

**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 Gary Welch, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles.

The meeting was called to order by Glenn who also led the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented on a motion by Andy, seconded by Lisa and all agreed.

**#1 Eric Cole - YMCA Financial Update**

Eric came to report how the YMCA is doing and gave council a copy of their 2016 audit. Last year the total number of visits for county employees was 1772 and to date the number of visits is 1153. The 24-hour access has brought back some of the traffic. There have been 64 county employees to visit since the 24-hour access was initiated, not to mention the regular patrons.

Eric said the YMCA has seen a 15% reduction in lighting consumption since they changed the lighting to LED. The lights are so much brighter they can use less lights.

He said they just really appreciate the money for these upgrades that the council gave them.

They also installed cameras and these have come in handy a few times.

**#2 Nancy Barker - AIC Conference**

Nancy Barker, county recorder, came to request some funding for the fall AIC conference, which is a conference for all of the county officials in the state. This is to be held at Belterra. Switzerland County and Ohio County jointly host this event. Switzerland County needs to provide host gifts for approximately 500 to 550 attendees. Last year council gave \$7,500.00 toward this event. Tourism assists with this event as well. Ohio County is giving a gift from one of their companies, Fresh Way. Nancy said they would like to give something produced here; honey and wine. Wine was given before and was a hit.

Glenn asked if Tourism spent any money at this event in the past; no. The dates are September 24, 25, 26. The attendees will be bused to Vevay 1 evening for food, shopping, and entertainment. They are going to allow vendors to set up around the courthouse during this event. Lisa said they should check and see if tourism has anything to contribute to the host gift.

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**Nancy Barker - AIC Conference cont'd**

Glenn is not in favor of giving any money toward this event. After some discussion council would like to know what the gift(s) would be and the cost before any money is committed. Also Nancy is to ask tourism if they would contribute some money and/or gifts. Council asked Nancy to then come back to the July meeting.

**#3 Other Business**

Live streaming council meetings: Andy said he has been asked questions by the public as to why the council does not stream their meetings like the commissioners do. Rachel suggested asking Marty Hankins to see what he can come up with. Council by consensus agreed to have Marty Hankins present a way and a cost to live-stream the council meetings and they would like for him to come to a meeting to present his solution.

State called conference for county councils: The meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, at Shelbyville. Attendees can be reimbursed for mileage and a hotel room.

Questions on Belterra dispute: Gayle had sent council an email updating them on the Belterra property tax dispute. The county was advised by legal counsel not to pay the interest. Both parties have filed an appeal.

Questions on a Safety Tax: Gayle wanted this on the agenda to clarify the question of how much this new tax would affect the tax payer who made \$40,000.00 a year and Gayle said it would be \$40.00 a year. Glenn is not in favor of this tax right now and Lisa and Mike are also in agreement. Gayle said the tax amount generated would be about \$300,000.00 a year. This money would help fund the communications department in the general fund and the Statewide 911 fund.

Gayle said a human resources person is needed in the auditor's office; part-time for possibly for 2 days a week. This tax would possibly free up money in the general fund for this part-time person.

Andy would like the safety tax topic to be put on the agenda in the future.

Budget dates: The budget dates Gayle suggested are the same as the regular meeting dates but she thinks there might need to be more dates scheduled. The other thing is there are miscellaneous jailers in the budget with 0 balances; for 2018 there will be dollar amounts in these line items. These jailers' salaries are 100% reimbursed by the Town of Vevay, Tourism, or whomever uses them. Currently they are Mickey Ray and Penny Christman. This way of keeping track of their pay is a lot simpler than this year.

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Other Business cont'd

Budget dates cont'd:

There was discussion about staffing issues, security, the jail audit indicating the jail is short on jailers, and the East Enterprise Sewer District. There was also discussion about putting the postage and office supplies back in each department's budget like it was in the past. Gayle would like to at least go back to putting an office supplies line item back in each department's budget. There was discussion about having time clocks for all employees and not just the highway department employees. This would be difficult because the commissioners only set the hours of when the courthouse will be open but each office holder dictates the hours of operation for their offices.

#4 Transfer Ordinance

The following transfer ordinance was approved on a motion by Rachel, seconded by Elizabeth 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>JAIL</i>			
200	SUPPLIES		
	4220 KITCHEN SUPPLIES	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$1000.00
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4343 FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINT	<b>DECREASE</b>	\$1000.00

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2017.

#5 Commissioner Mark Lohide

Mark reminded council that casino revenue does help pay part of residents' taxes. The School Endowment takes care of the school debt service; which decreases property taxes for all landowners. There was further discussion about future school debt. The School Endowment receives casino funds.

He also said they thought there may have been brown bats in the ceiling above the courtroom. But after inspection of the ductwork with a camera there are no bats there but there are some in the attic. Brown bats are protected so nothing can be done to remove them from the attic until fall.

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Commissioner Mark Lohide cont'd

Last night the first meeting of the drug abuse committee was held with excellent attendance by the public. There were a lot of good ideas presented. The next meeting is July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the tech building.

He also said that with the recent rains there has been more road damage and they are waiting on permits to fix these problems. Chip and seal should start in about a couple of weeks and the list of roads is shorter than in the past. They are renting a rubber tired roller for the chip and seal and this is costing about \$2,500.00 per month; this has been done in the past also. They are planning on renting it for a couple of months but they have found a good used one they are thinking about purchasing. The cost is \$13,500.00, it was owned by the state and has low hours.

A list of surplus equipment has finally been gotten together; such as old chipper boxes, an old grader, etc. He has gotten with Wesley Poling to see if there are any items here at the courthouse to put on the list.

Mark said that Jeff-Craig had been asked to come on board to assist with back up emergency runs and they have declined.

He said the courthouse security plan that Sheriff Hughes has presented is minimal and Mark feels it needs to happen. Cameras would be good and maybe the only thing needed. Something needs to be decided.

Mike asked Mark whether or not Earl Bowling is mowing the right-of-ways and he currently is not because his tractor is out to Zimmer Tractor having a clutch put in; but he will resume mowing when it returns.

Mark said that if any of the council members have heard rumors about the Moorefield/Bennington Sewer District, everything is under control. Those sewage plants are in his district and he has met with the state and the county is having Lonny Harris get them back in order. They are going to have to hire an on call person as Lonny has another full-time job. Glenn suggested using Wesley Poling and putting him on a 40-hour work week to do the routine maintenance and service calls. This would be a possibility.

#6 Miscellaneous Items

Elizabeth reminded everyone about the economic redevelopment meeting Jon Bond is having on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the tech building concerning economic development's future.

Glenn said he would really like for the commissioners to agree to put a ladder to access the roof to the tech building.

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With no further business to come before council, Mike made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor  
Switzerland County, Indiana