

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, and the county auditor, Gayle Rayles. County Attorney, Wil Goering, was also present.

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

The minutes of the previous regular and joint meetings of April 12th were approved as presented on a motion by Mike, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

#1 Cory Dawson - Youth Pacers Athletics

Did not appear

#2 East Enterprise Regional Sewer District - Umbaugh Invoice

Gayle had a question about the invoice she received from Umbaugh for a rate study. Council thought there were 2 rate studies performed but there was only 1 and this invoice was for that. This is part of the grant process and will be reimbursed if they receive the grant. Rachel made motion to approve the invoice for \$4,000.00 from Umbaugh, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

Debbie Vann, of the EERSD, informed council that they had a major spill recently into a pond in one of the subdivisions. They immediately took action to correct the situation. They do not have any extra pumps or equipment on hand to fix a problem quickly; they have to send out the bad pump and then wait for it to come back from repairs. Water leaked into the pond; not raw sewage.

They are asking for financial help to fix this spill and get some backup parts/pumps, pay attorney fees, pay for chemicals, etc. Glenn said he would like to go out and view the system as did some of the other council members to get a better understanding of the situation. There is an operator and bookkeeper that are paid by the sewer district.

After further discussion, Elizabeth made a motion to approve payment to Hack's Septic, as they are a local business, for \$4,875.00, seconded by Andy and the motion carried with Mike voting no.

#3 Jacque Clements - AIC Budget

Jacque came to introduce herself and her services in the budget preparation area. This service is through the Association of Indiana Counties. Her services would replace GFC, who is the current vendor, and her cost would be \$5,000.00 per year. The AIC just started this assistance. She can help with estimated revenues, income tax questions the budget process, provide reports, and etc. Lisa made a motion to use Jacque Clements and the services provided through the AIC, seconded by Mike and all agreed. The commissioners will actually sign the contract.

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#4 Marissa Lynch - Post-Session Legislative Update

When the session began there were actually 2 bills being introduced that would affect riverboat revenue. One of the bills died since the 2 were so similar. This bill (House Bill 1350 introduced by Todd Houston) changes the admissions tax to a supplemental wagering tax. Rather than there being \$3.00 applied to each person going in, they are going to do a percentage of the adjusted gross receipts. For Switzerland County this percentage is 3.11%, this fluctuates a bit based on the community. The other part is that the "hold harmless" dollars are going to decrease in 2021. What they will do is look at the adjusted gross receipts in 2021 across the state and if the receipts have gone down over the year then they will decrease, the \$48,000,000.00 proportionately.

Marissa, Jon Bond, and Commissioner Josh South, all met with the legislator and explained what Switzerland County does with their riverboat revenue. After this meeting, Rep. Houston agreed to amend the bill but it still was a decrease in the "hold harmless" money.

The switch from admissions tax to supplemental wagering tax is to happen in fiscal year 2018 and then the effect on the "hold harmless" money will go into effect in 2021.

#5 Other Business

Public safety tax: This is the tax Gayle spoke to council about at the last meeting. The county could actually raise the county option income tax to 1.25%, it is currently at 1%, and designate all or part of the increase to public safety. This money would go into a separate fund designated for 911 only. This would allow the county to take 911 out of the general fund budget. This would affect all residents and/or workers in Switzerland County. Using .25% it could equal almost \$400,000.00 per year. The money that would be freed up in the general fund could be used for courthouse security and/or maintenance. To make this effective for January 1, 2018 the process has to be completed by October 31, 2017. Quite a few other counties are already doing this. There would need to be 1 public hearing and then read it at 2 public meetings. Gayle will bring it up again at the July meeting.

Belterra dispute: Gayle informed council that the property taxes due to the casino at this very moment providing nothing changes in the appeal, is \$176,551.38. It could change when the other 2 years come up for appeal, but maybe they will drop those 2 years, wishful thinking. The interest is only \$56,609.69 as of May 5th, which is a total of \$233,161.07 and the per diem of \$14.51 per day. On a daily basis the amount will increase by \$14.51. Belterra will not take the payment now. This most likely will not be settled before a year or two.

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Other Business cont'd

Bond issue resolution: The council had to sign the resolution for the bond issue for the tech building. The building appraised for \$1.5 and \$2.2 but it can't be sold for less than the average of the two. This is only the building; it does not include the parking lot and generator. After further discussion, John Gary made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Rachel and all agreed. The debt reserve for the 2009 bonds was reduced to \$83,000.00 and is now in a separate fund.

#4 Additional Appropriation Ordinances

The following additional appropriation ordinances were approved on a motion by Lisa, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget:

SEC. 1 BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana that for expenses of said municipal corporation, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR FUND (8200)		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
100	PERSONAL HEALTH		
	4111 COORDINATOR SALARY	\$5616.00	_____
	4171 OASI	\$ 426.90	_____
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4310 MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 277.20	_____
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR FUND		\$6320.10	_____

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget:

SEC. 1 BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana that for expenses of said municipal corporation, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

GUARDIAN AD LITEM FUND (1213)		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4301 CASA GRANT	\$2000.00	_____
TOTAL GUARDIAN AD LITEM FUND		\$2000.00	_____

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#5 Transfer Ordinance

The following transfer ordinance was approved on a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Andy and all agreed.

TRANSFER ORDINANCE

Pursuant to Auditor’s Bulletin of July 1972, and also Public Law Number 54 of 1971, the County Council has the authority to transfer funds to different appropriations from one major classification to another within a department or office, at any regular public meeting.

COUNTY GENERAL FUND	AMOUNT
<i>EMA</i>	
300 OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	
4382 TRAINING MATERIALS	DECREASE \$1200.00
400 CAPITAL OUTLAY	
4411 RADIO EQUIPMENT	INCREASE \$1200.00

Adopted this 10th day of May 2017.

#6 EERSD cont’d

Debbie Vann said they are needing an additional \$5,000.00 over what was previously approved to cover bills that are due. The council would like to go out and see the sewer district since it is always requiring additional money. It was asked about the county taking ownership of the sewer district. If things are not fixed IDEM will step in and tell the county what to do and what to charge for fees and the county would still have to pay for repairs at who knows what the cost. After some discussion about the grant, needed maintenance, and customers paying their bills, Lisa made a motion to give the EERSD an additional \$5,000.00 to finishing paying off the *current bills*, seconded by John Gary and the motion carried with a vote of 5 to 2 (Andy and Mike voting no).

#7 Tech Building

Glenn said the gutters at the tech building were full because of balls kids had thrown on the roof. There was a minimum of 7,000 gallons of water on the roof which would equal about 56,000 pounds of weight. Glenn and his dad, Tom Scott, helped clean out the gutters. There currently isn’t any access to the roof and Glenn is going to the next commissioners’ meeting to see about correcting the situation. He will suggest ladders attached to the outside of the building.

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With no further business to come before the council, John Gary made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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