

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, Andy Haskell, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Gary Welch, the chief deputy, Brian Morton, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Council woman, Lisa Fisher, was absent.

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by chief deputy, Brian Morton with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the August 9th, 2018 meetings were approved as presented on a motion by Elizabeth and seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

#1 School Endowment - By-Laws

Mark Lohide was present and said that Adam Cole, who could not attend, had reviewed the by-laws and had several suggestions for changes. Most have to do with wording. For example the by-laws refer to telegrams which are no longer used. Another change is to state more clearly that school board members are not eligible to serve on the School Endowment. Gayle will put the Endowment on the October agenda when Adam can be present.

GLENN OPENED THE PUBLIC 2018 BUDGET MEETING at 5:08 p.m.

There were no comments from the public. Rachel made a motion to adjourn the public meeting, John seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13.

Council resumed their regular meeting.**#2 Jacque Clements - 2018 Budget Approval**

Jacque passed out three budget reports for the council to review. The first contained budget notes and previous year comparisons. She pointed out that, starting in 2018, Mental Health will no longer have a levy. The amount due them will be part of the General Fund budget. This will guarantee that they receive the amount they should receive (\$44,977 in 2018) but no extra as they have sometimes received in the past. The extra has been in the form of excise tax, CVET and FIT distributions. With this change those monies will be retained by the County.

The second report showed the maximum levy the county is allowed in 2018 (\$2,410,205). It broke down all of the funds that receive a levy with the estimated amount for each. The grand total is over the maximum by \$26,577.00. Jacque recommended the excess be deducted from the operating balance figure for Reassessment so that the state doesn't automatically take the excess out of the General Fund. This will not change the Reassessment budget for 2018, only the balance they should have on 12/31/2018.

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Jacque Clements - 2018 Budget Approval cont'd

The last report shows the cash flow for each of the budgeted funds. All of the funds have a sufficient balance as of 12/31/2018 except Juvenile Probation. They are showing a negative of (\$741.84). Due to the fact that this fund has not had any activity year to date, is used infrequently, and it is such a small amount this is nothing to be concerned about. Money can be moved into the fund if necessary.

After some discussion, Elizabeth made a motion to reduce the operating balance for Reassessment in order to come in under the maximum levy. John seconded the motion and all agreed.

Gayle said that, due to the fact that the method she had used to project the 12/31/2018 balance showed just \$51,000 and with the changes Jacque had recommended we would end next year with an operating balance of over \$450,000 she respectfully requested that the council reconsider pay increases for the county employees.

The consensus was that there would be sufficient money to give raises. After much discussion on a flat percentage increase as has been done the past several years, a flat increase for everyone or developing a matrix similar to the sheriff's department, Glenn suggested a special meeting to work on this issue. The date for the meeting to be prior to the next regular meeting and will be worked out thru emails.

#3 Mark Lohide - Highway Dept. Trucks

Mark explained the condition of the highway dept. dump trucks. There are nine truck and he would like to replace them three each year for the next three years. He's been looking at Freightliners which would cost approximately \$131,000.00 each. It takes six months from the date ordered to receive the truck. Andy asked about leasing but Mark said due to the miles he didn't know if that was a good option but would look into it.

Mike asked about paying for the trucks out of commissioners' casino revenue. Mark said the commissioners paid for the chip and seal this year so they will probably need help paying for the trucks. There was a discussion on the Community Crossing Grant money the highway department is hoping to receive helping with the trucks. If we receive it, the money must go for the project specifically requested for in the grant.

Mark also mentioned that the county will need three new mowers with side arms. A discussion followed.

Glenn mentioned committing the casino revenue we receive, over the amount budgeted, to the purchase of the trucks. Gayle said she is preparing the September supplemental distribution and after the October money is received she will know how much money is in excess of the budget amount. In the last two years the amount has been about \$250,000.00.

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There being no further business to come before the council, Mike made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Rachel and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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

