

JOINT MEETING

Monday, March 17, 2014, at 6:15 p.m.

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners and the Switzerland County Council met in public joint session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: John Haskell, Mark Lohide, and Steve Lyons, council: Tom Conroy, Jeff Darling, Terry Hall, Rachel Schuler, and Glenn Scott, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the sheriff, Roy Leap, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams. Steve Crabtree, Mike Jones, and council attorney, Cody Kendall, were absent.

The meeting was opened by Roy who also led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Steve Lyons chaired the meeting.

#1 Susan Craig and Kathy Kelly – SIRPC

Susan spoke about updates and passed out information that detailed Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission assisted grants from 1985 to 2013.

Topics that were covered:

1. Hazard mitigation plans need updated.
2. Partners with INDOT for data collection.
3. Community projects and planning assistance.
4. Owner occupied rehab grants of \$350,000.00, max grant amount. The county would need to match 10%.
5. Projects to keep disabled and senior citizens in their homes for a longer time.
6. Connie Wallace had a question about hazard mitigation plans.

There was no further discussion and no action was taken.

#2 Keith Penick, Larry Stewart, Doug Graff – East Enterprise Regional Sewer District

There was a long discussion, approximately 40 minutes, concerning financial problems, which is getting worse and other issues as follows:

1. Doug Graff was present and spoke about an engineering study that needs to be done at a cost of \$22,925.50.
2. Water infiltration is being fixed.
3. Doing an income study to be able to apply for grants was suggested by SIRPC.
4. In May a non-compliance notice was received due to ammonia test results being too high.
5. All options to fix the problem will be at a high cost.

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East Enterprise Regional Sewer District cont'd

6. There are fewer customers using the system; down from a maximum number of 202 to 156 at the present time. A large number do not pay.
7. Discussion about helping financially with operating funds or paying for an engineering study or both. (\$50,000.00 for operating funding and \$22,295.50 for a study.)
8. There are IDEM issues that need to be addressed.

Susan Craig of SIRPC explained funding grants to cover future construction/update expenses.

No decision was made as the council wanted to wait for a “regular” council meeting.

#3 Randy See – EMS

There was a discussion lasting approximately 45 minutes between Randy See, EMS board member, Marylee Tolbert, EMTs, the commissioners, and the council. Following are the issues that were discussed.

1. Casino revenue cut of 15%.
2. Four part-time employees being laid off as of March 1st.
3. Amount of runs are increasing; 2011 there were 1,488 runs and in 2013 there were 1,587 runs.
4. Collection rate is approximately 33%
5. There may more layoffs in the future.
6. EMT salaries.
7. Randy spoke about borrowing money from a bank to make payroll. (Personnel expenses are \$700,000.00 a year.)
8. Gayle said, based on wagering money the county has received, there is \$40,000.00 in casino revenue that is available from the April distribution that could be paid in advance. Tom made a motion to give the \$40,000.00 in advance of the April draw, seconded by Jeff and the motion carried with Glenn abstaining.
9. Randy said they are investigating the idea of merging the Jeff-Craig Fire Department and EMS. Umbaugh and Associates are coming in April for a discussion on this idea.
10. There were various comments from the public in attendance; pro and con.

#4 Chip and Seal

Mark Lohide provided the chip and seal forecast for 2014; 75 lane miles at a cost of \$561,561.00. No action was taken.

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Josh South invited council to attend a Vevay Town Council meeting on March 24th. He will make a motion to release the council from their commitment to pay \$32,000.00 a year for 10 years for the new water works facility.

With no further business to come before the session Jeff made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Steve Lyons, Commissioner

Mike Jones, Councilman

John Haskell, Commissioner

Tom Conroy, Councilman

Mark Lohide, Commissioner

Steve Crabtree, Councilman

Jeff Darling, Councilman

Terry Hall, Councilman

Rachel Schuler Councilwoman

Glenn Scott, Councilman

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