

# ATTN: THIS IS A DRAFT--NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 Mark Milo absent, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

## **IN RE: HAMLET GROUNDBREAKING**

Dan Bridegroom thanked all the people present who had attended the Hamlet Groundbreaking, and spoke of the importance of the occasion and the benefits to the county and its residents.

## **IN RE: MINUTES**

May 18<sup>th</sup> minutes are pending corrections to be made. Kathy Norem moved to have the May 18<sup>th</sup> minutes revised and will submit revisions by e-mail seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: PAYROLL AND VENDOR CLAIMS**

Kathy Norem moved to approve payroll claims seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the vendor claims seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: E.M.S./E.M.A.**

Mary Lynn Ritchie submitted the write offs in the amount of \$4,903.60. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

She submitted two checks—one in the amount of \$210.59 from the collection agency, O'Hara, and one in the amount of \$25.00 from the county clerk for small claims.

Mary Lynn also submitted a notice being put out regarding the ambulance transfers for E.M.S. for the commissioners' review.

She also submitted a list of transfers that occurred from 7-1-08 through 12-31-08 that showed over \$135,000 in collections was received from this and a list of emergency calls from Medic 5 (Koontz Lake area) for the same period.

Kathy Norem asked if there had been an emergency call last week when all the ambulances were on a call—one being a transfer. Randy believes they were all 911 calls as the transfer ambulance was in for repairs, but he will check to see for sure. (Randy returned later to the meeting and stated that they were indeed ALL 911 calls—no transfers.)

Mary Lynn submitted a packet received from Golden Living Center which included a transfer agreement. Kathy Norem moved to have the attorney look everything over seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY**

Steve Siddall submitted a list of issues that, per the State Board of Accounts' 2007 audit, needed to be corrected, most of which have already been corrected. The software for the inventory will be installed tomorrow.

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The blank fuel keys are locked up at the highway and cannot be used until they are activated and these are under the control of the I.T. coordinator, Bob Smith. Until the card is activated, you can use any code—even the superintendent's, and it won't work until activated. Keeping them locked up at the garage is more practical and they are jointly controlled by the I.T. Dept. and the highway superintendent.

There will be no paving this year, but there will be 40 miles of chip and seal done.

The mowing has started, but they are not going to mow as often in order to reduce costs. They will be keeping a check to see how this is working out.

The highway department is still making its own pug.

The department also received the final critical report on Bridge 156 and Steve submitted it to the commissioners. This is the #1 bridge on our list for replacement and there is no federal money available until December for off system bridges.

Kathy Norem reported that she went throughout her area with Steve Siddall and Scott Dedloff to check on her roads that the drivers stated need repairs.

Dan Bridegroom is happy that the guys in the highway department are getting more involved and more interactive.

There are some highway uniforms that we are being charged for on people who are on leave, etc. It would be cheaper to have the uniforms returned and then when they come back to work, pay the \$11.00 to reinstate. That is a lot cheaper than paying the average \$7 per week per person. Kathy Norem moved to call those employees and have them return the uniforms until they are able to come back to work seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

Steve reported that he may want to adjust the highway clerk's hours to coincide with the changed hours of the highway drivers. They will be starting at 5 am and working to 1:30 pm in order to beat the heat.

The commissioners requested that Steve check to see what the price would be to get voice mail added to the phone at the highway department.

## **IN RE: STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Steve Siddall reported that INDOT is running behind on the stimulus packages. We should know in approximately 2 weeks.

Steve stated that we have received designated numbers that identify the project from start to finish, which is a good sign.

## **IN RE: TELECOMMUNICATION COST ANALYSIS**

Paul Pearson with Spy Glass Company explained their company and what they can do for the county. They audit phone bills for unnecessary charges. The Auditor reported that Steve Kasper with Communication Consultants already does this for us.

The commissioners asked him to submit a proposal to see if he would be more of a savings or more beneficial than what we currently have. He is to be back at the next meeting with this.

## **IN RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Pat Mitchell with Community Corrections submitted a grant agreement, EDS 25-10-052, for the 2010 funding, 7-1-09 thru 6-30-10. It is the annual renewal for the next year's portion of the two year grant. They need the commissioners' approval in order to send it to the state. Kathy Norem moved to approve seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

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Kathy Norem moved to transfer title of an old police vehicle to the community corrections for \$1 upon completion of road worthiness seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: EMS UNIFORMS**

Shawn Campbell with Cintas explained the issues that the commissioners had with the agreement for the uniforms. The commissioners requested that this be rewritten and submitted at the next meeting for their approval. Shawn need not be present. Kathy Norem stated that she wanted to carefully read the provisions before she signed.

## **IN RE: UNSAFE BUILDING ORDINANCE**

Bruce Williams, Planning Commission Administrator, submitted an unsafe building ordinance that the Planning Commission approved. He went over what the Planning Commission would like to see happen with this ordinance. It was the actual state code that they adopted. Kathy Norem prefers to table this as it was not on the agenda and Mark Milo is not here. Dan Bridegroom moved to table this until the next meeting when Mark Milo is here and the public knows it is on the agenda seconded by Kathy Norem with 2 ayes.

Martin Lucas, County Attorney, has a couple of drafting details that needed fixed. Bruce is to e-mail the ordinance to Mr. Lucas and he will make the change and e-mail it back.

## **IN RE: G.I.S. ACCESS**

Wightman Petrie Surveying requested access to our G.I.S. for purposes of mapping and layering. Dan Bridegroom moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: NORTH JUDSON TRAIL GRANT REQUEST**

Bob Aloi with Territorial Engineering came before the commissioners to request that the commissioners sponsor the application for the North Judson Trail Grant. The state requires that you have a local public agency to sign for them. There will be no cost to the county. They are submitting for a \$4 million grant. \$2.6 million is for construction. It will probably be a 2 year project. Kathy Norem moved to sponsor the grant application seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: CHANGES IN F.M.L.A. LAWS**

Michaelene J. Houston, County Auditor, informed the commissioners of changes to the F.M.L.A. laws that were discussed at the County Auditor's Conference. Dan Bridegroom moved to accept all the F.M.L.A. changes seconded by Kathy Norem with 2 ayes.

## **IN RE: ANIMAL CONTROL**

Dog control issues were discussed. Dan Bridegroom reported that he checked the claims that were paid. He would like more provisions in the contract if we are going to do this. He wants to know what happened to the dogs after they were picked up. Dan is going to contact the City of Knox for a copy of their ordinance and contract.

## **IN RE: STIMULUS PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Six proposals from consultant/engineer firms were received for the three stimulus projects the commissioners are hoping to do.

1. D.L.Z., South Bend, Indiana
2. Bonar Group, Plymouth, Indiana
3. Cripe Architecture and Engineers, Indianapolis, Indiana
4. H.W. Lochner, Inc., Highland, Indiana
5. Level 5 Engineering, Indianapolis, Indiana
6. Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

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Five of the six met the criteria. Cripe did not submit the required five copies and therefore does not qualify.

Kathy Norem moved to approve these subject to the attorney's approval of submission requirements and to return Cripe's as incomplete seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes. The names will be submitted to INDOT. Steve Siddall will call INDOT about the DBE certification.

## **IN RE: BASS LAKE ACCESSES**

The D.N.R. will be at the next meeting regarding lake accesses and riparian rights for Bass Lake property owners.

## **IN RE: REMOVAL OF DITCH OBSTRUCTION**

Rolland McVey sent a letter to the commissioners thanking them for removal of a ditch obstruction.

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

Ted Hayes asked the commissioners about the LaPorte Hospital/Clarion Hospital leasing the hospital from Starke County. Lifepointe and the hospital board have already accepted their proposal, but the commissioners and the council both have to approve.

Lifepointe also received a proposal from Memorial Hospital.

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

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Dan Bridegroom, President

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Kathy Norem, Vice President

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**ABSENT**  
Mark Milo, Member

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Michaelene J. Houston, Auditor and  
Secretary to the Commissioners