

STARKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 19, 2024

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Commissioners and meet in regular session in the meeting room of the Starke County Annex #1, Knox, IN, at 9:30 AM, with all members present. Also present were three councilmen-Dave Pearman, Anthony Black, and Bruce Bennett. The following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: Ginny Munroe – Solar Construction Monitoring

Ginny Munroe failed to appear.

IN RE: Commissioners – Golf Cart Ordinance

Attorney Schramm explained that we cannot regulate or create an ordinance for driving golf carts on State Road 10. Although a golf cart can cross State Road 10 to get to another county road, that driving a golf cart on State Road 10 is illegal. Only the State has authority to regulate State Road 10.

IN RE: Rick Green – courthouse roof repairs and old jail renovation bidding

Rick Green Director of Maintenance came before the Commissioners to open bids for the courthouse roof repairs and also the old jail renovation. Rick explained that the court house roof has a few leaks and Annex 2 (the old jail) will be adding 2 offices in the Health Dept and 1 Conference room as well as adding a roof to the rear outside of the building.

Rick also asked for a signature on the approval form to give the new Park Superintendent Amie Flora keys to the Annex 2 building. Commissioner Mark Gourley asked if we had received keys from the previous Park Superintendent. Rick advised that he does have those keys.

Commissioner Charlie Chesak made a motion to approve the keys for Amie Flora, Commissioner Mark Gourley seconded the motion and the motion was passed with all ayes.

IN RE: Jim Garner EMS – Monthly report

Jim Garner Director of EMS came before the Commissioners to present his monthly report for July 2024. EMS is currently operating 4 out of 6 ambulances. 1 at ALS level 100% with 2 operating ALS when ALS staffing permits, along with fill time Paramedic chase car staffed daily, 1 Paramedic/EMS Director car running as a backup as well. 1 Transfer truck also when available as an additional Ambulance when not doing transfers. Minimum of 1 ALS staff member at all times scheduled at Medic 3, Knox Base, compared to July staffing is 2 more ALS staffed Ambulances 87% which is a decrease of coverage from 94%.

36 Transfers as of last monthly report in July. Which is a decrease of 13. EMS has picked up 2 new accounts that call for transfers and Part time transfer crews are being trained.

EMS has 2 openings for EMT's, 7 out of 8 current full time, 16 part time Paramedics and 1 full time Paramedic opening.

Last injury reported was on 3/5/2024, original chase card accident.

3308-North Judson Medic 1 (2021 Ford Gas Vin:1FXDE4FN2MDC16274 current mileage: 128004) In service and up to date.

4725-Knox Base Medic 2 (2014 F450 Gas Vin: 1FDXE4FS8EDA90672 current mileage: 136674) Out of service at Sideline for front end work awaiting estimate 08/14/2024.

4726-Knox Base Medic 3 (2024 F350 Gas Vin: 1FDXE4FN1RDD21556 current mileage: 16085) In service and up to date.

0514-Reserve (2015 Ford Diesel Vin: 1GB6G5CL5F1268834 current mileage: 206935) Reserve Unit, In Service at Medic 2.

0085-Reserve (2013 Diesel Vin: 1GB6G5CL4D1146446 current mileage: 209792) OUT OF SERVICE at Sideline for body control module/TCM repair possibly transmission.

0084-Grovertown Base Medic 5 (2012 Chevy Diesel Vin:1GB6G5CLXC1117256 current mileage: 143086) In Service and up to date.

4149-Knox base M-41 (2015 Ford Explorer Vin:1FM5K8ARXFGB91482 current mileage: 59546. Explorer is currently stocked as a functioning ALS non-transport vehicle as registered with the state EMS and staffed by Shift Captains used as a paramedic Chase Unit.

4747 EMS – 1(2019 Chevrolet Tahoe Vin:1GNSKDEC2KR240900 current mileage: 80056) Directors car as well as fully stocked and state registered ALS non-transport Paramedic unit.

Baby box is complete and tested with training scheduled for Sept 9 at 9am with blessing before being placed in service.

Bass Lake fire dept donated \$1000.00 towards LODD memorial name stone.

Bianca Rose Florist donated bench, flower arrangement and some ships for the memorial service held.

Hicks Gas donated refill of gas for memorial service.

Jim also stated that the company Accumed that does the billing for the EMS was sold to Emsimc. Emsimc will take over the billing on September 1st.

Nancy Coad presented 2 collection checks and the Deposit Summary for July 2024 to the Commissioners. One from Merchant Medical in the amount of \$472.50 and one from Ohare for \$779.22.

IN RE: Nick (Hoosier Solar)

Nick Barbknecht from Hoosier Solar came before the board to request the signing of the Road Use Agreement and Decommissioning Plan for the Hoosier Solar Project. Nick has also brought several members of his team. Justin Schramm has prepared a binder that contained these agreements and plans.

Mark Gourley made a motion to approve the Decommissioning Plan and Road Use Agreement for North Bend and Starke Central, Don Binkley seconded, Charlie Chesak Opposed the vote. The motion passed with 2 ayes and 1 nay.

IN RE: Mary Beever – 750 N Survey

Mary Beever presented a survey created by Bob Aloï for 750 N. Mary is asking for acceptance of this survey, once approved by the commissioners the survey will be recorded. This survey was created to reclaim an easement. Commissioner Mark Gourley moved to accept the survey, Commissioner Charlie Chesak 2nd the motion. The Motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: Rachel Oesterreich Highway Superintendent – Monthly Report

Rachel Oesterreich Highway superintendent presented her monthly report. Rachel advised that the new paver is working perfectly, 1/3 of Boa shores has been paved. This is a multi-year project in which we will have everything newly paved within 3-4 years. Also paved is 700 S between 975 E & 1100 E, 850 W between SR10 & 700 S, and 650 W south of 500 S. When 850 W between SR10 & 700 S was paved, a road closed sign was set up a little bit before traffic used the roadway but we still had equipment that went around the Road Closure signs and indented the pavement.

Pug is still being made to continue paving. The following list will be tackled in a few weeks. 150 S West of 1100 E, 100 N B/T 1025 E & 1150 E, 1025 E B/T 150 N & Division Rd, 500 N B/T US 35 & Hamlet, 450 N W/O Range Road, Old 30 B/T 30 & Hamlet, 100 E B/T 500 S & SR 10, 500 S W/O 100 W, 850 S B/T 700 W & 800 W, 800 S West of US 35, 650 N B/T 800 E & SR 23.

The following roads will be looked into being cracked sealed but may not get to all of them this year. Due to budget restraints only 5 pallets of crack seal material can be obtained at one time. 600 E B/T 700 N & 800 N, 700 E B/T Sr 8 & SR 10, Range Road B/T Sr10 to 250 N, 25 N B/T 600 E and SR 23 and 250 N B/T US 35 & Range Road.

Outstanding projects waiting to be scheduled. CCMG 2023-02 Chip Seal-Awarded to Central Paving last year. This consists of chip sealing Toto Rd. between Hwy 23 and County Line & 1150 E between 225 S & 625 S. This should only take between 2 days but we have not heard from Central Paving as far as when they will start this project. Still trying to make contact daily.

CCMG 2024-01 – HMA Overlay- This was awarded to Milestone Construction. This consists of an HMA Overlay on 600 N between 750 E & SR23, 400 N between us 35 & Range Rd, and the newly constructed road in Deer View Estates also known as Johnson's Subdivision.

Work on the Salt Shed roof has not started yet, but should be starting in the next few weeks.

IN RE: Bruce Bennett – Request road Ordinance (Construction & Farm machine Vehicles)

Bruce Bennett is concerned about the Roads that are being damaged by Construction and farm equipment. There is a man excavating black dirt and hauling it to Laporte on County Line Rd between Pulaski County and Starke County. He is moving his steel track excavator on the road as well as bulldozer with cleats. Bruce stated that in other counties it is against the law to run a steel track on the county roads. Bruce is asking for an ordinance to hold the people responsible for the roads when their equipment does damage. Mark Gourley asked if Bruce would research some counties that do have this kind of ordinance, Bruce agreed and will gather the information.

IN RE: Roberta Lee – Variance from 6-23-2024

Roberta is concerned about a variance regarding Dunns Bridge Next Era. There is a petition regarding a variance to county regulated drain right of ways, original permit dated 2022 but learned that the variance was approved 6/27/23 without a public meeting. Surveyor stated that it was approved because there was not an immediate meeting and it needed to be approved. She also stated that no locations or amendments were provided. Roberta is asking the commissioners to review our ordinances to check the depth of the ditches as well as parallel ditches before the start of construction and after construction.

IN RE: Stanley Budd IT Director – Insight Payment

Stanley Budd IT Director came before the board to ask for payment for a Cloud Data Backup company (Insight). This bill took Stanley by surprise as he was not aware that Richard Franks had signed a contract in 2022 with the company and the payment has become due. Mark Gourley made a motion to pay \$18279.79 from CEDIT, Charlie Chesak seconded with 3 ayes.

IN RE: Justin Risner

Justin Risner was not on the agenda but came before the board asking for an email that he said had been deleted. Justin Risner stated this is the second time he has asked for this particular email. Stanley Budd was asked if he had searched for the email and he stated he had.

Commissioner Mark Gourley stated in some cases an update by Microsoft could result in the Outlook email application not working properly and/or missing or lost emails. Justin Risner became more aggressive and loudly repeated "Where's my email". Commissioner Don Binkley asked him to stop his behavior or he will have him removed. Justin Risner continued loudly asking for said email. Commissioner Binkley then asked Security Guard Oscar Cowen to please remove Justin from the meeting. Justin Risner was then escorted out by Security Guard Oscar Cowen.

IN RE: Approval of Minutes

Mark Gourley moved to approve the August 5, 2024, commissioner minutes seconded by Charlie Chesak with 3 ayes.

IN RE: Approval of Claims

Charlie Chesak moved to approve the August 19, 2024, Commissioners Vendor Claims Docket for \$332,834.53 seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Don Binkley also approved Keys for Annex 1 for Michaelene J Houston Auditor and Secretary to the County Commissioners.


There being no further business to come before the board, Charles Chesak moved to adjourn seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.



Don Binkley, President

Absent

Charles Chesak, Vice President



Mark Gourley, Member



Teresa Trout, Deputy Auditor Pro Tem

STARKE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

Monday, August 19, 2024

9:30 AM

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------|---|
| 9:30 AM | Ginny Munroe | RE: Solar construction monitoring |
| 9:40 AM | Commissioners | RE: Golf Cart Ordinance |
| 9:50 AM | Rick Green | RE: Courthouse roof repairs and Old jail renovation bidding
Deadline for same as August 30, 2024 |
| 10:00 AM | Jim Garner EMS | RE: Monthly report |
| 10:10 AM | Nick (Hoosier Solar) | RE: Approval of road use agreement & decommissioning plan |
| 10:20 AM | Mary Beever | RE: 750 N Survey |
| 10:30 AM | Rachel Oesterreich | RE: Monthly Report |
| 10:40 AM | Bruce Bennett | RE: Request Road Ordinance (Construction & Farm Machine Vehicles) |
| 10:50 AM | Roberta Lee | RE: Variance from 6-23-2024 |
| | Auditor | RE: Claims – Payroll- Minutes |

Any other business that may come before the board