

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, Steve Crabtree, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, and Glenn Scott, the chief deputy, Brian Morton, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Terry Hall and John Gary Welch were absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meetings of April 18th and May 11th were approved as presented on a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

#1 Steve Jones-Ellard – Tourism Budget Update

Mr. Jones-Ellard came to give the council an update on the tourism budget, since they changed the way they were doing it from the past. He went over the ways that their budget format has changed for this year from the past budgets. Mr. Jones-Ellard informed council of the Riverfront Park Improvement Study which tourism will be wanting financial help with later from other entities.

#2 Vicky Hinman – Vevay Main Street Annual Report

Jennifer Castle, president of the board of the Vevay Main Street Program, came to update council on the Program. The Vevay Main Street Beautification Program requested \$5,000.00 from council previously for a matching program, they were actually given up to \$15,000.00. The board members did not actually think there would even be a Main Street Program for 2016 due to funding issues. They are currently building the funding back up with help of council and other entities. There was confusion as to what the \$15,000.00 given earlier was to be used for.

Elizabeth mentioned that at the last Vevay Town Board meeting, Keith Smith wanted to develop a committee for Tourism 20/20. Jennifer has been in contact with Keith about this. They want someone from council, someone from Vevay Main Street, and someone from Vevay Town Council just getting together and discussing this. Glenn wanted to appoint Elizabeth to the Tourism 20/20 program; she is agreeable.

#3 Board of Commissioners

Steve Lyons, president of the Board of Commissioners, spoke about the options for housing SCER. The tech building is not available for this purpose and the commissioners have decided they would like to build a new building on the lot they already own behind the courthouse next to the jail. They are asking council for funding help; though they are not sure yet of the cost. Glenn asked Rachel to take over chairing the meeting for this topic.

Josh wanted to explain how they have come to building a new building. The commissioners approached Switzerland County EMS about buying their building. The county obtained 2 appraisals but could only pay the average of the 2 which was \$187,000.00. The Switzerland County EMS turned them down. A building was offered as a donation here in town, an old garage, but required too much alteration/repair. Then 2 other places were offered for purchase but would not work either. The Community Foundation would not agree to letting them use the tech building as this building's purpose is education and/or workforce training.

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Board of Commissioners cont'd

Elizabeth said she agrees that a new building should be built as it would add credibility to the program. Council said they are behind the endeavor.

Steve C. asked the commissioners if there are any highway issues. There are no new slips and chip and seal has started. Brian Morton said the county mowers have been doing a nice job.

#4 Other Business

Refinancing the tech building: Glenn had asked Jon Bond to be at this meeting concerning the refinancing. Jon gave an update: the payment comes due November 6th and the commissioners have executed an amendment to clarify this. The payoff amount is \$2,462,662.00. As far as refinancing, MainSource is interested as well as some other banks. Some decisions do need to be made as to how the County wants to proceed. Most of the items that need to be voted on are for the Commissioners but the Council will also have to approve the refinance before the process is over.

Council needs to decide how they want to proceed; in big meetings with commissioners and council both in attendance, or? Rachel asked if it could be discussed at the joint meeting scheduled for June 20th; yes Jon can make that meeting. Steve C. wanted to know if the financial institutions would allow the county to back the loan up with riverboat revenue. Jon said it was too early to tell but most of them probably assume it will be property tax money. Using only riverboat money as a guarantee could be harder than it was the last time the County issued bonds.

Jon said the first big question for both the Council and the Commissioners is how long of a finance term to carry. He said all bonds currently issued by the County are backed up only by riverboat revenue and we are one of the few counties still doing this; most are backed up with property taxes.

Josh asked about the appraisal satisfying the principle and Jon said that, since county-owned buildings cannot be used as collateral for a loan anyway, there should not be a need to appraise the building as part of the refinancing.

#5 Salary Ordinance Amendment

After Chief Deputy Brian Morton explained the changes to the ordinance from last time and further discussion, the salary ordinance amendment was approved on a motion by Steve, seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

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Salary Ordinance Amendment cont'd**SALARY ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT**

An amendment to the ordinance of the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana, fixing the salaries of all officers, deputies, assistants, and employees, and fixing the number of deputies, assistants, and other employees for each office or department for the calendar year **2016**, for Switzerland County, Indiana:

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana, that for the calendar year **2016**, the salaries of the sheriff's merit deputies, jail commander, jail matron and communications/E911 director and assistant are to be amended as follows:

There will be an incentive pay amount of no more than \$4000.00 for the year paid semi-annually in installments not to exceed \$2000.00 for each sheriff's merit deputy, jail commander, jail matron, and communications/E911 director and assistant based on performance. Sheriff's office employees who hold the position of Sergeant, Detective, Training officer, K9 officer or Crime Scene Technician will receive no more than \$5000.00 per year paid semi-annually in installments not to exceed \$2500.00. The incentives are to be paid no more than twice a year in May and November.

FURTHER, there will be an incentive pay amount of no more than \$2000.00 for the year for each of the sheriff's jail employees and communications/E911 employees. The incentives are to be paid annually in November based on performance. The Sheriff may also approve a May incentive for the full-time cook up to a \$1000.00.

FURTHER, there will be an incentive pay amount of no more than \$500.00 for the year for each sheriff's part-time employee and each part-time jail employee. The incentives are to be paid annually in November based on performance

#6 **Judge's Copier**

The way the judge's office purchased their copier was discussed. The original bill was paid out of County General but the judge moved money from the Supplemental Public Defender Fund into County General for reimbursement of the cost.

#7 **Steve Jones-Ellard – Tourism Budget**

Mr. Jones-Ellard said the State Board of Accounts had just finished their audit, and everything is in good shape. But one thing needs done and that is to have their budget officially approved by council. Elizabeth made the motion to approve the tourism budget, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

#8 **2017 Budget Dates**

The budget dates are scheduled for the regular council meeting dates of July 13th, August 10th, and September 14th. Rachel said the only issue might be if something came up big, like maybe changing the way the sheriff department salaries are set up. She also said maybe supplies, postage, and telephone charges may need to be changed back to each department having their own line item for these; just a thought for the budget process.

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2017 Budget Dates cont'd

Josh South, commissioner, thought that it is a good idea to put the line items back in each budget since an elected official, in most cases, is responsible for their office/department. Josh volunteered to contact CenturyLink to discuss phone options as the current contract is near its end.

With no further discussion to come before council, Steve made the motion to adjourn seconded by Mike and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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