commission meeting. He stated he had reviewed the plans and did advise them that the two drive plan would not work and had them develop the one drive plan. He noted the County does not have a policy at this time in regard to driveways but he believes the County should adopt one. The Superintendent stated he wanted this issue presented to the Board for their opinion. He also stated he would like for the discussion to be open to the public. The Superintendent stated he had spoken with INDOT in regard to a traffic light to be installed at that intersection because it is a very dangerous location. He stated there have been 60 accidents in the last 10 years at that location. He stated the project has been going on for the last several months at the City of Knox because they were not advised that the actual location of the store would be on County property, on the south side of CR200S, just east of US35. The City of Knox held a public hearing and had contacted the surrounding neighbors. Charlie Weaver, of the SCEDF, stated the store would not be eligible for a tax abatement. Charlie was the one who contacted Rik about the meeting at Knox. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to table the discussion of this project until the next meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it was passed with all ayes. The next Commissioner meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2nd.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Charlie Weaver, Director of the SCEDF, appeared before the Board to present his monthly departmental report. He advised he had emailed out the regular monthly report and they can read it on their own time. He stated there are two companies interested in the Sysco Property; one of them is a REMC related business and one is an expansion of a current business. He also noted the Popcorn Company that will be moving into the Stelerema Building has ordered their equipment. The General Manager will be living in Starke County and his children will be attending school in the County.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT PAVING BID RESULTS

Superintendent Ritzler stated they have reviewed the paving bids and the Reith Riley bid was the lowest bid at \$143,528.00. The engineer's project estimate was \$151,350.00. He stated the bid received was fine but will be checking to see if it meets the Responsible Bidder Ordinance. He stated they will make the request for compliance clearer in the next request for road project bids.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve and accept the bid from Reith Riley in the amount of \$143,528.00. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

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

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4th meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Vendor Claims Docket in the gross amount of \$153,946.65. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims Docket for the pay

period ending 12/2/17 with a pay date of 12/8/17, in the total gross amount of \$239,820.42. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Harrison Fields, Director of the Round Lake Cemetery, appeared before the Board to present a response to the complaints that were presented to the Board from the American Legion Post 92. He stated in regard to the Memorial Day flags the Round Lake Cemetery removes those flags after the 4th of July and eventually they are taken to the Knox VFW for proper disposal. He stated they do not remove any of the flag holders. In regard to hanging a flag at the Cemetery, he stated since they do not have a light to shine on the flag at night they do not hang a flag. He asked Anita Goodin from WKVI to air a report on the instructions of how to hang a flag. Mr. Fields stated he thought the Round Lake Cemetery should go back to the Knox American Legion for them to display the Memorial Day flags. Mark Gourley an American Legion District Representative advised that was why the Round Lake Cemetery was given to the North Judson American Legion Post so that the money paid from the County would be distributed equally at \$2,000.00 each. He stated it is a major expense to have the flag holder disappearing. President Binkley asked the Round Lake Cemetery Board to meet with the North Judson American Legion so they could discuss this situation between the two parties. Neither party had spoken to each other. Mr. Fields stated the next meeting of the Round Lake Cemetery Board would be on Monday, January 8th, at 9AM.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to approve the Health Department Food Inspection Contract for Dave Kesvornas for 2018. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Binkley then signed the contract.

Commissioner Chesak made a motion to void out the approved Skillman Contract that was submitted in regard to the Starke County Courthouse Elevator Project. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Skillman had agreed to the cancellation of the contract with no problem. DLZ had not included Skillman in the grant for the project.

Attorney Lucas stated he has been working on the draft of the County Handbook and the Highway Department Handbook. He is working on the incorporation of the newly passed resolutions that pertained to employment. In regard to the posting of the County’s Health Insurance Auditor Chaffins asked Attorney Lucas to word it correctly for the current insurance policy of working 30 days and then insurance coverage beginning the first of the next month. She advised that policy has been in effect since she began in January of 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comment and no further business, Commissioner Chesak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

DECEMBER 20, 2017

Donald Binkley, President

ABSENT

Kathryn Norem, Vice President

Charles Chesak

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