

**REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: John Haskell, Mark Lohide, and Steve Lyons, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

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

The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by John, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

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**#1 Keli Gabbard – Animal Shelter Transportation**

Keli spoke about grants that she has submitted to purchase a pickup truck, stock trailer, and camper shell. She asked about the EMA truck; Steve thought the truck should stay with the EMA.

There was a discussion about the rescue policy and the cost of a new truck. John suggested that Keli check on a used truck and trailer or a van. She will return to the next commissioners' meeting with more information.

**#2 Highway Department**

Chris Clerkin, highway superintendent, submitted the chip and seal update; approximately 49 lane miles have been completed since the last commissioners' meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A 24-foot bridge needs to be replaced on Sand Run Road. After some discussion the commissioners agreed to request bids for this new bridge installation. John made a motion to purchase the bridge kit and advertise for installation bids, seconded by Steve and all agreed. The cost of the bridge kit is \$32,686.00. The bids are to be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on September 16, 2013 to the auditor's office.

**#3 Mike Armstrong of Janssen & Spaans**

Mike presented the commissioners with a bridge inspection report. He stated that the bridges are inspected every two years; they are due again in 2014. The top 7 or 8 bridges on his list are because of weight limits and not because of being structurally unsound.

## REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2

**#4 Other Business:**

1. Bear Creek Road: Mark spoke about an agreement with Ripley County concerning this road. The road is split by the county lines and Switzerland County agreed to pay Ripley County \$5,000.00 to chip and seal the section of the road that belonged in Switzerland County. This section was chipped and sealed three times. Ripley County will continue to maintain this road. Wil will provide a document that will state that Ripley County will assure maintenance of this road.
2. YMCA: The commissioners signed the revised contract for a lesser amount for the county employees' memberships (\$10,000.00).
3. Tourism Board Appointment: The commissioners reviewed an additional application for the tourism board. After some discussion John made a motion to appoint Kathy Williams, seconded by Mark and all agreed. Bruce is to contact Kathy.
4. New Fund Ordinance: Gayle read a New Fund Ordinance for Fund 9104 and explained the purpose of the fund. Steve made a motion to establish Fund 9104 VSCF Indigent Grant Fund, seconded by John and all agreed.
5. Cell Phone for Bert Allen, Custodian: Bruce requested a cell phone for Bert Allen; who performs janitorial work at the courthouse and the annex. Steve stated that he would transfer his county phone to Bert. The commissioners agreed to this idea by consensus.
6. Tax Rate: Gayle had a form that required the county attorney's signature certifying the County Option Income Tax (COIT) rate; Wil signed the document.
7. EMA Advisory Board Letter: Mark read aloud a letter for the EMA Advisory Board, stating that Connie Wallace should be unanimously approved as the EMA director. John stated she was the best person for this position. John made a motion to appoint Connie as the EMA director, seconded by Mark and all agreed.
8. Trash Ordinance: Gayle advised the commissioners that this topic had been tabled at the last meeting. (There were numerous people in the audience that were interested in the ordinance.)

Wil spoke about the definition of trash, junk vehicles, and a Ripley County case involving antique tractors. He also stated the ordinance provides that an appeal can be made to the commissioners. The appeal has to be done within 10 days and a person can appeal the commissioners' decision to the circuit court.

The ordinance excludes farm equipment. Mark had a question about non-livable mobile homes. Wil stated this would be the health department's issue.

Approximately a 30-minute discussion followed between the commissioners and members of the audience. The audience members with the most questions were Mr. James Thompson and James Bevis Jr. Topics included:

- A. A request to publish the ordinance before adoption, which the commissioners agreed to by consensus.
- B. Visual trash and junk versus what cannot be readily seen by the public.
- C. Health hazards.
- D. Property values that border sites with trash and junk.
- E. The appeal process.
- F. Antique cars, that do not have plates, that are sitting on someone's property, such as a "55" Chevy.

This was a productive question and answer session.

**REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 3**

**#5 Connie Wallace – EMA Report**

Connie thanked the commissioners for their confidence in her by appointing her the new EMA director and for their attendance at Gov. Pence's visit where EMA received grant funds.

She requested that the commissioners sign the grant forms for the funds that she has received from Gov. Pence; which they did.

Connie advised the commissioners that the EMA pickup truck had been detailed, now has EMA signs on the doors, and the tire sensors have been repaired.

The golf cart paint job will need to be paid out of the EMA's budget. She is checking on the car title for the Ford Crown Vic. The Jeff-Craig Volunteer Fire Department may want the car. The 18-month waiting period, before it can be sold, may not pertain in this situation.

She requested that the county pay ½ of her cell phone cost as she uses her personal phone for EMA business. Mark made a motion to pay for ½ of her cell phone cost, seconded by John and all agreed.

Connie also had a meeting date for 2 events, for August 27<sup>th</sup>, she encouraged the commissioners to attend. There is a District 9 Equipment Rodeo and a State level exercise to be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion followed in reference to the District 9 fiscal agent duties that the EMA performed. Decatur County offered to take over the fiscal agent responsibilities. John made a motion to allow Decatur County be the fiscal agent of District 9, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

Mark recognized Jeff-Craig VFD for their work during Governor Pence's visit.

**#6 OVL D Abandoned Trailers**

James Bevis had a question about replacing trailers at the Ohio Valley Land Development and his plan to place trailers on some of his lots. (He has several.) The commissioners suggested that Mark Helt, sanitation officer, and Mark Archer, of planning and zoning, meet with Mr. Bevis. There are restrictions on the amount of land required for septic systems; these lots have working systems but less land than what is required.

Mark Helt stated that the residents appreciated the dumpsters the county and health department placed at the OVL D.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the commissioners decided to have the next meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 5:00 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 4**

With no further business to come before the board, Mark made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor  
Switzerland County, Indiana