

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

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

Those present: council: Mike Bear, Lisa Fisher, Andy Haskell, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Welch, the chief deputy, Brian Morton, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles.

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

Elizabeth made a motion to nominate Glenn as council president, seconded by John and all agreed. Mike made a motion to nominate Elizabeth as vice-president of council, seconded by Lisa and all agreed. Mike welcomed the new council members: Andy and Lisa and Rachel for being re-elected.

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 9th were approved at the last meeting but unavailable for signatures so council signed them this time. The minutes of the December 14th meeting were approved on a motion by Mike, seconded by John and all agreed.

#1 Commissioner Josh South – Gaming Legislation Update

Josh came to give council an update on the fact that a new lobbyist was hired for the county as Lewis and Kappes, the previous lobbyist, does not do this type of work anymore. The commissioners hired Grounded in Grassroots with Marissa Lynch being the primary point of contact. The first bill has been assigned to committee and it has come from the Evansville area. There is going to be about 4 or 5 versions of the same bill to see which one is accepted. This will be House Bill 1279 and will go through the Public Policy Committee. The bill specifically addresses admissions tax. Some of the points of the bill are: it repeals flexible scheduling for riverboats, changes riverboat admissions to a percentage of the riverboat's adjusted gross receipts (AGR) instead of a flat rate, etc. This is a very significant bill for the future of our gaming revenue. The admissions tax has been attacked the last 3 or 4 years. Marissa is working with Gayle to compare Switzerland County before the gaming revenue and after the gaming revenue.

Marissa is going to meet with Mike Jones, the school superintendent, Town of Vevay, Historical Society, and other entities in the county; Glenn would like to meet with her also. Jon Bond is trying to get Ohio County to go with Marissa's company as well which will save our county money in fees. Glenn asked that all of the council members be on her email list for updates.

#2 Eric Cole – YMCA – Funding

Eric came to council for a money request as he was told to do in the past when the YMCA's funding was cut. He said they are wanting to do some upgrades to the facility; the 1st request is \$13,000.00 to change some of the lighting to LED's, the 2nd one is in order to be open 24 hours they need to make some upgrades which will cost about \$16,250.00, and the 3rd one is a request of a one-time stipend of \$40,000.00 to refurbish their maintenance fund that has been pretty much depleted. After some discussion Glenn asked Eric to stay for a decision later in the meeting when other funding requests will be discussed.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2**#2 Treasurer Vickie James – New Computers**

Vickie came requesting the funds to purchase 2 new computers as the ones that her and Stacey Penick are using are 8 years old and have problems. She can get new ones through Marty Hankins for \$750.00 each. The treasurer's office does not have any extra money to buy them with is why she is here asking. They are keeping the same monitors.

Elizabeth made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

#3 New Server

Gayle asked about a new server which is used by the auditor, treasurer and assessor for different programs and back up. The approximate cost is between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00. Josh South asked about the commissioners looking into this first. Glenn agreed to Josh's request.

#4 Other Business

Board appointments: **Economic Redevelopment** needs 2 appointments made by council. The current 2 members are Kevin Craig and Karen Miller. Jon Bond would like council to approve these 2 board members as he already has them bonded; these appointments should have been done in December. These are annual appointments. Elizabeth, Lisa, and Mike thought there should be term limits. Glenn opened the floor for nominations for Karen Miller's position; Mike made a motion to nominate Bernie Gaudin, seconded by Lisa and all agreed; for Kevin Craig's position; Lisa nominated Fred Steve, seconded by Mike and all agreed. Glenn asked Gayle to send a thank you letter to Karen and Kevin; Gayle suggested Jon Bond do this.

Mike nominated Andy, as it has to be a council member, to be on the **EMA** board, seconded by Lisa and the motion carried with Andy abstaining.

Mike made a motion for Lisa to be on the **Fire Chiefs** board, this also has to be a council member, seconded by Elizabeth and the motion carried with Lisa abstaining.

The **library** board appointment(s) was tabled due to a lack of information.

The **park board** appointments are for 4 years. There are no recommendations nor applicants for this board. This was tabled.

The **Workforce Redevelopment** board is Mike Busch who was just reappointed last year by the commissioners and this is a 3-year term.

John made a motion to reappoint Rachel as the council representative to the **School Endowment** board, seconded by Andy and the motion carried with Elizabeth, Mike, and Lisa voting no. Elizabeth nominated Jim Phipps for the 2nd position on the school endowment board, which was seconded by Lisa and the motion carried with Rachel, Andy and Glenn voting no.

The **Citizen's Advisory** board is appointed by the commissioners.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 3**Other Business cont'd****Board appointments cont'd**

As a council member needs to be appointed to the **SIRPC** board, Elizabeth said she would fill this position if no one else wants it. After some discussion, Elizabeth nominated Lisa for this board, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

Elizabeth said she would gladly continue to serve on the **SISWD** board and council agreed by consensus. This position also must be filled by a council member.

The **extension** board has their own board and election.

Glenn brought up about a council attorney. Elizabeth recommended McMillan and McMillan. Rachel said that advertising should be done for a new attorney since Cody Kendall couldn't be at very many meetings. Gayle said some county councils do not even have their own attorney. Gayle asked how far out to advertise for an attorney? Glenn said he would call Cody for an idea of whom to appoint. Gayle was told to advertise in Switzerland, Jefferson, and Ripley counties.

Sheriff's agreement: The council members signed the sheriff's agreement for 2017. The sheriff's salary is set by the state.

#5 Casino Revenue Grants

Gayle had given each council member what has been paid out since 2014 and it shows the requests versus what was approved for each year and what was requested this year.

The **SC After Prom** request was tabled as more information about their budget was needed.

The **Hoosier Theater** is requesting \$10,000.00. This was also tabled.

Gayle is to email any financial information etc. that she has for each entity to each council member.

The **Salvation Army** request is tabled/dropped until someone from the county can take it over from Bert and Debbie Allen as they have resigned.

The **Shop-With-A-Cop** program is requesting \$2,500.00. Mike made a motion to give them \$1,250.00 (same as last year), seconded by Andy and the motion carried.

Vevay Main Street is requesting \$10,000.00. Vickie Hinman provided each council member with a copy of their draft budget. This request was tabled.

Lisa made a motion to give the **Swiss Wine Festival** board \$7,500.00 (same as last year), seconded by Elizabeth and the motion carried with 3 voting no (Mike, John, and Andy).

The **Cemetery Board** is requesting \$10,000.00. This was also tabled due to more information.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 4**Casino Revenue Grants cont'd**

Hearthouse is requesting \$7,500.00. Rachel made a motion to approve the request for \$7,500.00 seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

LifeTime Resources is requesting \$15,000.00. Lisa made a motion to approve the \$15,000.00 request, seconded by Rachel and all approved.

SIRPC will be paid from the General Fund like it used to be as this amount is the same as dues.

Child Advocacy – Region 15 is requesting \$10,000.00. Elizabeth made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Andy and all agreed.

The **Safe Passage** request is tabled until further information is received.

#6 YMCA Financial Request

Glenn signed the 2017 YMCA contract on behalf of council.

This is the request for funds for the lighting upgrade, upgrades to allow them to be open 24/7, and maintenance money. They have been operating in the red since 2014. They have cut staff and made other deep cuts to help alleviate the costs. Lisa made a motion to approve the request of \$30,000.00 for the lighting upgrade and the 24/7 upgrades, which was seconded by Rachel. After some discussion, Glenn called for a vote; the motion passed with all in favor. Eric Cole, YMCA director, thanked council.

#7 Casino Revenue Percentages

Gayle needs to know how to distribute the revenue funds. A decision was not made when it was presented in November/December of 2016.

Rob Furnish, of the 4H Fair board, was present to give the council a financial update as they are one of the entities that receives casino revenue. Rob said the budget was for \$227,000.00 of income and they spent about \$250,000.00 in 2016.

After some discussion about some of the entities that receive casino revenue percentages, Glenn asked for a motion to leave the percentages the same as last time. Following more discussion Glenn made a motion to leave the percentages the same as 2016, seconded by Rachel; the motion carried with Mike voting no. Mike just thinks more needs to be cut somewhere.

Commissioner Josh South gave the council an update on some of the major expenses they will be facing this year: a couple of dump trucks, road maintenance (he's working on a 5-year plan), the tech building pay off and maintenance, asphalt application, 2 bridges, and there are currently 3 slips that must be dealt with.

East Enterprise Regional Sewer District did not get the grant they applied for. The project if for \$1.1 million. They are going to apply again.

A joint meeting with the commissioners is scheduled for March 8th after the regular council meeting. Susan Craig, of SIRPC, and the EERSD board should be in attendance and maybe Julie Berry of the engineering company. Glenn would like to see an IDEM representative attend also. Jon Bond should be present also concerning the tech building.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 5

With no further business to come before council, Mike made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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