

**ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS  
December 31, 2009**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with Dan Bridegroom and Kathy Norem present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

**RE: STARKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 9 am with the Healy Group accompanied by a CIGNA representative; and Brian Liechty with T.C.U.

**RE: JAIL FLOODING**

The meeting recessed so the commissioners could go to the jail and the prosecutor's office to view damage from the intentional flooding of cell block B by inmates on December 30, 2009. The commissioners talked to Officer Freddie Baker and Detective Bill Dulin, Jailer Skyler Ellinger and Prosecutor Julianne Havens and her staff.

**RE: STARKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE CONTINUED**

The Great West representative and Healy representatives discussed the changes requested by the commissioners from their original quote. Kathy Norem has gone over the figures and finds that the savings is not the \$250,000 that was presented. Incorrect census figures were used, so the difference was approximately \$70,000 and with the additional changes, 6.7% would be added to make the difference between G.W. and C.L.I.C. only about \$54,000.

Kathy also found out that this is a self funded plan, not fully insured like we have now. The quote was not presented this way in the meeting held with Great Western and the Healy Group. They explained that this is a "hybrid" self-funded plan and therefore not as risky to the county. Questions were posed to Great Western, the Healy Group and Brian Liechty from both the Commissioners and their attorney, Martin Lucas, regarding different aspects of the two plans. It was determined that if the county went with the hybrid self-funded plan, it would require the council to approve this before the commissioners could sign a contract.

Great Western asked for a week to make more changes and present it to the commissioners next week. The commissioners asked that they come to the joint Council and Commissioner meeting on 1-18-10 at 5 pm and that Brian Liechty should also attend.

**IN RE: PHASE II SOFTWARE CERTIFICATION**

Rhonda Milner, Assessor, appeared before the board concerning the Phase II Software Certification. She and County Attorney, Martin Lucas, are recommending that the county sign a contract with Chris Broughton and Associates as the vendor. They narrowed it down to Broughton and G.N.A. and felt that Broughton would be their first choice. Kathy Norem moved to accept this recommendation seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

**IN RE: FLOODING AT COUNTY JAIL**

Kathy Norem moved to declare the flooding at the jail an emergency seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes. Serve Pro was called by Carl Goodrich. They are the same company that handled the aftermath of the fire at the jail.

**IN RE: UPGRADE TO E-911 PHONES PER EMBARQ**

Dan Bridegroom talked to Kevin from Allstar before the meeting, and he stated that he sees no reason for the over \$7,000 expenditure to upgrade the E-911 phones. He said that there is a patch that would cost \$50 per phone that would allow the dispatcher to transfer calls to other county offices, but the commissioners do not see a need for that.

**IN RE: SECURITY AT HIGHWAY GARAGE**

Dan Bridegroom spoke to three different counties regarding their security systems at their highway garages. Steve Siddall related to Dan that the day of the first snow, 12-23-09,

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there were two sets of car tire tracks to the gas pumps, but no access to the pumps. Evidently they have keys to the gate but not the pumps. Steve has a quote for a security system with cameras at a cost of \$795.57 from CDW-G. Kathy Norem moved for Steve to install this security system seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

The commissioners asked Deputy Auditor Dona Hoban to send out a memo to all departments to get their gate openers to the highway department immediately to be registered. The request had been sent out 12-22-09 and only the EMS and the Starke County Community Corrections have taken their openers to be checked. The code will be changed soon and the holders of openers who have not been checked will not have access at that time. Per Dan Bridegroom, they are to be notified one last time before this happens. (Dona did the second memo and sent it to the commissioners for approval.)

**IN RE: E.M.S. CERTIFICATIONS**

Kathy Norem reported that you can verify E.M.S. certifications on the internet. She searched a few of the E.M.S. employees and found that the Assistant E.M.S. Director, had his certification revoked 10-2-08. The commissioners are very upset about this and asked Randy Abbey to be called to the meeting.

Randy was questioned about his assistant and related that he told Randy he was late getting his papers in. Kathy Norem stopped him and advised Randy that the commissioners know that the E.M.S. assistant director has not been certified since 2008, and asked what it is that the E.M.S. assistant director does and why is he paid overtime pay every paycheck. There was much discussion regarding this problem and the fact that the commissioners have had to talk to Randy numerous times about revenue going down the last two years with expenses going up.

The commissioners' concern about his lack of management and the expenses being out of line such as paying the son of two E.M.S. employees \$35 to mow a very small area at the North Judson E.M.S. base totaling \$660 this year and \$440 to mow another small area at the Knox Base. They also asked why he continually allows full time people overtime when he was instructed to use part time people. It was also brought to Randy's attention that an E.M.T. who has not worked since November 2008 still has keys and uniforms. Randy stated that he had no idea who had keys since no one ever kept track of that.

Kathy Norem stated that the E.M.S./E.M.A. management is one of the biggest source of complaints she receives. Dan Bridegroom stated that he saw a rig parked at a restaurant for two hours, running, when it was 60 degrees outside. They both feel he is not performing as a manager and is not being cooperative with the new C.E.O. of Starke Memorial Hospital. He is generally uncooperative and uncommunicative and is doing nothing to make things better and they are not happy with his performance.

There being no further business to come before the board Kathy Norem moved to adjourn seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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NOT PRESENT

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Mark Milo, Member

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Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

**January 4, 2010**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Kathy Norem moved to approve the November 30, 2009 minutes seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes (1 abstaining-MM).

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Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes for the December 4<sup>th</sup> executive session seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes. Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes for the December 4<sup>th</sup> special session seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup> regular meeting seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup> special session seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes (1 abstaining-MM).

**IN RE: PAYROLL CLAIMS**

Kathy Norem moved to approve the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, payroll but still feels that the E.M.S. overtime does not appear to be well controlled. Mark Milo feels that there is a problem with someone being on the payroll and somewhere else at the same time and he will pursue it. Dan Bridegroom feels the same as Mark and would like to see how they can control when a person sits in a meeting during work hours. Dan Bridegroom seconded Kathy's motion and it passed with 3 ayes (MM with reservations).

**IN RE: REORGANIZATION**

Kathy Norem moved to keep Dan Bridegroom president, herself vice-president, Mark Milo as member and Martin Lucas as attorney seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: E.M.S.**

Mary Lynn Ritchie reported receipts from O'Hara Collections in the amount of \$185.65 and from the Clerk of the Circuit Court in the amount of \$783.53.

Mary Lynn also reported that for the year they collected \$606,716.69 and that was with approximately 150 less runs as they are doing less transfers. She also informed the commissioners that any portion of Medicare or Medicaid that is not paid has to be written off.

There will be a meeting regarding E.M.S. services at the hospital in the conference room at 6:00 pm on Thursday. They may have to move the meeting if the conference room is not big enough.

**IN RE: LEVELS OF SNOW EMERGENCIES**

There was discussion on the posting of Level I, II, and III regarding road conditions and F.E.M.A. Mark Milo suggested that this past weekend's snow could be a Level I in the northeast part of the county, if there was one foot of snow in the northeast part of the county it could be a Level II.

**IN RE: HIGHWAY**

Steve Siddall, Highway Superintendent, informed the commissioners that he had been getting calls all week to plow the Chesapeake golf course road. Steve said that there is no documentation that the subdivision has been accepted by the county and that it is still posted as private. Steve said that the callers told him they would be coming to a meeting and demanding that the county plow it. Steve reported that the county had quit plowing it because it was not on the road inventory.

INDOT has announced a call for bridge projects and the county will be making an application for bridges #9, 62 and 156. All three qualify for federal funding through this program.

Steve also reported that there were no incidents regarding plowing over the weekend. The commissioners asked Steve to watch for funerals in order to make sure the roads to rural cemeteries were cleared for that funeral.

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Steve asked the commissioners if he was supposed to work on the Community Corrections vehicle and the commissioners informed him that he is as it is a county vehicle.

Everyone is to log mileage on all vehicles and turn it into the highway department for the new computer system to keep track of maintenance, etc., on all county vehicles.

**IN RE: COMMISSIONERS' SALE/CERTIFICATE SALE**

Joe Edwards with S.R.I. appeared before the commissioners to discuss a commissioners' certificate sale. Joe explained the process to the commissioners and informed them that there are 106 properties that can be sold at a commissioners' sale or the commissioners can just sell the certificates. The law allows us to lower the prices for these two sales.

Joe also discussed using the internet for the sale. The contract price is cheaper if done over the internet as they don't have to physically be here to conduct the sale.

The certificate sale puts the burden on the buyer to do the research instead of the commissioners. With a certificate sale, the purchaser only has to wait 120 days to take title as long as all the legal work is done.

Adjoining property owners could be contacted that might be interested in purchasing the properties.

The commissioners will need to consider a resolution to have a certificate sale and then to consider whether or not they want to do a regular certificate sale or an internet certificate sale. If someone redeems their property on a certificate sale, every penny of the taxes has to be paid in order to redeem. Kathy Norem moved to table any decision until the next meeting seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND THE MISDEMEANANT FUND**

The commissioners discussed whether or not the ordinance passed regarding the misdemeanor fund was to start with the money already in the fund, or if it should begin with the next draw. The current money was received in August of 2009 and to be used for jail expenses. The council passed an ordinance at their December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 meeting allowing the community corrections to use half of the fund for misdemeanants, four months after the money was received. Community Corrections were at the Auditor's office requesting whether or not they could use the money to hire someone part time, thinking they could use the existing money. The commissioners will discuss with the council whether their intentions were meant for the existing money or for future monies.

**IN RE: HAMLET PROJECT**

Van Janovic and Charles Weaver submitted a certificate of substantial completion for the water line extension portion of the Hamlet Project. Kathy Norem moved to have Dan Bridegroom sign the certificate seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: PHASE II CERTIFICATION CONTRACT**

Rhonda Milner, County Assessor, presented the contract for the Phase II Certification for a software vendor. Bob Smith is Starke County's project manager. Mark Milo moved to approve Chris Broughton and Associates for the Phase II Project Certification seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

**IN RE: NEW SQUAD CARS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Oscar Cowen talked about his department needing new cars. He said that the last couple of years they have gone with the state list. He has a proposal regarding leasing squad cars. He gave the commissioners some information on this and informed them that he was going to look into it further. The leases are for 60 months and are lease to own.

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**IN RE: ROUND LAKE CEMETERY PROPERTY LINES**

Ray Short informed the commissioners that the Round Lake Cemetery had purchased more property and that the property line is actually cut into by the county road. He wants to make sure they have 20 feet from the center of the road as he knows they can't move the pavement. Officially it would be 10 feet off the existing blacktop. He wants to make sure that it is established before they begin work on the new part of the cemetery.

The commissioners would like Steve Siddall to look at this and report back to the commissioners.

**IN RE: REORGANIZATION CONTINUED**

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Bill Schacht to the Starke County Drainage Board for 1 3 year term seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to keep the same contacts—Kathy Norem for the jail, Bass Lake Beach and Campground, Mark Milo for the courthouse and annex and Dan Bridegroom for the Highway Department—seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint the three commissioners to the finance board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Kathy Norem to the Economic Development Board seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Kathy Norem and Bev Fraine and appoint John Simmons all to the K.I.R.P.C. board seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to appoint Mark Milo to the Arrowhead Board seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Dan Bridegroom moved to appoint Kathy Norem to the Child Protection Board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Clyde Ritchie to the Planning Commission board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Lee Nagai to the Planning Commission board. Motion died for lack of a second.

Kathy Norem moved to appoint Don White to the Planning Commission Board seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Dan Bridegroom as the commissioner representative on the Planning Commission board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Gordon Ritchie as the Veterans' Service Officer seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Sheri Bartoli and to appoint Bob Troike to fulfill Don White's term to the Planning Commission Board seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Brenda Stanojevich and appoint Deborah C. Hansen to the Health Board seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to appoint Kim Land to the Starke County Library Board seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

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Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Harry Singleton to the Aviation Board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to appoint Ted Hayes to fulfill Dr. Browne's term and to reappoint Ben Bennett and Sandy Hansen to the Hospital Community Board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to appoint Pat Zobrist to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Motion died for lack of a second. Kathy Norem moved to appoint Wilkus Minix. Motion died for lack of a second. Dan Bridegroom moved to appoint Marv Peters to the ABC Board seconded by Mark Milo with 2 ayes (1 abstaining-KN).

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Dan Anderson to the Solid Waste Board if he still wants it and if he doesn't want it, to appoint Kurt Simpkins seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to appoint Charles R. Ratliff to the City Planning Commission seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Tim Brettin and Kenny Wallace to the Wage Commission seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Ron Simoni as a level 2 appointment to the P.T.A.B.O.A. board seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to reappoint Ed Hasnerl to the P.T.A.B.O.A. board seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

Mark Milo moved to reappoint Kathy Norem to the L.E.P.C. Board, the Emergency Management Board and the F.E.M.A. Board with Dan Bridegroom as proxy to all three seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

The Visitor's Board appointments will be done at the next meeting as will the third B.Z.A. appointment.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mark Milo moved to adjourn seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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Mark Milo, Member

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners