

# **STARKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**12-16-24**

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. Councilmen Todd Leinbach and Bruce Bennett were in attendance along with Councilman Dave Pearman via zoom and the following proceedings were held to wit:

## **IN RE: E-911 CONTRACTS AND INVOICES**

Stacy Noonan, Head Dispatcher for 911, submitted quotes for a yearly service contract on equipment in the amount of \$26,016.00, a dispatch upgrade in the amount of \$73,192.00, a yearly contract on the fire simulcast system in the amount of \$14,340.00 and a 10-year system refresh on 911 phone max call in the amount of \$194,047.37. Charles Chesak moved to approve all of them with the contracts coming out of contracts in their budget and the dispatch upgrade out of ARPA and the refresh out of Cum. Cap. Funds seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: EMS**

Nancy Coad submitted the reports of collections in the amount of \$114,460.76 and reports of collections from the collection agencies—Jonathan O'Hara-\$1,961.91 and Merchants and Medical in the amount of \$401.46.

James Garner submitted a report regarding their monthly operations. It is on file in the Auditor's Office and attached to these minutes.

## **IN RE: HOOSIER SOLAR**

Nick Barbknecht and Martin Lucas asked if there were any questions on the updated EDAs they submitted. They had no questions, and Mark Gourley moved to approve seconded by Don Binkley with 2 ayes 1 nay (Charles Chesak).

## **IN RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Shawn Mattraw requested that the commissioners appoint Auditor, Michaelene J. Houston as the financial representative and Marlene Patrick as a Lay Person for 2025. Charles Chesak moved to approve seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT**

Mikie Stogsdill (via zoom) and Janice Hernandez submitted the new Economic Development contract and submitted a report on what they are doing. They are asking for a \$40,000 increase on the contract, but everything else remains the same. The new contract amount would be \$130,000. Charles Chesak stated that he would like to see some success before approving the

increase. Mark Gourley moved to table until January or February to give Charles a chance to discuss things with Mikie seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: HIGHWAY**

Rachel Oesterreich submitted her monthly report of operations. It is on file in the Auditor's Office and attached to these minutes.

Rachel is requesting permission to purchase a vehicle for signage. She stated she has the money in her budget. Both vehicles found are attached. Mark Gourley moved to approve purchasing a vehicle for up to \$20,000 seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

Rachel also requested permission to purchase culverts. She stated she has the money for that in her Cum. Bridge budget. Quotes are attached. Mark Gourley moved to approve culverts in the amount of \$18,619.50 seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

Rachel submitted a report on Bridge #137. The county's portion of the bridge will be \$969,942.22. Full report on file in the Auditor's Office and attached.

Bridge #13 over the Robbins ditch has a county share of \$353,000. In order to apply for the grant, she needs a signed letter stating that the county accepts the financial obligation regarding replacement of the bridge. Mark Gourley moved to approve seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

IDEM came to the highway and submitted a final report regarding possible oil contamination. Victoria Chessor, EMA director, stated that the compliance report from IDEM states that the matter is closed. The report is on file in the Auditor's Office and attached.

Rachel stated that her requests for equipment were turned down by the council because they would prefer she used pug and the commissioners want her to use hot mix.

#### **IN RE: NORTH JUDSON/WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Todd Jackson, Fire Chief, requested radios due to being outdated. He submitted a report on the status of the radios and is asking for approval in ARPA for \$5,000 already approved plus an additional \$14,029.76. The Town of North Judson didn't approve any extra money for this. Info attached. Todd further stated that there are no communications grants available. Mark Gourley moved to approve the \$19,029.76 contingent on Dunns' Bridge EDA approval by the council seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: SHERIFF/JAIL**

April Wilhelm requested 2 gas cards for when officers have to transfer prisoners. They normally get their fuel from the county, but when they do a transfer, they sometimes need more fuel. They generally only have one transfer at a time, but would like a 2<sup>nd</sup> card as backup. She stated that she is making a sign in/out sheet and that the cards will be locked up when not in use.

Mark Gourley moved to approve as long as the cards are locked up and a sign out sheet used to protect the safety of the cards seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

April stated that they have an officer who is requesting her work weeks be 80 hours in a two-week period instead of 84. This would mean time and a half would begin after 80 hours for just the one officer. Justin Schramm stated that he would look into this and report back.

#### **IN RE: CORONER'S ADDITION**

April Wilhelm, Coroner, submitted quotes for the addition and the storm damage repairs. She has \$50,000 that was designated to her from ARPA. She also has 3 quotes for coolers. She prefers the walk in cooler as she is thinking of long-term answers for what's out there. Both total \$71,095.75. Mark Gourley moved to approve with the \$50,000 out of ARPA and the other \$21,095.75 out of Cum. Capital Development and pending verification that the contractor is licensed and registered. Charles Chesak seconded his motion with 3 ayes. Quotes are attached.

#### **IN RE: PARK BOARD FUNDRAISER**

Amie Flora requested permission to do a fundraiser for the Park Department. It would consist of T-shirts, sweatshirts, polos, totes, etc. They would all have the park's logo on them. Mark Gourley moved to approve seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: MAMMOTH SOLAR**

Chris Shelmon Attorney for Mammoth and Chris Neff with Mammoth reported that they have achieved the 1<sup>st</sup> phase and met their obligations. They stated that they made a payment to the county on Friday in the amount of \$100,000. They also gave a report on the progress and changes to the EDA. The revised EDA is proposing pre-payments that will reflect against the agreement. It will be deducted later but this will give the county \$400,000 in early cash flow. Chris Shelmon sent Justin Schramm a revised copy of the EDA during the meeting via email, and Justin has not a chance to look it over yet. Mark Gourley moved to table this for further review of the restructuring of payments seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

#### **IN RE: STARKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Kathy Norem, President of the Hospital Board, informed the commissioners that the lease had been sold to Community Health Systems and they are nearing the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> lease agreement. She needs approval by January of 2026 and would like some changes. She would like a community survey and would like to create a committee consisting of one commissioner, 3 council and 3 hospital board members.

Kathy also requested an appropriation of \$50,000 for a consultant/attorney and community needs. Mark Gourley suggested using the Public Health Fund. Mark Gourley moved to approve the request for \$50,000 from the non-reverting Public Health Fund seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

Mark Gourley moved to appoint Charles Chesak to the Hospital Committee seconded by Don Binkley with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND MINUTES**

Charles Chesak moved to approve the claims seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.

Mark Gourley moved to approve the payroll seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes.

Charles Chesak moved to approve the 12-2-24 minutes seconded by Mark Gourley with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: EMA**

Don Binkley stated that he had received complaints about the EMA office being relocated to the highway department. He called the state and was told it could be located in any county owned building.

**IN RE: SURVEYOR**

Tom Schouten, Surveyor, stated that a job was done by the four-county drainage board that was not authorized by the Surveyor. The job is already completed and the contractor did not get approval from the Surveyor. Tom also stated that they would have needed permission from the DNR to dig. Tom stated that he is not paying the bill and that Justin Schramm had told him he needed to let the commissioners know what was going on. The board does not have the authority to expand a contract, but Ed Jernas authorized the 550 foot expansion and did not have the authority to do so. He stated that Ed is on the four-county drainage board. Justin Schramm stated that it was not authorized by the majority of the board and the contractor moved forward anyway. Mark Gourley moved to table the claim because the work was not authorized seconded by Charles Chesak with 3 ayes. Charles Chesak who is also on the four-county drainage board is going to check into this matter.

**IN RE: FUTURE SOLAR MORATORIUM**

Don Binkley moved to put a moratorium for one year on any new solar companies coming in. This would exclude Mammoth, Next Era and Hoosier as they are already here. Charles Chesak seconded the motion with 2 ayes 1 nay (Mark Gourley).

**IN RE: HIGHWAY-PUG VS HOT MIX**

Bruce Bennett, Councilman, asked if Don Binkley had stated that the highway could no longer use Pug Mix. Bruce also asked if it was brought up in a public meeting and voted on. A heated debate ensued about pug vs hot mix and the authority to make the decision.

**IN RE: BASS LAKE BEACH**

It was discussed about a lease agreement for a section of the beach in order to put in an extra pump. Agreements have not yet been drawn up.

**IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Larry Wickert stated that these meetings are not the place to have heated debates.

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

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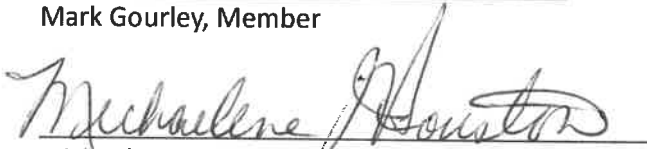
Don Binkley, President

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Charles Chesak, Vice President

---

Mark Gourley, Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michaelene J. Houston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Commissioners

# Starke County EMS Monthly Report

## December 2024 for November

**Operations:** Currently we continue operating 4 out of 6 ambulances 1 at ALS level 100% operating with full 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 currently between chase car and Knox base, compared to November staffing staffing of 2 or more ALS staffed ambulances 67% which is an decrease of coverage from 84%. due to loss of staff.

**Transfers:** 41 As of last monthly report in November. We also have been promoting and currently working on more.

**Personnel:** We have at this time one full-time opening for EMT's with 2 applications on waiting list, 2 new part-time EMR/Driver's hired for the transfer truck along with 1 part time Paramedic. Currently have 3 fulltime paramedic openings due to going Ambulance for higher wages, 10 part-time paramedics with 4 who had left for various reasons. 2 on extended leave for medical reasons

**Training completed:** Individual study along with some sent to conference for instructor training,

**Training coming up :** New protocol review from medical director

**Safety:** Last injury reported was on 03/05/2024 Original chase car accident.

### **Ambulance Maintenance:**

3308-North Judson M1 (2021 Ford Gas Vin:1FXDE4FN2MDC16274 **Current mileage: 137188**) In service, up to date

4725- Knox Base Medic 2 (2014 F450 Gas Vin: 1FDXE4FS8EDA90672 **Current mileage 142749**- In Service, up to date body shop awaiting estimate

4726- Knox Base M3 (2024 F350 Gas Vin: 1FDXE4FN1RDD21556 **Current Mileage: 23631** In service, up to date

0514-Reserve (2015 Ford Diesel Vin:1GB6G5CL5F1268834 **Current mileage: 213367**) Reserve Unit, In Service

\***OLD 0085 out of service** at county hwy (2013 Diesel Vin:1GB6G5CL4D1146446 Current mileage:209792) **OUT OF SERVICE** Transmission issue and multiple safety repairs needed

**New 0085-** Is in, being sent out for wrap, radios, cameras projected inservice 01/01/2025. Most work being done in county

0084-Grovertown Base M5 (2012 Chevy Diesel Vin:1GB6G5CLXC1117256 Current Mileage: 147730) Currently out of service up to date rear bumper

4149- Knox base M-41(2015 Ford Explorer Vin:1FM5K8ARXFGB91482) **Current Mileage 66562.** Explorer is currently and stocked as a functioning ALS non-transport vehicle as registered with state EMS and staffed by Shift Captains used as a Paramedic Chase Unit. Scheduled for service at end

4747 EMS -1 (2019 Chevrolet Tahoe Vin: **Current mileage: 84807** Directors car as well as fully stocked and state registered ALS non-transport Paramedic unit.

**Base Maintenance:** Estimates being prepared for Knox base to extend the bases and widen doors. This has been presented to a few quality contractors with multiple no shows ( Reiss construction, Mann Construction and one other. Multiple calls and response each time). Opening now up to outside county contractors.

**Grants: New grants are beginning to open**

As always searching for grants, donations have become part of a daily routine.

**Donations:** \$15,000 combined grant/donation By NICF for winter gear, purchased new coats, received and distributed along with hats, new sweatshirts.

**PPE:** The standing is good for most all personnel protective equipment.

# Deposit Summary, November 2024 Starke County Ambulance Service

12/1/2024 9:38 AM

Deposit Category	Deposit Amount
Check	\$4,344.92
Electronic	\$76,108.09
Held for refund	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,453.01</b>

Payor Category	Deposit Amount
BCBS	\$1,079.63
Commercial	\$4,359.90
Medicaid	\$5,173.12
Medicaid HMO	\$10,896.18
Medicare	\$56,411.55
Private Pay	\$2,532.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,453.01</b>

34,002.75  
TOTAL \$ 114,440.76

1,961.91  
Jonathan O'Hare  
Merchants & Med.  
318.96  
82.50

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**Merchants  
& Medical**  
Credit Corporation, Inc.

6324 Taylor Drive  
Flint, MI 48507-4680  
(810) 239-3030



74-3471724

365484

11/30/24

\*\*\*82.50

**PAY** EIGHTY-TWO AND 50/100 DOLLARS

55058  
STARKE COUNTY EMS  
53 E MOUND ST  
KNOX IN 46534

TRUST ACCOUNT  
VOID AFTER 90 DAYS  
MERCHANTS & MEDICAL CREDIT CORP.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MP  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MP  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈ 365484⑈ ⑆072403473⑆ 01388310547⑈

THIS CHECK HAS VARIOUS SECURITY FEATURES INCLUDING COLORED BACKGROUND AND MICROPRINTING



**Merchants  
& Medical**  
Credit Corporation, Inc.

6324 Taylor Drive  
Flint, MI 48507-4680  
(810) 239-3030

**Huntington**

74-347724

365073

10/31/24

\*\*\*318.96

**PAY** THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN AND 96/100 DOLLARS

55058  
STARKE COUNTY EMS  
53 E MOUND ST  
KNOX IN 46534

TRUST ACCOUNT  
VOID AFTER 90 DAYS  
MERCHANTS & MEDICAL CREDIT CORP.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MP**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE **MP**

⑈ 365073⑈ ⑆ 072403473⑆ 01388310547⑈



**JONATHAN R O'HARA**  
**IOLTA TRUST ACCOUNT**  
 1304 Vale Park Rd  
 Valparaiso, IN 46383

**JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.**  
 Indianapolis, IN 46277  
 www.chase.com  
 20-1740

36260

**One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One and 91/100 Dollars**

**PAY  
 TO THE  
 ORDER  
 OF**

Starke County E.M.S.  
 P O Box 353  
 Knox, IN 46534

DATE

AMOUNT

November 21, 2024

\$1,961.91

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈036260⑈ ⑆074000010⑆

827963380⑈

## **December 2024 Monthly Highway Report**

### **Winter Operations**

We are moving into our winter operations for the season. Mother nature is definitely throwing colder weather and snow at us earlier than last year. We are ready for whatever she brings our way. The trucks have been winterized and we have the salt shed loaded and ready to go. We also have an extra stock pile of salt that is ready to be mixed when needed. While we are waiting for the plowing season to begin we have begun working on building the new road on 800 E. S/O Toto Road. It is progressing nicely, but will take some time to be completed. As well as the new construction of this roadway the drivers have been out in their areas keeping up with patching, wash-outs, and brush clean up.

### **Sign Man Vehicle Purchase Request**

Last winter the ambulance that the sign man used had been taken out of operations due to transmission failure and other issues that were going on. That was an old ambulance that we received retired from the EMS Department many years ago. Since then, the sign man has been working out of a pick-up truck. I would like to get that pick-up back in our normal fleet for daily operations and purchase a used ambulance for the sign man to start using again. I have two quotes for you to review. I am not asking for any additional funding; this purchase would come from my LRS appropriation from budget year 2025.

### **Culvert Purchase**

I would like to purchase culverts and with the \$10,000 restriction on purchases the highway department has I will need to get approval for that purchase. We are getting our inventory ready for culvert replacements in 2025 and I have a few sizes in which I only have one or two pipes lefts. I would like to purchase 36" and 48" culverts to stockpile for the start of the season in the spring. I have brought a quote from Debco for you to review which will be presented tonight at the council meeting as well.

18448 County Road 9 Lester Prairie, MN 55354

(888) 785-3375

**\$25,000**

Plus Taxes & Licensing

## 2010 Ford F-450 4x4 SD Lifeline USED Ambulance For Sale #Ankeny 69523



<b>YEAR:</b>	2010
<b>MAKE:</b>	Lifeline
<b>BODY STYLE:</b>	Super Duty
<b>MILEAGE:</b>	211,366
<b>CHASSIS:</b>	Ford F450
<b>CONDITION:</b>	Used
<b>PRICE:</b>	\$0
<b>HEADROOM:</b>	72"
<b>ENGINE:</b>	6.7L Diesel
<b>EXTERIOR COLOR:</b>	Red
<b>STOCK NUMBER:</b>	#Ankeny 69523
<b>VEHICLE TYPE:</b>	Ambulance
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Lester Prairie, MN

### Vehicle Overview

2013 Ford F-450 4x4 SD Lifeline USED Ambulance For Sale #Ankeny 69523

### Features & Options

- ✓ 4x4
- ✓ Air Conditioning
- ✓ Air Ride Suspension
- ✓ Cab Sun Visor
- ✓ Cruise Control
- ✓ Custom Interior Cabinet Design
- ✓ Diesel
- ✓ Inverter
- ✓ Opticom
- ✓ Rear Chevrons
- ✓ Rearward Attendant Seat
- ✓ Stair Chair Bracket w/Strap
- ✓ Transmission - Automatic
- ✓ Whelen 4500 Light Bars
- ✓ Zico Bottle Lift

### Vehicle Location



Dave Cole said they would take \$15,000.  
northcentralambulance.com

Jim

We have this 1997 7.3 diesel used med tech – it only has about 30,000 miles.

We are asking \$ 20,000.00 for it.

Thank you  
Dave





## Regarding Bridge #137

on 300<sup>E</sup> going into  
Industr. Park

**When we applied for the bridge construction in 2018 we were awarded 1.2 Million in Federal funds. You can receive additional local funds if they are available at the time of construction. This can vary from year to year as to what is available due to other projects and inflation. Our bridge went to letting and bid were open 12/11/2024. INDOT does the bid opening and makes their recommendations on the lowest bidder. We received that letter on 12/11/2024. Superior Construction Co, Inc came in as the lowest bidder at \$2,169,942.22. At this time INDOT does not have any extra local funding to put towards this project. The counties remaining portion will be \$969,942.22. We will need to send back the Recommendation letter for this company to proceed with the project. At the time of sending this letter to INDOT there is no extra local funding available. That's not to say it couldn't change between now and then. INDOT just wants us to be aware of what we may need to pay if funds aren't available before we proceed forward with the project.**

*Scheduled to start Constr. in spring*





## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N955  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 234-5142  
FAX: (317) 232-1499

**Eric Holcomb, Governor**  
**Joe McGuinness, Commissioner**

February 7, 2020

Mr. Stephen Ritzler  
Starke County  
53 E Mound  
Knox, IN 46534

RE: Starke County Bridge #137

Congratulations! Your community has been awarded \$1,280,000.00 in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) construction and inspection funds for the project listed above for state fiscal year 2025. INDOT will be awarding funding for the other phases of your project at a later date. With these funds, you join Governor Eric Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) as we build and improve Indiana's infrastructure. Please understand that award amounts (not Grants) are contingent upon funding availability through Congressional Appropriations.

The FHWA funds, which are administered by INDOT, may be used for funding up to 80% of the construction and inspection of your project. This reimbursement funding cannot exceed 80% of the total project cost. In addition, you will be required to submit your 20% match before Notice to proceed will be given to the contractor. If your project is being funded with Safety Funds, your match contribution will be 10%. The awarded amount is the Approved Project Allocation for the project so please keep your project's original scope within its budget.

You will be assigned an INDOT LPA Project Manager who will be required to maintain a schedule to demonstrate your willingness to complete your project in a timely manner or the funding for your project may be withdrawn. The steps to start your project are as follows:

1. Designation Number (1902814) has been assigned by the district to your project.
2. You need to contact your District Program Director to schedule an Early Coordination Meeting within 30 days of receipt of this letter. {Breanne Freese} is your contact and can be reached at 219-325-7493
3. You are required to send quarterly reports to the district reporting progress on the development of your project.

**Application Information**

Application ID: 12445

Project Type: New Project

Application Status: Accepted for Consideration

Status Update Date: 12/16/2019

**Safety Information**

**Safety Information**

Posted Speed (In MPH)	45
Current Number of Lanes	2
Current Roadway Width (feet)	24.20

If the last three years are not available please provide the last three years that are available

Year	# of Fatalities/Injuries	# of Property Damage
2018	1	2
2017	0	2
2016	0	0

**Scheduling and Funding**

**Estimated Project Scheduling and Funding Information**

*Special Note: The budget and schedule provided in the application and financial commitment letter must be the schedule and budget used in the required quarterly reports. Adjustments to that information must be justified and approved by INDOT before it may be changed. Totals and Anticipated Award % Split are calculated when the application is saved.*

Phase	Requesting Funds For (MM/YYYY)	Total Project Cost	Existing Federal Funds (If Applicable)	Federal Funds Being Requested for this Application	Local Funds	Anticipated Awarded % Split
Preliminary Engineering	07/2020	\$175,000.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$35,000.00	80.00/20.00
Right of Way	03/2021	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00	80.00/20.00
Utility	03/2021	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	80.00/20.00
Railroad		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Construction	07/2024	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$300,000.00	80.00/20.00
Construction Inspection	07/2024	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00	\$20,000.00	80.00/20.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,850,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,480,000.00</b>	<b>\$370,000.00</b>	

**Justification**

**Justification**

Purpose for the project (Explain the deficiency of the pavement if this is a pavement project)

The purpose of this project is to replace and widen the bridge. Three elements are rated 5 or less and are deteriorating rapidly, based on recent inspection reports. The Substructure is rated a 4 and the Deck and Superstructure are rated at a 5. The deck is also not wide enough to accommodate the truck traffic that uses 300E to enter the industrial park. The Substructure is in poor condition and deteriorating rapidly. The piles are exposed, rebar is rusted, and the concrete is generally deteriorating.



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.*

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204

(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

**Eric J. Holcomb**  
Governor

**Brian C. Rockensuess**  
Commissioner

December 11, 2024

### **VIA E-MAIL**

Victoria Chessor  
Starke County EMA Director  
3835 E 250 N  
Knox, Indiana, 46534  
[v.chessor@starke.in.gov](mailto:v.chessor@starke.in.gov)

Re: Inspection Summary/Return To Compliance Letter

Dear Ms. Chessor:

On December 9, 2024, a representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Land Quality, conducted an inspection of the Starke County Highway Department, located at 3835 E 250 N Knox, Indiana. This inspection was conducted pursuant to IC 13-14-2-2. For your information, and in accordance with IC 13-14-5, a summary of the inspection is provided below:

Type of Inspection:	Complaint Follow-up
Results of Inspection:	Violations observed during the September 3, 2024, inspection are being returned to compliance. Please see the attached inspection report for additional information.

Please direct any response to this letter and any questions to me at (317) 601-5377 or [MMatzen@idem.in.gov](mailto:MMatzen@idem.in.gov). Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Molly Matzen, Environmental Manager  
Industrial Waste Compliance Section  
Compliance Branch  
Office of Land Quality

cc: Starke County Health Department



Visit [on.IN.gov/survey](http://on.IN.gov/survey) or scan the QR code to provide feedback.

*We appreciate your input!*



Republic dumpsters. Ms. Chessor forwarded IDEM staff the waste manifest for the final load of sand disposal (*See attached documents*). After the sand had been removed, the facility laid gravel down along the north and east side of the pug mix pile (*See Photo Log – photos 3, 4, and 5*). Ms. Chessor informed IDEM staff that the hole dug on the east side of the pug mix pile from removing a fluid release near the hookup pipe on the pug mixing machine had been filled with sand and gravel.

The pug mix pile was smaller than what was observed during the October 15, 2024, follow-up inspection as the facility is using the mix on the roads. As of now, the facility is importing pug mix and placing it in a pile east of the old pug mix pile. In the center of the smaller pug mix pile is a puddle of rainwater from the recent weather event (*photo 2*). Ms. Chessor informed IDEM staff that the area west of the pug mix pile had been cleaned up as well (*photo 1*).

IDEM staff inspected the northwest side of the property to observe the booms in the ditch (*photos 6 and 7*). The facility stated to IDEM staff that they still have not observed any oil in the booms and will change them as necessary. The water in the ditch appeared to be transparent with no oily sheen.

For future reference, to report an environmental emergency, call IDEM's 24-Hour Emergency Spill Line toll free at (888) 233-7745 or (317) 233-7745. All spills require a spill response, regardless of reportability. The inspection ended with an exit interview.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Violations regarding improper fluid management are being returned to compliance. IDEM recommends continuing housekeeping practices.

*Note (10-15-24): IDEM staff observed the fluid release north of the pug mix machine to be dug out and sand placed in the water accumulated around the pug asphalt pile for absorption.*

Required Action: Immediately clean-up, remove, and contain all spills and contaminated soil/debris resulting from spills and releases. Remove at least six (6) inches below visible contamination. Dispose of all waste and contaminated soil/debris in a state permitted municipal solid waste landfill. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, submit a written response to IDEM, documenting proper disposal of the remediated waste as well as plans to prevent future contamination.

**Status Update: RETURNED TO COMPLIANCE. The facility has remediated the fluid release observed during the September 3, 2024, complaint inspection.**



**Photo 4**

**Facility Name: Starke County  
Highway Department**

**Photographer: Molly Matzen**

**Date: December 9, 2024**

**Others Present: Victoria Chessor (Facility),  
Location & Description: South view of gravel  
laid down.**



**Photo 5**

**Facility Name: Starke County  
Highway Department**

**Photographer: Molly Matzen**

**Date: December 9, 2024**

**Others Present: Victoria Chessor (Facility),  
Location & Description: East side of pug mix  
pile.**



**Photo 6**

**Facility Name: Starke County  
Highway Department**

**Photographer: Molly Matzen**

**Date: December 9, 2024**

**Others Present: Victoria Chessor (Facility),  
Location & Description: Boom placed on the  
northwest side of property.**



# NON-HAZARDOUS SPECIAL WASTE & ASBESTOS MANIFEST

If waste is asbestos waste, complete Sections I, II, III and IV  
If waste is NOT asbestos waste, complete Sections I, II and III

## I. GENERATOR (Generator completes Ia-r)

a. Generator's US EPA ID Number		b. Manifest Document Number		c. Page 1 of 1	
d. Generator's Name and Location: Starke County Highway 3835 E 250 N Knox, IN 46534 f. Phone: 574-772-3011			e. Generator's Mailing Address: TRUX ACCT# 1000 3835 E 250 N Knox, IN 46534 g. Phone: 574-772-3011		
If owner of the generating facility differs from the generator, provide:			i. Owner's Phone No.:		
h. Owner's Name:			i. Owner's Phone No.:		
j. Waste Profile #	k. Exp. Date	l. Waste Shipping Name and Description	m. Containers No.	n. Total Quantity	o. Unit Wt/Vol
47142413751	09/13/2025	Sand with AE-150			
GENERATOR'S CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above named material is not a hazardous waste as defined by 40 CFR 261 or any applicable state law, has been properly described, classified and packaged, and is in proper condition for transportation according to applicable regulations; AND, if this waste is a treatment residue of a previously restricted hazardous waste subject to the Land Disposal Restrictions. I certify and warrant that the waste has been treated in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 268 and is no longer a hazardous waste as defined by 40 CFR 261.					
p. Generator Authorized Agent Name (Print) Jessica White			q. Signature <i>J. White</i>		r. Date 10-28-2024

## II. TRANSPORTER (Generator completes IIa-b and Transporter completes IIc-e)

a. Transporter's Name and Address: Republic Services - Key Waste 15469 State Road 17 Culver, IN 46511 b. Phone: 574-842-4719		
c. Driver Name (Print) x Clayton	d. Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	e. Date 10-28-24

## III. DESTINATION (Generator complete IIIa-c and Destination Site completes III d-g)

a. Disposal Facility and Site Address: County Line Landfill 7922 N Old US Hwy 31 Argos, IN 46501 b. Phone: 574-223-9610		c. US EPA Number 25-3	d. Discrepancy Indication Space:
I hereby certify that the above named material has been accepted and to the best of my knowledge the foregoing is true and accurate.			
e. Name of Authorized Agent (Print)	f. Signature	g. Date	

## IV. ASBESTOS (Generator completes IVa-f and Operator complete IVg-i)

a. Operator's Name and Address:		c. Responsible Agency Name and Address:	
b. Phone:		d. Phone:	
e. Special Handling Instructions and Additional Information:			
f. <input type="checkbox"/> Friable <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Friable <input type="checkbox"/> Both % Friable % Non-Friable			
OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATION: I hereby declare that the contents of this consignment are fully and accurately described above by proper shipping name and are classified, packed, marked and labeled and are in all respects in proper condition for transport by highway according to applicable international and national governmental regulations.			
g. Operator's Name and Title (Print)		h. Signature	
		i. Date	
*Operator refers to the company which owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises the facility being demolished or renovated, or the demolition or renovation operation or both			

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## Matzen, Molly

**From:** Matzen, Molly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 4:27 PM  
**To:** Victoria Chessor  
**Cc:** Eudaly, Mary Ann  
**Subject:** RE: Starke County

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your patience. Based on the information provided by the Starke County Highway Department to the Office of Land Quality (OLQ), and included in the September 3, 2024, Industrial Waste Compliance inspection report (VFC #8369784), the spilled material is not a listed or a characteristic hazardous waste and is therefore considered a solid waste. An appropriate spill response consists of containing and removing the spilled materials to at least six inches below visible contamination and disposing of the contaminated soil in a state permitted municipal solid waste landfill. Confirmation testing of the soils below the area of removal may be done to confirm removal of the materials but is not required.

This report was also forwarded to the Office of Water Quality (OWQ), Storm Water Section, for their consideration. Information on Stormwater Permitting may be found here: [Stormwater Permitting](#). Questions regarding drinking water or groundwater should be directed to OWQ, a list of contacts can be found here: [OWQ Contacts](#).

Best,



Molly Matzen  
Environmental Manager, Industrial Waste Section

(317) 601-5377 • [MMatzen@idem.in.gov](mailto:MMatzen@idem.in.gov)



[www.idem.in.gov](http://www.idem.in.gov)



Scan the QR code to leave your feedback.

**We appreciate your input!**

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**From:** Victoria Chessor <[V.Chessor@starke.in.gov](mailto:V.Chessor@starke.in.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 1:39 PM





Todd Jackson  
Chief

North Judson Wayne Township Fire Department  
209 N. Luken St. North Judson IN 46366  
(574) 896-3340

Nathan Henning  
Assistant Chief

To: Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council Members  
Regarding: Funding request to purchase 8 new 7/800MHz radios  
Request: \$19,029.76

North Judson Wayne Township Volunteer Fire Dept. is requesting \$19,029.76 to purchase 8 new EF Johnson/Kenwood VP5430 handheld 7/800MHz Radios.

NJFD's current radio inventory consist of the 8 Motorola radios from the EMA grant the county received several years ago. The rest of our inventory consist of 23 Motorola XTS5000 radios. 4 of these radios are not operable and are used as parts radios to keep the rest of the radios semi-operational. 17 of our firefighters are using these radios and we keep the remaining 2 spare radios at the station in case someone needs to grab a radio as they run out of the station to respond to a call.

The Motorola XTS5000 radios were commercially released in 2004. They were expected to have a 12-year market life but were discontinued after only 9 years in 2013. The last software/firmware update to support these radios was released in 2006. Replacement/repair parts were produced for these radios for 5 years and discontinued in 2018. NJFD has not been able to have any of these radios repaired in the last several years do to not being able to find parts.

NJFD's current radio budget from the Town of North Judson is not enough to purchase even 1 radio during the year. As with most government entities, unused funds are not able to be rolled over into a new year. NJFD uses the radio budget we receive to keep the VFH pagers our firefighters all carry updated to current software, operational and occasionally we have to purchase a new pager if one breaks or is damaged. These funds are also used to keep all our truck radios updated and operational.

NJFD has been applying for grants when we can but have not been successful as radio grants rarely come available. We would like to move to updated, more modern radios but funding to do so is not available.

If supported and approved by Starke County Commissioners and Starke County Council, NJFD would immediately order the new radios from Bartronics, Inc. out of Chesterton, IN. NJFD would also use the \$5,000 that was approved by the county earlier in 2024 to purchase an additional 2 radios for a total of 10 new radios. Bartronics would receive the radios and program them to the county's current programming platform. NJFD would hope to have these new radios in house and in service by the end of 2024 or very early in 2025. This will allow NJFD to replace 10 of the worst condition radios that our firefighters are currently carrying.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support of the Firefighters of Starke County and the North Judson Wayne Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Jackson', is written over a white background.

Todd Jackson

209 N Luken Street  
North Judson, IN 46366



112 S. 12th Street  
 Chesterton, IN 46304  
 (800) 814-9484 -- (219) 929-4277  
 Fax: (219) 926-9708  
 2wayfm@netnitco.net

# Estimate

DATE	ESTIMATE #
11/20/2024	2024- 7396A

NAME / ADDRESS
North Judson VFD ATT: Joe Leszek 310 Lane Street North Judson, IN 46366

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	COST	TOTAL
VP5430F2	Quote: EF Johnson / Kenwood VP5430 Hand held radios  Frequency 7/800 MHz Series VP5430, Housing Black, Model Options Immersion, Antenna KRA-36K 7/800 MHz Stubby Battery RKNBL2-LiP 4000mAh Protocol Analog FM, Protocol P25 System P25 Phase 1 Trunking Channels 1024 Ch Encryption ARC4/ DES	8	1,889.99	15,119.92
KMC-70M	Kenwood KMC-70M Microphone with Active Noise Reduction. 2 - PF keys, and Emergency Button. Works with KENWOOD VP8000 handheld radio.	8	149.90	1,199.20
KSC-52BK	Kenwood 110V Rapid Rate Charger, single unit. Charger specific for the L2 and L3 battery.	8	78.83	630.64
Radio Program	Radio Programming: Program radio template, get State ID's and check, each	8	100.00	800.00
2990600013	2-Year Extended Warranty, Viking. Gives a total of 5 year coverage for radio. Accessories / Batteries are one year.	8	160.00	1,280.00

Thanks for this opportunity to offer you this quote !	<i>This quote is good for 30 days from the date of this estimate.</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,029.76</b>
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WORK PERFORMED AT:

TO: STARK COUNTY  
5435 SR 5 EAST  
ALCOKE @ STARK, IN 400

574-772-7641

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR WORK ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OUR BID NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED**

12x32 ADDITION

- \* SET LVL6 POST AND PEARLINGS
  - \* INSTALL SINGLE DICH TRUSSES WITH PEARLINGS
  - \* FRAME IN E WEST WALL FOR 9x7 OVERHEAD DOOR
  - \* INSTALL COLOR MATCHED WALL METAL AND ROOF
  - \* INSTALL SOFIT / FACIA
  - \* POUR 4" CONCRETE FLOOR TIED TO EXISTING BUILDING
  - INTERIOR
  - \* INSTALL WIRING FOR PROPER AMOUNT OF 110V OUTLETS AND ONE 220V
  - \* INSTALL 3- LED LIGHTS WITH SWITCHES
  - \* INSTALL R-19 ROLLED INSULATION TO WALLS AND CEILING
  - \* INSTALL METAL SIDING TO ALL WALLS AND CEILING AND 5/8" DOORS
  - \* CUT OUT AND FRAME EXISTING WALL FOR 5 DOX 72 RATIO DOOR
  - \* INSTALL NEW 50 X 72 RATIO DOOR
  - \* INSTALL 9 X 7 INSULATED OVERHEAD DOOR AND OPENER
  - FIX ORIGINAL BUILDING
  - \* INSTALL NEW 32' 5" BROW OUTLET AND NEW CORNER
  - \* INSTALL NEW LED EXTERIOR LIGHT
- LABOR, MATERIALS, DISPOSAL, PERMITS 47912.00  
23956.00 DOWN  
23956.00 (AFTER COMPLETION)

All Material is guaranteed to be as specified, and the above work was performed in accordance with the drawings and specifications provided for the above work and was completed in a substantial workmanlike manner for the agreed sum of Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve and 00/100 Dollars (\$ 47912.00).

This is a  Partial  Full invoice due and payable by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

in accordance with our  Agreement  Proposal No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Loeck construction & excavating LLC  
 11817 E 300 N Plymouth IN, 46563  
 Date: 5/2/24

Project Title: Starke Co. coroners office  
 Project Description: Garage addition



	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
<b>Materials</b>	12ft x 30ft garage addition, 4in concrete with matching metal siding and roof. Install electrical wiring and lights, install sliding door on connecting wall.			14,630
<b>Labor</b>				\$12,000
<b>Permit</b>				N/A
			Subtotal	\$26,630.0
				\$0.00
			Total	\$26,630.0

Invoice Number: 041924-1 C



**8 x 10 Walk-In Mortuary Morgue Cooler by American Mortuary** **\$12,388.00**

Door Location: Centered on 10' Side  
 Door Hinge Location: No Preference  
 Upgrade Door Width: No Upgrade (36" Door)  
 Compressor: No Upsize Needed. I understand that a maximum 95-degree ambient temperature is allowed on the included compressor.  
 Add Mortuary Lift System: Add HD 1000 Lift System (No Scale)  
 Add Mortuary Racks: 3-Tier Side Load  
 Add Storage Boards: HD Mortuary Plastic Storage Boards (3-Pack)  
 Add Floor & Ramp: ✓  
 Terms of Service: I am aware that provided shipping dates are per our current lead time and are subject to change. I am also aware that due to volatility of raw material costs, prices may change at any time, and American Mortuary Coolers will notify me prior to shipping of any price change.  
 Shipping: All cooler shipping costs are estimated and subject to change depending on geographical location. I have called to verify exact shipping costs prior to checkout.



**3-Tier Side Loading American Mortuary Rack Model 3TSL** **\$1,679.00**



**HD Mortuary Plastic Storage Board (Set of 3)** **\$506.75**



**Powered Scissor Lift System HD 1000 MAX Multi-Directional Top** **\$5,602.00**  
 No Scale



**Add Floor & Ramp** **\$2,303.00**  
 checked

Subtotal - 5 items **\$22,478.75**

Shipping ⓘ **\$1,305.00**

**Total** **USD \$23,783.75**

## Mobi Medical Supply Company

[https://medical-stretchers.com/45-mortuary-coolers?srsltid=AfmBOoryWSM56ag1LLxPIMKERHbaERRj3tjdiuYidlxCzvZ7boZ\\_Dpy](https://medical-stretchers.com/45-mortuary-coolers?srsltid=AfmBOoryWSM56ag1LLxPIMKERHbaERRj3tjdiuYidlxCzvZ7boZ_Dpy)

They have a 6-body system.

<https://medical-stretchers.com/mortuary-coolers/284-multi-bay-vault-morgue-coolers.html#/92-multi-bay-morgue-cooler-options-6-bay-morgue-cooler>

Here's a photo, price is \$25,745.00



### Multi Bay | Vault Morgue Coolers

Model: MBMC

**\$25,745.00**

FINANCE AS LOW AS  
**\$710 / mo**  
CLERK TO APPLY



Mobimedical's Vault Style Coolers come in a variety of configurations from 2 to 10+ and feature individual doors and telescoping slides with trays for convenient and easy to access storage. Tray sizes are available in 23", 27" and 30" and these cooler come standard with an easy to clean stainless steel front.

Price includes 23" stainless steel body trays.



Looks like it comes with body trays, but you have to buy the carts.

## Vischer Funeral Supplies

<https://www.vischerfuneralsupplies.com/products/forensics/coolers/multi-bay-vault-morgue-coolers/>

6 bay, 27 inch wide: \$25,095.00

6 bay, 23 inch wide: \$25,799.00 (no idea why narrower is more!)

