

REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

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

Those present: commissioners: Mark Lohide, Steve Lyons, and Josh South, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the commissioners assistant, Bruce Williams. The auditor, Gayle Rayles, was absent.

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

The minutes of the December 24th, December 28th, January 4th, and January 7th meetings were approved as presented on a motion by Josh, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

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

#1 Carolyn Miller – Cemetery Commission Annual Report

Carolyn gave the commissioners a copy of the annual report for the Cemetery Commission and spoke about the 2015 cemetery restoration work that was completed or mostly completed. She also thanked the sheriff for having trustees to do some of the work at the Cotton Cemetery and the Davis Cemetery. The commission board members were all reappointed at an earlier commissioners' meeting. There is currently \$10,435.41 in the Cemetery Fund.

#2 Highway Department

The brine application for the county roads was discussed. Steve gave Darrell information in reference to flag pole prices; for the memorial in the courthouse lawn.

Darrell is to contact Sandra Adams, of the Nurse Managed Clinic, in regards to installing "no smoking" signs.

#3 Jim Freeman – EMS Billing

Mr. Freeman had been contacted by Jeff Darling requesting information for his billing services. Mr. Freeman has been involved in several EMS startups and is willing to assist our county.

There was a long discussed covering the following topics:

1. Josh had met with Mr. Freeman about some billing questions.
2. An EMS director needs to be hired. Qualification would include but not be limited to: would need to be willing to work 2 24-hour shifts, hold a valid paramedic certification or may be able to obtain one in less than 30 days, preferred experience in running an EMS service, and a knowledge of the county.
3. If an ad is approved for the position, all applications and resumes must be turned into the auditor's office by noon on Thursday, January 28th. The EMS Advisory Board meets that evening. A commissioners' meeting is scheduled for February 1st. An executive meeting could be scheduled prior to the regular meeting to discuss and interview for the director position.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2**Jim Freeman – EMS Billing cont'd**

Other issues discussed were as follows:

- A. A supervising doctor for the EMS and a hospital
- B. The salary and benefits for a director, a salary ordinance will be needed.
- C. The recovery of startup costs for the fire departments.

Steve asked for a motion to approve a county-owned EMS service; Josh made the motion which was seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Steve also asked for a motion to approve the advertisement for an EMS director; Mark made the motion which was seconded by Josh and all agreed.

The commissioners agreed to have an executive session at 4:00 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on February 1st.

Jeff Darling stated that all of the fire departments are willing to help. Reimbursement for the expenses incurred by the fire departments for this project were discussed. Billing services and various costs for the EMS start-up were discussed. The commissioners stated they could not answer all questions today. Mark stated that he appreciated that a lot of people were willing to help and care about an ambulance service for our county.

Rosemary Bovard asked about the difference between an ALS and a BLS service. ALS stands for Advanced Life Support and BLS stands for Basic Life Support.

Glenn Scott suggested using Mr. Freeman's company for the billing services. Nothing further was discussed.

#4 Bryants Creek Parking Lot

Steve read a letter from John Kniola about a complaint of trash and litter at the Bryants Creek Boar Ramp parking lot. This property is owned by the federal government.

#5 County Payroll

Mark said he had received calls in reference to county employee pay check amounts. Nancy Craig, payroll clerk, told him that there are 27 pay days in 2016 instead of 26 so the paychecks looked like the employee was not making the correct annual salary. Also there was a small increase in the insurance premiums.

#6 Other Business

Sheriff Department: Mark wanted to thank the sheriff's department in reference to their quick assistance in helping him drive a bunch of cattle back into a field at Haskell Road and SR 56.

Courthouse roof repair: The needed repairs for the roof were discussed but no action was taken at this time.

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Other Business cont'd

JSSCSCC repairs: The needed repairs for the senior center were discussed and Bruce is to see about getting more bids for the work.

Florence Regional Sewer District board appointment: The commissioners had no changes to the Florence Sewer District board members.

East Enterprise Sewer District board appointments: The commissioners asked Bruce to check and see if Chris See is still on the board.

Food Pantry funds: Josh made a motion that any county food pantry fund be turned over to the TAX Manna Project, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Nurse Managed Clinic heat: Steve wants to wait and see if the split system that is being installed at the jail solves their heating and ac problems before it is put in anywhere else.

EMA reporting glitch: Tom Moore, EMA director, explained that the alert mistake that occurred on Monday at 5:30 a.m. was a voice dialing issue. Hopefully it is corrected now.

EMS loan: Steve spoke about information that was obtained from the recorder's office that showed that the Switzerland County EMS had a mortgage of \$100,000.00. Mary Lee Tolbert, of MainSource Bank, had called Steve and told him this is a line of credit and not a mortgage although the paperwork does say it is a mortgage. No money is currently owed.

EMS property: Steve also said that Wil had looked at the paperwork in reference to the Switzerland County EMS house and equipment that the county had supplied funding for and said that the county has no right to any of them.

Rosemary Bovard had a complaint about log truck driving on Markland Pike.

With no further business to come before the board, Mark made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana