

**REGULAR MEETING - MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

(This was the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting that was rescheduled due to bad weather.)

Those present: commissioners: John Haskell, Mark Lohide, and Steve Lyons, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the sheriff, Roy Leap, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

The meeting was opened by Roy who also led the pledge of allegiance.

**Reorganization**

Mark made a motion to nominate Steve as the president of the Board of Commissioners, seconded by John and the motion passed.

Mark made another motion to nominate John as vice-president, seconded by Steve and all agreed. Steve chaired the meeting.

John made a motion to reappoint Wil as the county attorney, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

The minutes of the previous meeting of December 30<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented on a motion by John, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

The claims were approved as presented on a motion by Mark, seconded by John and all agreed.

**#1 Keli Gabbard - Animal Shelter Vehicle**

Keli distributed the shelter "2013 in-take" report. She also stated that she had spoken to the council about a new vehicle. The Ford Ranger has a lot of problems.

There was a discussion about the need and what type of vehicle to purchase; a small van was suggested. Steve requested that she obtain some numbers on the cost of a vehicle. Keli was told to see if the vehicle is part of the state bid package. Steve said she would need to go to council for funding.

The commissioners discussed signs for the vehicles with Keli. She stated there are magnetic signs right now. They would like to see lettering with the telephone number.

**#2 Lester Moore - Employment**

Mr. Moore did not appear.

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#3 John Stafford - Property Complaint

Mr. Stafford had a complaint about the property owned by Duke League, near the top of Vevay hill. The property has been in a constant state of deterioration.

The commissioners requested that Bruce give the complaint letter to Mark Archer, the county building inspector, and then to advise Mark to be at the next commissioners' meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the number of complaints he has received and the action taken.

#4 Steve Leatherman - WTH Engineering - Information Sharing

Mr. Leatherman did not appear.

#5 Linda Elam - EERSD Board - Resignation

Linda distributed to the commissioners her resignation from the EERSD board. A discussion followed in reference to someone replacing her. Mark stated he would attend the EERSD board meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

#6 Connie Wallace - EMA

Connie spoke about the email she had sent to the commissioners concerning the wiring and damage to an air bag on the EMA truck.

Rewiring and the repairing of the air bag is \$1,600.00; she has \$1,000.00 in her budget and requested the commissioners approve the repairs and to appropriate the balance of \$600.00. After some discussion John made a motion to approve the repairs and to pay the extra \$600.00, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

She is requesting permission to seek a \$9,000.00 grant to purchase a warning siren for East Enterprise. The commissioners approved this by consensus. Mark suggested that a siren, maybe one a year, could be purchased for each small community in the county.

Connie stated that the sirens in Vevay and Patriot would be tested at noon on the first Wednesday of each month.

Connie suggested that the Code Red warning system be replaced by NIXLE. Code Red cost \$11,500.00 a year while NIXLE is \$7,290.00 yearly. NIXLE has more advantages; Twitter, Facebook, testing, etc than Code Red. The NIXLE system would be incorporated with the sheriff's department. John made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Connie advised the commissioners that she has recovered all but four radios. George Adams has one that she is trying

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Connie Wallace - EMA cont'd

to obtain. Wil stated he would send George a letter if Connie needed him to.

Connie is meeting with Rhonda Money of the Salvation Army on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 a.m. to see how the Salvation Army could better serve the county.

#7 Highway Department

Chris Clerkin, highway department superintendent, advised that State Road 156 is closed at the Grants Creek Bridge due to a 4' x 8' hole in the structure's floor.

He has the signs, "no trucks allowed" for Markland Pike and they should be installed next week.

Chris will be attending a bridge conference school on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chris and the highway department employees were complimented on a job well done in reference to the past snows.

#8 Other Business

1. *SIRPC Appointments:* Mark stated he would stay on the board. Elyssa Haskell, who was present, said that she would be willing to serve on this board to replace Ron Hocker. Mark made a motion to appoint Elyssa for this board, seconded by Steve and the motion passed, John abstained.
2. *Smith Bell and Clock - 2014 Contract:* Mark made a motion to approve the 2014 contract, seconded by John and all agreed.
3. *Covered Bridge Certification:* The commissioners signed the document. The county does not have any covered bridges.
4. *County Vehicle Policy:* Anyone in a county owned vehicle that is involved in an accident, where the county employee driver is at fault is covered up to \$5,000.00 in medical expenses.

Provided the vehicle is being used for county business when the accident occurs: after the \$5,000.00 is exhausted, the county employee is eligible for workers compensation. Non-employees in the vehicle may have coverage through the county liability policy. **Family members in the vehicle have no coverage beyond the \$5,000.00.**

Individuals on the volunteer written roster are covered, if driving or as passengers, up to the \$5,000.00. Volunteers are added to the county workers compensation policy. Provided the vehicle is being used for business

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Other Business cont'd

when the accident occurs, they have the same coverage as employees to cover additional medical cost.

John suggested volunteers sign a waiver to protect the county in case of an accident. Steve concurred. Will will prepare the waiver for the next commissioners' meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Roy stated that the sheriff's deputies are encouraged to drive their sheriff's department vehicle for a police presence in the county. Roy also mentioned that there is improved response time when an officer is called out for an emergency and has to take a child/children to a sitter before going on the call, if they are allowed to use the county vehicle to drop off the children on the way to the scene.

5. *Animal Control Ordinance/Schedule of Fees:* Mark had a question about how the money collected is handled. Gayle stated the fees collected are deposited into the county's general fund. Keli stated that donations are deposited in the animal shelter spay/neuter fund. Other items discussed: A. adoption and spay/neuter, B. Fees, C. Vicious dogs, D. Wording in the ordinance.

Mark made a motion to accept the ordinance, with wording changes, seconded by John and all agreed.

6. *Planning/Zoning Figures for 2013:* Gayle distributed the Planning/Zoning 2013 figures for the commissioners to review.
7. *Annex Generator Fence Bids:* There were 2 bids: Final Grade, (Tom Stowe), for \$3,350.00 and Lonnie Harris for \$3,687.02. Mark made a motion to accept the lowest bid, seconded by Steve and John voted "no". John stated the bids were too high. Connie Wallace has grant money to cover the cost.
8. *SEIRD Appointment to the Citizens' Advisory Board:* Sharon Hansel was re-appointed by consensus.
9. *Tourism Board Appointments:* There were 7 applications. The board has to have a political balance. The clerk's office will be contacted to verify the applicants' political affiliation. These were taken under advisement until the next meeting.
10. *Health Board Appointments:* John made a motion to reappoint Dr. Robert Findley and Edsel Detraz to the Health Department Board, seconded by Mark and all agreed. The Health Department Board will submit a recommendation to fill Dr. Willage's vacancy.
11. *Property Complaint:* Mark stated he had viewed the property in Fairview in reference to the junk in the yard. This property is near the Fairview Store and is in violation of the zoning junk ordinance. Mark Archer, county building inspection, is aware of this violation.
12. *Dispatch Room Temperature:* Sheriff Leap stated there is a problem with the room temperature being too high in the dispatch room at the jail. He is going to contact Lonnie Harris and Innovative Energy Solutions to see if a solution can be found.

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With no further business to come before the board, Mark made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Attest:

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Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor  
Switzerland County, Indiana