

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

June 15, 2009

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex meeting room, Knox, Indiana, with all members present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

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

James Kaminski, Attorney for LPRHS gave a presentation on what the transfer between Lifepoint Hospital and LPRHS will offer the residents of Starke County. Thor Thordarson and Linda Satoski from LPRHS also spoke.

There was a question from the audience asking if any services would be lost that Starke Memorial Hospital now offers. Everyone was told that none will be lost and that there would be additional services available for residents and that plans are being made to bring an OB-GYN, an ENT, a Cardiologist and a GI to this facility.

Kathy Norem moved to accept the lease with the 2009 addendum and the consent and Estoppel certificate seconded by Mark Milo with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: MINUTES**

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes for the May 18<sup>th</sup> minutes seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

Kathy Norem moved to approve the minutes for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 2 ayes (Mark Milo had not been present at this meeting.)

## **IN RE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

Cynthia Crump for the US Bureau of the Census asked the commissioners to partner with the Census Bureau to form a Complete Count Committee. This committee would be volunteers, assisted by Ms. Crump, to provide special awareness to residents about the census. The committee would encourage residents to fill out census forms and make sure that all residents understand how important it is for all residents to be counted.

Many grants and other federal programs are based on census figures, therefore the more accurate the count, the better it is for the county. The commissioners will take the information under advisement and get back with Ms. Crump.

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

Bruce Williams appeared before the board with the Unsafe Building Ordinance with two changes by the county attorney, Martin Lucas. Kathy Norem moved to approve the ordinance as presented seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: FRIENDS OF THE PARK-COURTHOUSE TOURS DURING HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Tony Radkiewicz from the Friends of the Park appeared before the board to ask permission to allow the courthouse tours, headed up by Jim Shilling, during the Harvest Festival August 28 through August 30, 2009. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

He also asked for permission to install a permanent meter box for the Harvest Festival on the corner of Mound and Main Streets. This will mean fewer cords across the streets. There would be no cost to the city or the county. Mark Milo moved to approve seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: D.N.R. AND RIPARIAN RIGHTS AT BASS LAKE**

Officer Tom Torsell from the D.N.R. explained to the public what the ground rules are for riparian rights. Riparian rights go with a document for a property, such as a deed,

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

abstract, etc., that has been recorded. They can be given to someone else, again by a recorded document.

If there is an issue between property owners, they must call the D.N.R., who will ask for the property owners to produce their deeds to see if it states what rights they have that were given to them by the legal document. If they cannot come to an agreement, then the mediation process starts. Information is sent by the D.N.R. to the Division of Water. If no agreement is reached, then it is forwarded on to an administrative law judge. If no agreement, then it is sent to the Natural Resources Committee and if no agreement is reached, then the parties must take the issues to circuit court.

Speakers from the public were: Susan Zona, Bill Oliver, Janet Sanders, Clyde Haniford, Robert Gromala, Jack Stvan, Nancy Pahs, Herb Herdina, Rosemary Rose, Debbie Bauer, Roger Huntington, Don Rush, and Jeff Cambe.

County Attorney Martin Lucas also spoke regarding issues with riparian rights. There are no riparian rights with an easement unless there is a recorded document.

Dan Bridegroom stated that he would like to continue to enforce the 9-17-2000 ordinance regarding lake easements, and to try to work out the Williams Street issues. Kathy Norem believes we should follow the ordinance of 2000, but feels there are valid issues with Williams Street and adjoining property owners. Mark Milo stated that there are some "usage issues" with a couple of public access sites, but nothing monumental and he also supports the 2000 ordinance.

Dan Bridegroom moved to leave the 9-17-2000 ordinance as it stands, enforce the practices of the past commissioners and deal with issues on a one to one basis rather than the whole lake seconded by Mark Milo with 2 ayes 1 nay (KN).

## **IN RE: COMMUNICATION AUDIT**

Paul Pearson for Spyglass Company appeared before the county with the presentation to audit all communication costs, internet services and data sharing. There is no cost for the audit, only if the commissioners want them to pursue reimbursement. Kathy Norem pointed out that Steve Kasper with Communication Consultants does all of his own search, but Spyglass will require the Auditor's office to pull two months worth of claims for them to audit, therefore there would be manpower cost to the county for Spyglass to obtain the information.

Mark Milo moved to sign the contract with Spyglass for the audit seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: UNIFORMS FOR E.M.S.**

The commissioners discussed the contract with Cintas for uniforms for EMS. The commissioners instructed Randy Abbey to have some kind of policy that the employees sign that the uniforms must be returned with a copy on file in the Auditor's Office. The employees will be paying the cost of the rental. Mark Milo moved to sign the contract seconded by Kathy Norem with 3 ayes.

## **IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY**

The commissioners discussed the shortage of funding for the county attorney. Kathy Norem stated that she had looked over the statements from Martin Lucas and the majority of the charges are calls from Kathy and Dan. She also stated that the meetings are way too long and the attorney is paid for that time.

The commissioners discussed limiting public speaking to 2 to 3 minutes.

Kathy Norem moved to request an additional of \$4,000 for attorney fees seconded by Dan Bridegroom with 3 ayes.

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

**IN RE: APPEAL OF AN UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM**

The appeal for John Norris' unemployment was discussed. Mark Milo feels that the state should appeal it as they are the ones that denied it. The county has 18 days to appeal and Dan Bridegroom and Kathy Norem feel the county should appeal, as does the county attorney. Dan Bridegroom moved to proceed with the appeal seconded by Kathy Norem with 2 ayes 1 nay (MM).

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

---

Dan Bridegroom, President

---

Kathy Norem, Vice President

---

Mark Milo, Member

---

Dona Hoban, Auditor Pro Tem

DRAFT