

**MONDAY, MAY 18, 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 Kathy Norem, Kent Danford and Donald Binkley present and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Kent Danford.

**RE: EMS DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS COVERAGE;  
EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Assistant EMS Director, Travis Clary, and Clerk MaryLynn Richie appeared before the Board to discuss the special events fee that was established at the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The fee for EMS coverage at a special event was set at \$500.00. EMS2 Clary advised they had just covered a rodeo event over a two day period and the check from the rodeo was made payable to the County. He thought the EMS employees would have been paid directly by the rodeo.

Commissioner Norem advised the payment was correct as the EMS employees used County equipment and the money was receipted into the County General Fund, as regular EMS revenue. She noted Auditor Chaffins had inquired with the SBOA as to the proper handling of these special events and that was the procedure they advised. The pay for the employees who worked the special event will be paid through the regular payroll process. Clerk Richie noted it could have a negative impact on their budget though as these special events weren't taken into consideration when the budget was approved.

Commissioner Norem stated if there were several events and sufficient additional revenue then the EMS Department could ask for an additional appropriation to cover their additional payroll expenses. Commissioner Norem advised the other thing the SBOA noted was the fee for the EMS coverage at these special events should be set by the County Council and not by the Board of Commissioners. She suggested the EMS Department submit their proposal to the County Council at their next meeting. Clerk Richie noted the \$500.00 fee charged to the rodeo was not even enough to cover the payroll expense for their workers during the two day event. Attorney Lucas advised their proposal should also include at least a thirty day notice with approval subject to scheduling and also it should state the EMS Department should reserve the right to decline their request in the event it is not a properly sanctioned event. Clerk Richie advised they will be reconsidering working these special events since another possibility would be if they were to contract with a private EMS service instead of the County.

EMS2 Clary noted the EMS Director's vehicle is being painted on Thursday, May 21, to a one tone vehicle and will look similar to the IT Director's vehicle.

Commissioner Norem advised this was EMS Week and read aloud a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners honoring the employees of the EMS Department, dispatchers, first responders, and firefighters. The proclamation was signed and sealed by the Board of Commissioners.

**COMPLAINT IN ROLLING MEADOW DUNES SUBDIVISION**

Dave Bridegroom and another area resident appeared before the Board in regard to a complaint of activity taking place on a vacant road in the back of the Rolling Meadow Dunes Subdivision, on Rosewood Blvd, just off CR700E. They stated it is the site of partying, and a lot of garbage is always dumped there including an old meth lab. They noted there has not been a new house built in that area in the last fifteen years. There was a discussion in regard to closing that road, or blocking off the road. Commissioner Norem stated Commissioner Binkley will speak with the Sheriff in regard to having the County Police patrol that area and Commissioner Danford will speak with Highway Department Superintendent Ritzler in regard to locating the property owners of the surrounding property to see if they could help out in this situation. Commissioner Norem also suggested Carrie at Solid Waste be notified to investigate the garbage at that location to see who it belongs to.

**COURTHOUSE CUSTODIAN REPLACEMENT NAMED**

President Danford advised the Board of Commissioners concurred along with Judge Hall that the person chosen to replace Carl Goodrich as the Courthouse Custodian will be Mike Gerhart. Commissioner Norem advised they are offering him the position with a beginning pay of \$33,750.00 per year, with a possible \$1,000.00 increase after 90 days and an additional \$1,000.00 increase at the end of 6 months, both based on favorable job evaluations. Commissioner Norem stated Mr. Gerhart is a certified plumber licensed in the State of Indiana. Mr. Gerhart accepted the position and advised he will be giving his present employer a full two week notice, noting his first day to work with the County will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. President Danford advised Commissioner Norem is the Commissioner in charge of the Courthouse.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS**

**UPDATE ON COUNTY AUCTION**

Jim Coad advised he has received price quotes from Osinki Auctions and from D & N Auctions in regard to this summer's County Auction. He noted he also contacted Hanselman Auctions for a price quote also but they declined to make a quote. The Board reviewed the two price quotes and advised they would take it under consideration as the two quotes varied in the commission rate percentages, and the rates varied by the type of equipment being sold.

**STATUS OF COUNTY'S REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Commissioner Norem advised Auditor Chaffins and herself recently attended a meeting at the Knox City Hall in regard to the proposed creation of an additional Knox TIF. She advised the proposed TIF area would incorporate the Knox Industrial Park, and would also include some properties in the County, outside of the city limits. She advised it doing research in regard to TIF Districts Auditor Chaffins discovered the County had created a Redevelop Commission when the TIF Sysco District was first created but doesn't think it ever met again following its initial meeting. She also noted the TIF Sysco District is still active and minimal revenue is created from that TIF. County Attorney Marty Lucas gave a brief description of TIF Districts and EDA versus RDA areas. Commissioner Norem made a motion to have Attorney Lucas to look into the original County ordinance creating the RDC and if the County is in compliance; and outline a plan for the County to follow in regard to their TIF Districts. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

**COURTHOUSE TUCK POINTING PRICE QUOTES**

Commissioner Norem advised the Courthouse Custodian, Carl Goodrich, had contacted a couple of businesses for price quotes in regard to the tuck pointing of the County Courthouse. She advised the first price quote the County received was from Atlas and included other various masonry work and window painting for a total quote of \$180,998.00. She advised the other quote received was from Karr Tuck pointing and also included other work for a total quote of \$91,850.00. Commissioner Norem advised they didn't know if these two quotes were comparing apples to apples and felt since the County will be requiring other repair work to the Courthouse such as an electrical upgrade and redesigning the second floor office area, she thought it best to contract with a company such as Skillman and DLZ to write up the complete scope of the proposed projects and then bid it out. She noted the County would receive extra value by incorporating all the various repair projects together. She noted the County will be using two different revenue streams: the regular CREDIT Fund would pay for the expense of the tuck pointing project and the electrical upgrades; but the remodeling of the office area to accommodate the Prosecutor's Offices; and remodeling the old Jail to house County Corrections and the Probation Department would be paid from the Jail CREDIT Fund. She also noted there was approximately \$90,000.00 left over in the unspent contingency budget line item from the jail project. Commissioner Norem made a motion to have professionals handle all these proposed remodeling projects, and then bid out with the projects structured to be completed simultaneously as a bid package. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

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

Commissioner Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norem. The motion passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the pay claim for the pay period ending on May 9, 2015 with a pay date of May 15, 2015 in the total gross amount of \$199,891.04. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the annual report of the Congressional Common School Fund stating the County Fund has a present principal balance of \$14,725.34 and interest of \$6,333.24. The annual report is required by the State. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Commissioner Norem made a motion to approve the vendor claims docket in the total gross amount of \$400,810.64. Commissioner Binkley seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins advised in regard to the Monthly Departmental Financial Reporting Ordinance all departments have once again submitted their reports timely and all are in balance. She also noted she will be out of the office from May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 21 as she will be attending the SBOA County Auditors' Conference in Indianapolis. She noted she will be back in her office Friday morning the 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be attending the Jail Dedication.

Commissioner Norem advised there will be a reception in honor of the retirement of Carl Goodrich, a forty year County employee. Carl's first day of County employment was November 22, 1974. She advised the Board of Commissioners are paying for two sheet cakes and will be discussing with department heads if the reception will be a carry in also.

In regard to the Jail Dedication, Commissioner Norem advised public tours will be held until everyone wanting to will be allowed a tour of the new facility. She will speak with the Sheriff in regard to being there until 6PM if need be. She noted the Dedication Ceremony will begin at Noon on Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and programs have been printed at Studio Printers. She advised scheduled are speakers Appeals Court Judge Patricia Riley and State Representative Jim Arnold. Also present will be the Sheriff's Posse, the American Legions' Color Guard, Lake County Pipes and Drums Band, and a motorcycle honor guard. She advised the Courthouse and Annex Building Offices will be closed from 11:30Am to 2:00PM to allow County employees to attend the program and tour the facility. She also noted they have hired a photographer to take random shots to capture the spirit of the event and also stage photos of the officials present. She advised the public is invited to attend the ceremony and tour the facility.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no public comment and no further business, Commissioner Binkley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norem seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

**MAY 18, 2015**

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Kent Danford, President

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Kathryn Norem

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Donald Binkley

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