

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: Mark Lohide, Jerry Monjar, and Josh South, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

The meeting was opened by Sheriff, Nathan Hughes, with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the regular July 26, 2017 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Mark and seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

The claims were approved as presented on a motion by Mark, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

#1 Duane Covington - VSO Update

Duane reported that the population of veterans is down in the county but the benefits have increased. There were 2 new District Service Officers appointed. They will assist in training local veterans service officers.

#2 Sheriff Hughes - Kitchen A/C

Sheriff Hughes was accompanied by a representative from QOHVACS who had a quote for a solution to the cooling problem in the kitchen for the jail. His recommendation is to install 2 ductless units in the kitchen with 1 outdoor 5-ton condenser. Josh asked if this would affect any current service plan. Bruce said no. Josh read both bids received:

- Comfort Systems - Move existing unit from communications area to kitchen \$10,170. Or 4-ton stand-alone split system for \$14,000.00.
- QOHVACS - LG 5-ton unit with 2 ductless units in the kitchen \$9,449.00.

Jerry made a motion to accept the QOHVACS bid, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

#3 Board of Health - Rental Property

Dr. Findley brought up the Minimal Rights of Renters. There are many issues on rental property in the county and the health department has become overcome with problems recently. They feel that some of the problems are theirs to deal with and others are for the Building Inspector. It might be a matter of more manpower and/or stiffer ordinances. The Health Dept. has a much broader scope of responsibility than in the past. For example: meth houses, mold, and septic system layouts.

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Board of Health - Rental Property cont'd

Mark Helt said that having investigations of rental property before it is rented/re-rented to see what improvements are required might work. Several of the issues they see are not part of the Health Dept. expertise, such as electrical problems. He suggested a Code Enforcement Agency and said he felt Planning and Zoning will need to follow up on issues that are not Health Dept. related. He said we need to start with baby steps but find a way to make it clear that we are serious about rental property being kept inhabitable.

Wil said there are basic building codes in place but they date back to 1996.

Josh said the Town has an Unsafe Building Ordinance. Possibly we could model something off theirs. He said the building inspector would be the enforcement agent for the county.

#4 Other Business

Tech Building Gutter Guards: The information provided by the company did not answer the Commissioners' question (what kind of metal would be used). Bruce is to contact the company for the correct answers.

Mowing Moorefield/Bennington Sewer District: There has been no interest in mowing the Moorefield and Bennington sites for the hay. Bruce is to put an ad in the paper offering the hay, for no charge, to anyone who will mow, bale and remove the hay at both sites.

Jail Roof Repair/RePlace: Mark said we need someone to look at the roof to determine the problem. They would not be eligible to bid on the project. QOHVACS offered. Josh said we have a volunteer and did not want to have QOHVACS do the evaluation since it would prevent them from bidding on the project if they are interested.

Randy Riemersma & Jared Burns - CenturyLink Proposal: CenturyLink presented a proposal to replace the Cisco phone system the county currently has. Our contract with them is up in October of this year. There is a cost savings of \$1,293.00 just by changing to a Shortell system. Other savings would reduce the county's monthly cost a total of \$1,664.00. Currently the county pays \$9,079.00 a month. The reduction would take the cost to \$7,415.00 per month. The proposed contract would be for a 60-month term. Josh asked them to consider other alternatives to bring the cost down even further. Gayle asked if this eliminated the link from the courthouse to the highway garage and animal shelter. Sandra Adams asked if we could get monthly bills with a breakdown by department. All questions received a positive response from Randy.

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Other Business cont'd

MOU Joint Community Initiative: Josh explained the Joint Community Initiative among the County, The Community Foundation of Switzerland County Inc. (CFSCI), and Switzerland County Economic Development. Each participant is asked to make a ten-year commitment of \$25,000.00 each year to support the initiative. A person is to be hired, under the management of CFSCI, to continue and/or create educational programs that utilize the TEC classrooms, aid the County in grant writing and work to expand the workforce education for the purpose of Economic Development. Josh called for a motion to approve the MOU. Jerry made the motion with a second by Josh and the motion passed.

Chip and Seal: Mark commented that the Chip and Seal looks good. He mentioned the Fall Clean up scheduled for September 22, 23 and 24. Rumpke is increasing the price of the dumpster. He suggested we get a quote from Best Way. The Town is not participating this year.

Courthouse ductwork: Bruce said the cleaning of the ductwork over the courtroom will begin at noon on Thursday, August 24.

Courthouse fence electric: The electrical work around the courthouse fence will be started this Friday (August 4).

Tech building electric usage: The Tech building electric bill was down 4,000 KW's from the same month last year due to changing the lights to LED's.

SCER funds: Sandra Adams said she is holding money meant for SCER. She continues to receive payments from several insurance companies that are misrouted to the NMC instead of SCER. There is also an issue with her getting paper checks again. Nadine said that Mr. Freeman, from Ambulance Billing, told her it was the insurance companies causing the problems. Josh suggested there be a special meeting with Ambulance Billing, SCER, NMC and the Commissioners. Bruce is to co-ordinate the meeting day and time.

District 9 golf cart: Tom Moore said the golf cart is back from District 9. It will be at the SCER building. There was a discussion on the use.

SCER response time improvement: Nadine Swift presented a proposal for SCER. She has three ideas for consideration for improved response time and service. The Commissioners took the proposal under advisement.

Tourism Board meeting: Josh said the Tourism Board has requested the Commissioners attend one of their meetings. He mentioned that, since all Commissioners will be present, this will need to be posted. Bruce is to contact Sherry Works, Tourism president, for their schedule.

New 911 system: Josh requested a special meeting with the Town of Vevay, Sheriff's Department, Vevay Police Department and Commissioners regarding the new 911 system.

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Other Business cont'd

Rosemary Bovard asked several questions.

With no further business to come before the board, Mark made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerry, and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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