

**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 members: Lisa Fisher, Glenn Scott, Rachel Schuler, Mike Bear, Andy Haskell, chief deputy, Brian Morton, and auditor Gayle Rayles. Elizabeth Jones and John Gary Welch were absent.

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Chief Deputy, Brian Morton, with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Glenn and seconded by Andy and all agreed.

**#1 Anita Danner - Historical Society Past Grant Match**

Martha Bladen gave the council members a copy of the Switzerland County Historical Society Yearbook and budget for 2018. She explained that they were counting on a carry-forward balance from 2017 of \$5,527.00 to be available in 2018; however, due to the fact that they had not received the grant match from Economic Development they are short \$5,000.00.

In 2015 they had applied for a grant from the Office of Tourism and Development for two projects. The grant required matching funds. \$10,000.00 of the match was pledged by Switzerland County Economic Development. The pledged funds were to come from the casino revenue Economic Development received annually. In 2016 Economic Development was cut from the distributions, therefore there were no funds available for them to give the Historical Society. Anita and Martha explained that the one project is complete and \$5,000.00 had come out of their operating money to finish it which caused a shortfall. They are asking the council to cover the match originally pledged by Economic Development. Of the \$10,000.00, \$5,000.00 would go to the Historical Society and \$5,000.00 would go to the Venoge Barn Project.

There as a discussion on the timing and use of the grant money, what money Economic Development has on hand as well as their sources of income. Glenn made a motion to table the decision; Rachel seconded the motion and all agreed.

**#2 Aaron Bell - SE IN Recycling District Report**

SE IN Recycling District covers seven counties and collected over 7 million pounds of materials last year. The number is down slightly. Market prices have an impact of how much people recycle. If the prices are up, people sell rather than recycle. The other reason relates to the fact that SEIRD has increased their fees to recycle tires and begun charging to recycle electronics. Aaron said they had been forced to remove a few of their satellite containers due to abuse. People were using the containers to get rid of things other recyclable items.

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**#3 Vickie James - Treasurer - New Copier**

Vickie has had service on the seven year old printer/copier in her office three times since the first of the year. She would like to order a new one with the same functions from The Office Shop. The price is \$5,995.00.

There was a discussion on trading in the old copier or using it in another department. Glenn made a motion to purchase the new copier for \$5,995.00; Mike seconded the motion and all agreed.

**#4 Duane Covington - VSO - New Copier**

Duane said he has been using EMA's printer. He would like to purchase a new desk-top copier that can scan and fax for about \$900.00. He was asked if he could use the copier Vickie is replacing. Vickie said the service person told her it should be good for an office that has lite usage; Duane agreed to try it.

**#5 Carolyn Miller - Cemetery Commission - Annual Report**

Carolyn said that last year the council had asked for quarterly reports on where the money is spent. She explained that most of the money is spent within a two-week period when the professionals they hire to restore markers are here, so there is really nothing to report quarterly.

The annual report she provided shows the dollars spent and which cemeteries were worked on in 2017. The report requires the signatures of the president of the council and commissioners and goes to the state.

**#6 Chief Deputy Brian Morton - Task Force**

Brian said that he had been at the last commissioners' meeting and had their blessing to approach the council about joining a Drug Task Force already established in Jefferson County. The Task Force would go along with the newly formed Drug Free Program in the county. The head of the Task Force in Jefferson County had approached him earlier and Brian has attended some meetings. The resources available to us, if we join, would come from the state police as well as Jefferson County. The deputy assigned to the Task Force in Switzerland County would work out of our sheriff's dept. and be our employee. This would be their only job.

Brian explained that he does not have enough deputies to devote one to this operation. He would need to hire an additional officer. His plan would be to take an existing deputy and assign him to the Task Force and hire a new road deputy. Training for the drug enforcement office would be done by the state police.

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**Chief Deputy Brian Morton - Task Force cont'd**

Josh South said that the commissioners had voted unanimously to support this. There was a discussion about a vehicle, the cost of a new deputy and paying that person. Gayle said that with the budget numbers the way they are, the deputy could be paid for out of the General Fund. Brian explained that the true cost could not be determined until he found someone, since they would be paid based on the pay matrix.

No decision was made at this time.

**#7 Other Business**

**Spay/Neuter Program:** Keli Gabbard was present with a report on the drop in litters and puppies they've had dropped off at the shelter since the Spay/Neuter Program has been in place. They are currently seeing mostly adult dogs.

There was a discussion on non-residents using the vouchers, changing the amount the county covers, decreasing the amount of support for the program and having a limit on the number of vouchers per address. The council agreed by consensus not to fund the program for 2018.

**2018 Maximum amount by entity for Casino Rev. distributions:** Glenn made a motion to leave the distributions for 2018 the same as 2016 and 2017; Rachel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of four to one with Mike voting no.

**QuickBooks:** Gayle said she was looking for a simpler way to track casino revenue spending and generate reports by each of the accounts we have set up. For example: what was spent in a given period by the commissioners and their balance. The idea is to make it easier for the next auditor. She is familiar with QuickBooks and thought it might be easier than the spreadsheets she is currently using. The cost of QuickBooks is about \$250.00.

There was a discussion on what other counties use and other programs that might be more user friendly. Gayle is going to look into these.

Glenn made a motion to purchase QuickBooks, if it is decided this is the best way to handle the needs; Andy seconded the motion and all agreed.

**Child Abuse Fundraiser: King and Queen:** Lisa read a letter from Katie and Lance Collier thanking the council for their donation in the Collier's name supporting their candidacy for King and Queen of the Child Abuse Center's annual Mardi Gras fund raiser. The Colliers raised over \$26,000.00 and raised the most money of all the candidates so were crowned King and Queen of the event.

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Other Business cont'd

Drug Free Switzerland County: Josh South reminded everyone that there will be a meeting of Drug Free Switz. Co. Thursday at noon at the Tech Center.

There being no further business to come before council, Mike made a motion to adjourn; Andy seconded and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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