

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in regular session at 6:00PM in the Annex Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Kent Danford, Kathy Norem and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

Due to the County Council meeting running late, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner President Kent Danford at 6:55PM.

**RE: BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR REQUEST TO HAVE COUNTY PURCHASE A TAX CERTIFICATE PROPERTY; APPROVAL OF PUBLIC NUISANCE & UNSAFE BUILDING ORDINANCE**

County Building Administrator Terry Stephenson appeared before the Board to request the County obtain the property owned by Lynda & Anna Kolasa, located at 11475 E. SR8, Culver. He advised the Planning Commission has a lien on that property totaling \$16,900.00 as it was an unsafe building that they had demolished. He advised since there was a lien on the property the parcel was removed from the Commissioners' Certificate Sale. Attorney Lucas advised he had discussed this issue with that department and it is possible for the County to obtain ownership of the property but noted it was a long, slow process. He advised when a property does not sell at a regular tax sale, which in this case the tax sale was held in September, 2015, then the property is considered to be as if the Board of Commissioners bought it and then they in turn can issue those unsold tax sale properties for sale at a Commissioner Certificate Sale. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve Attorney Lucas to proceed with the process to obtain County ownership of the Kolasa property. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

In regard to the proposed Public Nuisance Ordinance, President Danford asked for the ordinance issue to be tabled at this time as it is too broad of an ordinance. Attorney Lucas advised he would like to study the proposed ordinance, talk to stakeholders and then possibly make suggestions of changes to the ordinance. Administrator Stephenson advised they had the proposed ordinance reviewed by a State Attorney. President Danford advised he will meet with Attorney Lucas, review the proposal and to see if they could narrow the impact of the ordinance since it appears to be very broad at this time. Attorney Lucas also advised he would like to learn of specific complaints that they have received that are being addressed in the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Norem made a motion to table the proposed ordinance until their January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

**RE: PARK BOARD REQUEST**

Skyler Ellinger, President of the County's Park Board, appeared before the Commissioners with a request for approval of a price quote they had received. The price quote from Allsop Construction was to handle an ongoing problem with beavers at the Starke County Forest. Mr. Ellinger advised that company had handled a similar problem with beavers at Potato Creek and the procedure has worked for the last five years. Mr. Ellinger advised the amount of the price quote is \$3,302.50 and it would be paid out of the Starke County Forest Fund. Commissioner Binkley made a motion to accept the price quote from Allsop Construction, in the amount of \$3,302.50. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Mr. Ellinger advised in regard to the Bass Lake Beach and Campground, the Park Board has come up with the definitions and differences between maintenance work and capital improvements. He noted the Park Board has rejected the claims submitted by Mr. Callahan that would have been applied to his annual rent and the Board will be sending him a letter advising him the annual rent will be due and payable in sixty days. Mr. Ellinger advised the next meeting of the Park Board will take place in March.

**RE: AUDITOR'S BUSINESS: MINUTES, PAYROLL CLAIM, VENDOR CLAIMS**

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Commissioner Binkley. The motion passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll claim docket for the pay period ending on December 19<sup>th</sup> with a pay date of December 23<sup>rd</sup> in the total gross amount of \$198,130.06. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the payroll claim docket for the pay period ending on December 5<sup>th</sup> with a pay date of December 11<sup>th</sup>, in the total gross amount of \$212,376.78. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. In regard to the vendor claims docket, Commissioner Binkley asked some questions in regard to a couple of highway department claims and Commissioner Norem advised of a correction on the expense of one of the claims. She also advised that the bond lease rental payment originally listed as \$369,000.00 had recently been corrected by the bond bank, US Bank that the correct lease rental amount due is actually \$538,000.00. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket with the corrected amount of the lease rental payment, making the total gross amount of the docket being \$872,122.06. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

## **IN OTHER BUSINESS**

President Danford advised they had received the agreement from the Skillman Corporation in regard to their services in the renovating of the old County Jail and the County Courthouse to being in the spring of 2016, and to be completed in approximately six to eight months. The estimated cost of the project is projected to be \$3.5-\$4.0 million dollars. Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the Skillman Agreement. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

President Danford advised they had been presented with the Bridge Books for the Bridge # 1 project. He signed all three copies of the Bridge# 1 book.

Commissioner Norem advised there has been an issue with the pay of some of the election workers who worked the November election and who did not receive their election pay in a timely manner. She advised the workers are entitled to timely pay and should not be treated any different than a normal county employee. She noted there seems to be a delay in the Clerk submitting the pay information to the Auditor's Office and then a delay in the claim fitting into the normal schedule of the payment of vendor claims. Commissioner Norem asked that the next time election workers are to be paid, which will be after the May and November elections in 2016, if a special claims docket could be established and submitted to the Board at their second meeting in May and November for approval. Commissioner Norem stated since the Clerk has a listing of the election workers scheduled she could start the docket prior to the election and then make any correction to that listing if a worker did not show for work. She noted if the claim is not able to be submitted by the Board's second monthly meeting they will address the workers' payment at that meeting. Commissioner Norem made a motion to handle the election workers' pay in a special claims docket. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Binkley and passed with all ayes. Commissioner Norem inquired as to why once the pay checks are completed they go back to the Clerk for disbursement. The Clerk advised that way she uses the Election Department's postage in the mailing of the paychecks.

Auditor Chaffins advised they had received a request from the MALCON, Malinowski Consulting Company, asking to formally withdraw his proposal to provide Title IVD consulting services to the Clerk's Office. The Clerk advised they will continue to complete the monthly Title IVD reporting in house.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bernadette Manuel inquired about the Public Nuisance Ordinance and stated if that ordinance was already in affect her son, who was stationed in Iraq, would have been ticketed for not moving his vehicle which had been parked during the time of his deployment. President Danford advised the proposed ordinance had been tabled for now.

Coroner Danny Hoffer inquired as to the location of his office since it will not be located in its current location, the Old Jail Garage, once the renovations begin. The Coroner advised he needs to have a secure location in which to store the Coroner's vehicle. Commissioner Norem advised it has not yet been decided as to where the office will be moved to but it will be worked out prior to the renovations to the garage area.

County Veterans Officer Mark Gourley stated he has completed his first six months of employment and this current month has been his busiest thus far.

There being no further public comment and no further business, Commissioner Norem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

**DECEMBER 21, 2015**

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Kent Danford, President

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Kathryn Norem, Vice President

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Donald Binkley

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Katherine Chaffins, County Auditor  
& Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners