

**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: Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, Lisa Fisher, Mike Bear, Andy Haskell, John Gary Welch and auditor Gayle Rayles. Glenn Scott was absent.

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by council vice-president, Elizabeth Jones, with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the November 8, 2017 regular and joint meetings were approved as presented on a motion by Lisa and seconded by John Gary after a question from Mike regarding the new highway department trucks coming with plows; and all agreed.

**#1 Sarah Headen - NMC Salaries**

Sarah, who is on the advisory board at the Nurse Managed Clinic, came to let the council know that she was the person who had the letters sent to the council regarding pay increases for the clinic staff. She felt the letters may have been taken as a directive rather than a request and that was not the intent. There had also been a miscommunication when she asked the letter be mailed certified. Her intent was to mail a single letter and not one to each of the council members. She said the board had approved raises but had not seen the letter until after the fact. She did not want to jeopardize the relationship between the county, the clinic, and its board. The council thanked Sarah for coming and explaining the situation.

**#2 Katie Collier - Child Advocacy Center**

Katie said that she and her husband, Lance, will be representing Switzerland County at the Child Advocacy Center annual Mardi Gras Ball in February. This is the center's big fund raiser each year. Each couple is responsible for raising money for the center and the couple who raises the most money is announced as king and queen at the event. Cindy Wagner, a Switzerland County resident, is in charge of the 2018 event. To date, Katie and Lance have raised \$12,000.00. She has a donation of \$1,000.00 and was asking the council to match it.

Katie informed the council that the center has helped 400 children from Switzerland County since they opened. They do forensic interviews with children and record them so that the child is not required to appear in court. This is the same organization that Sara Brichto represented when she came to council requesting financial support. In past years the council has given them \$10,000.00.

There was a discussion on the counties Katie and Lance will be competing against. Last year Jefferson County won. They raised \$21,000.00. Gayle suggested that council consider giving the Colliers all or part of the annual support they give the center (\$10,000.00) as a donation toward their fund raising efforts since the money all goes to the center. Several councilpersons said they were thinking of something similar. Katie is going to check with Cindy on this.

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**Katie Collier - Child Advocacy Center cont'd**

Elizabeth suggested this be handled at the January, 2018 meeting. Glenn wanted to be part of the discussion and was not able to be at this meeting.

**#3 Martha Bladen - Historical Society**

Martha attended the meeting to thank the council in person for their support. She updated them on projects and uses of the facilities. They recently had four fourth grade classes at the Farmstead for an outing, had their annual County Christmas, and had demonstrations at the hay press barn twice.

She said they had been awarded an Indiana Historical Society Preservation Grant of \$50,000.00. There was a 15% match required and they received it from the Community Foundation. The money is to be used for construction and equipment costs on a project at the River History Museum and the garage on that property. A building addition of 12' by 16' is planned and the society is making changes to a specific area to make it fire-proof to protect irreplaceable documents.

**#4 Greg Kammer - Audit of Riverboat Funds**

Greg came regarding the fire department in Patriot. His issue is that the department is not functional. The firefighters have not had training in several years and there is no routine testing of the equipment. This is not only a safety issue but also effects their ISO rating which can cause property insurance costs in the area to rise. He has been to the Patriot Town Board for help in finding out how this situation can be resolved but nothing is happening. The fire chief for the Patriot Fire Department is also a Patriot Town Board member.

He requested help from the council since they support the fire departments through the Fire Chief's Association with casino revenue. He would like to see an audit of the Patriot Fire Department's books to find out what happens to the money they are receiving.

Larry Monjar, with the Posey Fire Department, agreed with Greg that the Patriot Station is non-functioning. His department has been responding to calls in Patriot.

Elizabeth said that these are serious allegations. She said that the council gives the Fire Chiefs Association a portion of the riverboat revenue but the council does not audit the individual fire departments. They would answer to the towns or trustees.

It was suggested that Greg return to the Town of Patriot Board and seek the advice of their attorney, Judd McMillan.

Tom Moore, with EMA, was present and said he has also been looking into the situation as he would like to use the fire department building for emergency preparedness.

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**#5 Other Business**

1. **2018 Salary Ordinance:** Gayle said that this is the revised ordinance requested at the last council meeting. The purpose was to remove the pay raises from the judge’s court order from the original ordinance so that it would not appear that the council gave the raises. Then a revised ordinance would be done to give the raises per the judge’s order. She explained that after the last meeting, when the council had agreed to cover the cost of the insurance premium increase, the judge had rescinded the order. The prosecutor has also rescinded her request to give additional money to her three employee from one of her special funds. Council signed the revised ordinance.
2. **2018 Meeting Dates/Times:** The council approved the 2018 meeting dates and times on a motion by Lisa seconded by Mike and all agreed.
3. **Nepotism Forms:** Gayle had passed out the 2017 Nepotism forms for signature. She included a copy of the original ordinance requiring the annual forms to the new members of council for 2017; all signed.
4. **Transfer Ordinances:** The following transfer ordinances were approved on a motion by Andy, seconded by Lisa 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 (1000)	AMOUNT
<i>JAIL</i>	
300 OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	
4345 UTILITIES	<b>DECREASE</b> \$3500.00
400 CAPITAL OUTLAY	
4423 KITCHEN EQUIP	<b>INCREASE</b> \$3500.00

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

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Other Business cont'd

Transfer Ordinances cont'd

**TRANSFER ORDINANCE**

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COUNTY GENERAL FUND (1000)	AMOUNT
<i>JAIL</i>	
200 SUPPLIES	
4242 PRISONER FOOD <b>DECREASE</b>	\$15768.00
300 OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	
4345 UTILITIES <b>DECREASE</b>	\$ 2000.00
400 CAPITAL OUTLAY	
4425 EQUIPMENT <b>INCREASE</b>	\$17768.00

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

**TRANSFER ORDINANCE**

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COUNTY GENERAL FUND (1000)	AMOUNT
<i>EXTENSION OFFICE</i>	
200 SUPPLIES	
4218 TEACHING SUPPLIES <b>INCREASE</b>	\$ 78.00
300 OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	
4315 COPIER MAINTENANCE <b>DECREASE</b>	\$ 78.00

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

5. **Letters to Casino Revenue Recipients:** Gayle asked when the council would like to review the request for funding from the entities they support with casino revenue; example: Child Advocacy and Cemetery Board. They will be reviewed at the January 10, 2018 meeting. Gayle is to send out letters to the entities asking for their 2018 funding request forms.

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Other Business cont'd

- 6. Health Insurance Amounts for 2018: Commissioner Josh South said that there are still some questions on how the county is covering the health insurance cost increase in 2018; since the way this is proposed to be handled is an exception to the percentages we normally require the employees to pay. Wil Goering has been out of town due to a family emergency and he has not been available to discuss the matter. Gayle said that the bookkeeping side would not be an issue.
  
- 7. Casino Revenue MOU Forms for Non-Government Entities: Elizabeth said that after the opening conference with the state examiner, he mentioned to her that the current MOU's being used for funds given to non-government entities do not have the correct/sufficient information. She gave a few examples of wording changes he mentioned such as the Wine Festival support going to a single event that benefits Switzerland County residents. Gayle said that this is the first she's heard of it and would check with the examiners who are here to find out what changes need to be made and take care of the problem.

There being no further business to come before council, Lisa made a motion to adjourn; John Gary seconded and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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