

**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.

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

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of March 7<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented on a motion by Mark, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

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

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

Keli gave the 2015 animal shelter report. Josh asked about a recent incident and an old abandonment case. Keli explained what had happened. She and Tara Hite had made multiple runs to the area and the dog was not abandoned when they checked.

Keli was asked to explain what they consider an emergency for after hour calls. She said if a dog is a menace to people with a threat of biting someone it is an emergency; a dog running through a yard or in the trash is not an emergency.

There was a discussion on the vicious dog ordinance. Wil said there is a state law that makes a dog biting a human a crime. The law allows for compensation from the dog owner when a dog bites a human or any other animal except a dog. There has been a delay in writing our ordinance because Wil thought Ann Mulligan was going to get with him on suggestions as to the wording and he had waited to hear from her. She has decided not to make any suggestions. In the meantime, Josh had come up with wording that would require any dog that attacks humans or other domestic animals to be quarantined at the shelter. Ann Mulligan agreed that this would satisfy her request.

**#2 John Kniola - Bryants Creek Land Acquisition**

John said there is 13 acres on Bryants Creek that the state has offered the county at no cost. He gave a report on the condition of the property. John said it needs a one-time cleanup and that Sheriff Nathan Hughes has agreed to have inmates do the work. He suggested a dumpster be placed on the land. The Park Board voted to accept the acquisition as part of their park system and will do the maintenance going forward. Mark made a motion to acquire the property, seconded by Josh for discussion. The motion passed with a vote of 2 ayes and 1 nay (Josh). Josh said he was in favor of the idea but he would have liked to have had time to consider all of the consequences of the acquisition.

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**#3 Marty Hankins - Computers**

Marty came to inform the commissioners that some of the computers in the courthouse will soon need replaced. He said there is not enough memory and no room for more in 12 of the computers. There was a discussion on purchasing refurbished versus new units. The current computers are over seven years old. There is a total of 55 computers in the county including the courthouse.

**#4 Melissa Brush - Evans Hill Road**

The Brush's gave the commissioners handouts that included pictures of the water and slippage problems they are experiencing on their property. According to their explanation many of the problems have to do with the riprap the county placed on the hillside to shore up the road which has washed into Grants Creek, redirecting the natural flow of the creek and clogging culverts. The commissioners agreed to look into the problem and get back with them.

**#5 Eric Cole - 2016 YMCA Contract**

Eric presented the 2016 YMCA contract for the commissioners' approval. The contract is the same as last year for \$15,000.00. He had a printout of the usage which remains approximately the same as in years past. Josh made a motion to renew the contract for 2016, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

**#6 Highway Department**

Carla Armstrong, highway clerk, presented a 2014 Annual Report required by the State Board of Accounts for the commissioners to sign off on.

Darrell Keith, highway supervisor, was asked about the flag poles. They are installed. He was asked to bring a list of slippages to the next commissioners' meeting.

**#7 Other Business**

- a. Specs for the courthouse roof were not available. Mark made a motion to table this until a later date, seconded by Josh and all agreed.
- b. Temporary mowers: Darrell said they are to start mowing in May. A couple of the former temporary mowers were not interested in working this summer. He has several people who have asked about the job. He will have recommendations available for a later meeting.
- c. Ambulance Billing Service: Josh made a motion to accept the contract with Ambulance Billing Service, seconded by Mark and all agreed.
- d. Courthouse Landscape maintenance bids: The bids were as follows:
  1. Grassman Lawncare Unlimited \$6162.00
  2. Williams Lawncare \$5950.00
  3. McCreary Lawncare \$6075.00

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Other Business cont'dCourthouse Landscape maintenance bids cont'd:

Josh made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Williams Lawncare, seconded by Mark and all agreed. Another bid was discovered for this so Josh rescinded his previous motion.

Bid #4 was from Professional Cutting Service for \$5905.25. Mark made a motion to accept the new lowest bid, which was Professional Cutting Service, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

e. County property mowing bids: The bids were as follows:

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bullards                     | \$160.00/mowing |
| 2. McCreary Lawncare            | \$165.00/mowing |
| 3. Grassman Lawncare            | \$170.00/mowing |
| 4. Professional Cutting Service | \$153.50/mowing |

Mark made a motion to accept the lowest bid, which was from Professional Cutting Service, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

- f. Zoning Board make-up: Wil sited code 36-7-4-208 Local Area Planning Commission (7 members). A seven member board should consist of a representative from the Town of Vevay (J. Spilman) and Town of Patriot (F. Stave) plus representatives from the school corporation (N. Peters), the extension office (K. Weaver), the county council (M. Noblitt), the commissioners (R. Furnish), and the county surveyor (B. McAllister). Board of Zoning Appeals (5 members). This 5 member board should consist of county surveyor (B. McAllister), a representative from the Town of Vevay (R. Scudder) and the Town of Patriot (J. Leonard), plus representatives from the commissioners (J. Thompson) and the Planning Commission Board (F. Stave). Wil said that David Hickman is no longer interested in being the attorney for Planning & Zoning. He had been in contact with Lane Siekman from Ohio County and Pat Magrath from Jefferson County. Both have experience in planning and zoning matters. Pat is interested and Wil suggested he attend the next Planning & Zoning meeting to become familiar with the board.
- g. Codification: Josh asked where we are in the codification process. Wil has the recommendations from the company who reviewed our ordinances. He has found a few suggestions that need to be investigated regarding who suggested the original ordinance wording before approving any changes.
- h. Appraisal: Josh said the final appraisal is finished on the EMS building. We should be hearing something in a couple of days.

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With no further business to come before the board, Mark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor  
Switzerland County, Indiana