

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

President, Elizabeth Jones, opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the September 12, 2018 Public Budget Hearing and the council's regular meeting were approved on a motion by Rachel and seconded by John. All agreed.

**#1 Other Business:**

- a) Review of 2018 Health Insurance Cost Increase: President Jones explained that at the November 8, 2017 meeting, Glenn made a motion for the county to cover the 2018 additional premium the employees would pay due to the rate increase. The motion passed. Gayle said she knew that Glenn intended for this to continue permanently but felt everyone did not understand it that way. Lisa said that she had seconded the motion and had she understood that it was not just for one year, would not have done so. After some discussion Rachel made a motion to only continue paying the increase for one year (2018). Lisa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The issue of what the employees will pay in 2019 will be discussed at the November meeting when council hopes to have the final figures for 2019 premiums.

- b) 2018 Budget Reductions Ordinance: Rachel read the figures for the 2018 Budget Reduction Ordinance which included several departments in the General Fund as well as the Reassessment and Health Department Funds. Andy made a motion to approve the Ordinance. John seconded the motion and all agreed.

**INSERT**

- c) 2019 Budget: Jacque Clements, with AIC, provided the Council with new figures for the 2019 budget, including a spreadsheet showing the projected December 31, 2019 balances and the levies by fund with the county taking the max levy. She explained to the Council the possible consequences of not taking the max levy. Jacque also told the Council that the County's Net Assessed Value is down \$4 million for 2019. This is mostly due to the State's reduction in the assessed value of farm land. Other factors can contribute such as applications for additional deductions.

Jacque has calculated that the max levy increase for 2019 is \$78,007 to be spread out over all property in the county. The county's increase on a primary residence with a value of \$100,000 would be approximately \$7.91 annually (\$3.96 per installment). She also mentioned that the Schools and Townships will be taking their max levies so the property owners will be paying more in taxes regardless of what the county does.

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**#2 Other Business (continued):**

After discussion Andy made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Lisa seconded the motion and all agreed.

- d) 2019 Salary Ordinance discussion: The Council has to have the salary ordinance approved by the end of 2018. Gayle had asked that they reviewed the current figures with the pay increases before it is officially ready for signature to avoid needing to revise the ordinance.

Lisa said she felt that the Council and Commissioners should not receive pay increases. The members concurred. She also mentioned that after restructuring the hours at the animal shelter several years ago, those employees are making more than elected officials, such as the Clerk. She suggested taking them back to 34 hours. Gayle said she would email the member figures for shelter employees getting paid for 34 hours a week rather than their current 40.

Discussions pertaining to time sheets, time clocks and flat pay increases followed.

e) Other:

- Elizabeth asked Gayle to explain the \$1,025,000 reduction in the Council's portion of Casino Revenue. Gayle said \$750,000 went toward group insurance, \$250,000 toward budget support and \$25,000 was paid to the Community Foundation for the annual Joint Community Initiative Program.
- There will be a meeting of the Board of Zoning at 6:00 p.m. on October 17<sup>th</sup> in the Courthouse basement meeting room regarding a proposed cell tower to be placed on property on North State Road 56.

There being no further business to discuss, Lisa made a motion to adjourn. John seconded and all agreed. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor Switz. Co

