

**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, Jerry Monjar, and Josh South, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, the county attorney, Wil Goering, and the county auditor, Gayle Rayles. The commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams, was absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of January 17<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented on a motion by Mark, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

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**#1 Carolyn Miller – Cemetery Commission Report**

Carolyn passed out the 2016 Cemetery Commission report. Once approved, copies will go to the DNR and the state Historical Department. She reviewed the income and expenses and told the commissioners about education television filming work being done at the Quercus Grove Cemetery. The work was done with no expense to the county. Carolyn also highlighted the work done on the Zion Chapel Cemetery on Detour Road. Lewis Fritter has resigned from the board. Josh expressed the commissioners' appreciation for Lewis's service on the commission.

**#2 Aaron Bell – SISWD 2016 Annual Report**

Aaron gave the 2016 Southeastern Indian Solid Waste District annual report to the commissioners. He pointed out parts of the report that were significant; recycling continues to grow; Switzerland County was up 37% over 2015. Due to waste contamination caused by illegal dumping (animal carcasses) in containers and other items such as tires and furniture being left at some sites, the Milan and Cross Plains recycle centers have been closed.

**#4 Katie Collier – S.W.C.D. – 2016 Update**

Katie handed out the 2016 Soil and Water Conservation District update. She explained the assistance provided to the farmers. The annual dinner meeting will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**#5 Susan Craig – SIRPC – EERSD Public Meeting**

Susan explained that this was an East Enterprise Regional Sewer District public meeting regarding funding for mandated repairs to the system. EERSD had applied for a grant through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA). The county had made a \$625,000.00 commitment in order for them to get the grant; it was denied. Primarily because the rate study was in draft format and new rates had not been implemented. The rates will go from \$42.80 to \$58.00 per month. The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue was why the county just doesn't pay for the improvements since we receive riverboat revenue. The sewer board will reapply after the rate increase goes into effect. The next grant application will be in April. The commissioners signed the letter of intent for the \$625,000.00 commitment.

**REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2****#6 Mark Archer – Planning & Zoning**

Mark said there are no extra copies of the comprehensive plan available and was wondering if he could have 10 copies printed. The contents of the plan are also available on line at [www.switzerlandcounty.us](http://www.switzerlandcounty.us).

Mark told the commissioners that Switzerland County has the lowest fees in the area. They haven't been changed since sometime before 1996. Our new home permit is only \$140.00. In neighboring counties it ranges from \$400.00 to \$700.00. Mark is to come back with a rate study. Josh said we need a new comprehensive plan as well.

**#7 Dave Muncey – NMC Telephone System**

Dave said the problem with the voice dropout has been resolved. There are 2 computers in the health department causing the problem by over loading the network. Gayle is to contact Marty to determine what the computers are used for and a resolution to the problem.

He said the cabinet with the telephone equipment, which is needed in the NMC, should be for 24-port patch panel, be wall mounted, and be able to be locked so the clinic will pass future audits. The cost is \$650.46 plus \$2502.00 for labor if CenturyLink does the work. There was a discussion on where in the room the cabinet should be mounted. Dave is to tape off the location and Josh will discuss the location with the staff.

The issue of the NMC not being able to run credit cards was discussed. Marty Hankins, county IT, and Dave are to discuss this.

**#8 Highway Department**

Josh had a list of slips provided by Darrell Keith, highway supervisor. There are 18 slips total. All of them will need permits except 1 on Red Hog Pike which is not close to the creek. Pat Conner, of Janssen & Spaans, is to be contacted regarding the necessary permits. Most slips can be repaired by the county but Grants Creek will probably need to be bid out. Carla gave Josh information for him to work on a plan and budget.

A special meeting was planned for Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss slips and bridges.

Darrell recommended that the county go ahead and purchase the Caterpillar 120H grader. There was a discussion about having a live auction to sell the long-arm, old grader, conduit, and other various items currently housed at the highway garage.

**#9 Leo Rumschlag – Janssen & Spaans – Final 2016 Bridge Inspection Report**

Mr. Rumschlag mentioned that the Janssen and Spaans contract expires on April 30, 2018. He suggested starting the process for appointing them or their successor. He reviewed the final bridge report for 2016. The county has 12% of their bridges in need of replacement or serious repairs. Bridge #26 on Log Lick Road, which is slated for replacement, is in the 12%. Thirty Four percent of our bridges are functionally obsolete (mostly due to their width). There was a discussion on choosing engineers for Bridges #8 on Pendleton Run and #35 on Quercus Grove Road. Mr. Rumschlag suggested power washing any steel deck bridge annually to reduce corrosion. Janssen and Spaans will be returning in May for another inspection of the 6 bridges that are structurally deficient.

**REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 3****#10 Other Business**

Grease traps: The commissioners reviewed the 3 bids for replacing the grease trap at the senior center. Geiler's bid was \$4,995.00, EU was \$4,300.00, and Sedam was \$2,030.00. The commissioners will take these under advisement due to the large difference between the lowest and highest bids. Mark made a motion to table this until later, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

Mark is to speak with Dr. Findley about the trap in his office; it also needs work/replacement.

Clerk carpet quotes: Gayle Sullivan had received 2 quotes to replace the carpet in the clerk's office. The Flooring Gallery was the lowest with a bid of \$2,835.20 for the carpet plus \$650.00 for tile installation in the entry area and cove. Jerry made a motion to accept the quote, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Coolers: Josh said someone has interest in the coolers that were in the Markland Center for the food pantry. The Manna Project, which now does the food distribution, does not have room for them. In order to sell them they need to be declared as surplus equipment. Mark made a motion to declare them surplus, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

Radio: There was a brief discussion on the radio between the courthouse and the sheriff's department. The proposals were not available. Mark made a motion to table which was seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

Landscaping: Gayle explained that this year there will be spec sheets available for those wishing to bid on the 2017 landscaping maintenance. Bruce Williams will advertise in the local newspapers for this.

Spring cleanup: The commissioners agreed to once again participate in the countywide spring cleanup program. This is April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is in conjunction with the Town of Vevay. There will be dumpsters located out to the highway garage on McCreary's Ridge Road for county residents. Mark made a motion to participate in this program, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

Lights: There was a proposal with Light Tech to replace the 6 emergency back-up lights with exit signs that include flood lights for \$410.00. (These are in the courthouse.) Jerry made a motion to approve the lights, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Legislative update: Josh gave a report on his meeting with Rep. Houston, the author of the River Boat Bill (House Bill 1279). The bill eliminates the admissions tax the casinos are currently paying. Switzerland County receives approximately \$4.5 million in admissions tax annually. The proposal is to increase the wagering tax by 3% to help offset the loss. That would mean a decrease for Switzerland County of \$700,000.00 to \$800,000.00 annually. They would also like to eliminate the "held harmless" admissions tax.

Ambulance purchase: Jeff-Craig Fire Department has approached the county about buying 1 of their ambulances for \$20,000.00. There was a discussion regarding the purchase. Nadine Swift, SCER director, and Jerry are to do an inspection of it.

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**Other Business cont'd**

Town Hall meeting: Mark said he'd attended the Town Hall meeting which Randy Frye had here in the county. House Bill 1002, which proposes a gas tax increase of \$.10 per gallon to be used for roads and bridges, was of particular interest. They estimate it will cost the average driver \$4.00 more a month. Mark said he feels it would be \$8.00 a month or \$96.00 a year. If the money collected here stays here, he would support the bill. He also said Randy talked about road improvements to SR156 when the new river port project begins and there is a plan to review the previous SR101 project plans.

EERSD board opening: Debbie Vann said there is an EERSD board opening due to the death of James Miller. His wife, Chris, is interested in finishing his term. Debbie endorsed Mrs. Miller's appointment. The commissioners felt the position should be advertised.

With no further business to come before the board, Mark made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerry and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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