

REGULAR MEETING - WEDESDAY 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, Steve Crabtree, Elizabeth Jones, Terry Hall, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Gary Welch, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles.

Rachel opened the meeting and Nathan led the pledge of allegiance.

#1 Reorganization

Rachel called for nominations from the floor for president and vice-president for 2015. Mike Bear nominated Elizabeth Jones for president which was seconded by John Gary but the motion failed on a vote of 3 to 4.

Terry nominated Glenn Scott for president and Rachel Schuler for vice-president, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

#2 Other Board Appointments

Glenn went on to cover other board appointments. He asked if Rachel would be willing to represent the council on the School Endowment Board to replace Tom Conroy; to which Rachel agreed. Terry Hall made a motion for Rachel to serve on the School Endowment Board, which was seconded by John Gary and all agreed.

Rachel said she would prefer not to serve on the SISWD board also. Elizabeth volunteered to be the council representative. Steve made the motion to appoint Elizabeth to the SISWD board which was seconded by Terry and all agreed.

Jon Bond is the current council representative on the SIRPC board. Glenn said that their by-laws require a council person be on the board. There was some discussion on Jon being the commissioners' representative. Steve made a motion to table the appointment until the February meeting which was seconded by John Gary and all agreed.

Glenn offered to remain the council representative on the Extension Board. Rachel made the motion to retain Glenn on the board, seconded by Mike and the motion passed unanimously.

Terry made a motion to retain Bernie Gaudin as the council's representative on the ABC Board (Alcohol Beverage Commission) which was seconded by Steve and all agreed.

Terry said he was willing to continue to serve on the Fire Chiefs' Association. Mike made a motion to retain Terry which was seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

Steve said that Judy Firth was willing to continue to serve on the Economic Development Board. Steve made a motion to retain Judy on this board which was seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

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Other Board Appointments cont'd

Gayle said, that according to Connie Wallace, the president of council sits on the EMA board. Glenn said that, since he knows two of the people who have applied for the director's position, he did not feel he should serve. Mike volunteered to be on the EMA board. Steve made the motion to appoint Mike to the EMA Board, seconded by Terry and all agreed.

Glenn said that council's attorney, Cody Kendall, had submitted a letter to the previous council members that he would be resigning effective 12/31/14. Glenn contacted Cody and asked him if he would consider continuing to serve. Cody agreed to remain the council's attorney through the end of February. By the February meeting he will let Glenn know if he can continue to serve for the remainder of the year, should the Council ask him to. Rachel made a motion to retain Cody through 2/28/15 which was seconded by John Gary. The vote was 5 to 2 with Elizabeth and Mike voting "nay" so the motion carried.

#3 KATIE COLLIER - SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District)

Katie gave a summary report on SWCD activity for 2014.

- They have secured \$84,000.00 in Emergency Watershed Protection funds to assist the county in repairing the storm damage on Popcorn Ridge.
- They have awarded \$75,000.00 in grants with the Ripley County SWCD to assist farmers through Clean Water Indiana grant funds.
- Thus far \$75,275.00 has been awarded in phase 2 of the Indian Creek Watershed projects.
- \$5000.00 was paid from the Clean Water Indiana grant with Dearborn and Ohio counties for watering systems and HUAP's.
- The County Cost Share Program pay out was just \$2,378.03 in 2014. Katie stated that she feels the budgeted amount can be reduced next year. Due to the fact that the County's Program only covers \$500.00, most farmers take advantage of other programs they offer that cover the same thing.
- They have begun tracking customers served - 611 phone calls were logged and 541 customers were assisted in the office

#4 PAM ACTON - COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Pam brought letters regarding upcoming grant awards for the animal shelter and the county. She explained the endowment the county has with the Foundation; the balance is approximately \$550,000.00. There will be \$24,000.00 available for the county to keep or it can be rolled back into the endowment.

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#5 STACEY MATHEWS - AFTER PROM

Stacey passed out a letter thanking the council for their past support and requested funding for the 2015 After Prom. She explained what is provided for the students and what other fund raising they do to cover their cost. Elizabeth asked if they have a budget. Stacey showed her a copy of their costs. Terry made a motion to give the After Prom \$2,000.00 seconded by John Gary and all agreed.

#6 OTHER BUSINESS

1. Spay/Neuter funding: Gayle asked if the council would be willing to fund the county spay neuter program for 2015. She said they usually donate \$10,000.00 and the county always runs out of vouchers in September or October. There was discussion on the procedure and rules. Steve made a motion to fund the program with \$10,000.00 again for 2015 which was seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

2. Quarterly/Annual reports from casino revenue recipients: Gayle said that the commissioners were going to require some of the entities receiving county money to report quarterly on how the money is spent. She asked if the Council would like to implement this same policy for those who receive casino revenue. After some discussion it was agreed to try this for a year. Terry made a motion to require quarterly reporting with Mike seconding the motion and all agreed.

3. Casino revenue donations: Gayle said the procedure in the past few years was to ask the entities who routinely ask for donations or support from the council to submit a request in January. The requests are reviewed at the February or March meeting and that way almost all donation requests are covered at one time and the council has a better handle on this portion of their casino Revenue. She said that if the letters are mailed this week council should have the necessary paperwork to make their decisions at the February meeting. Council agreed to continue this process.

4. Nurse Managed Clinic salary: Gayle said that at the December meeting she had asked council to decide on Sandra's salary for 2015. Since the Nurse Managed Clinic has a board, it should have been their decision not council's. They had already decided that the salary change awarded earlier was due to a job description change and that the employee would still be entitled to the 2% pay increase everyone received.

5. Judge Coy's Letter regarding child support: Each Councilperson received a copy of a letter from Judge Coy regarding the amount of child support collected in 2014. Switzerland County had the largest percentage increase in the State.

6. Exit conference: Gayle said that the exit conference for the state audit of our 2013 records is scheduled for January 20th at 3:00 p.m. The council president, or a council representative is asked to attend. Glenn is not able to make it on that day so Rachel will attend.

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With no further business to come before council, Steve made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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