

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: Todd Chase, Mike Bear, Lisa Fisher, Andy Haskell, Elizabeth Jones, Lance Collier and Rachel Schuler, sheriff, Brian Morton, and the auditor, Carolyn Green.

The meeting was opened by Brian with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the December 12, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Andy, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

#1 Reorganization

Elizabeth asked for nominations for president of the council. Lisa made the motion to nominate Elizabeth for a second term, Mike seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mullin, McMillan & McMillan

The floor was opened for nominations for vice president. Mike nominated Lisa and Lance seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Elizabeth said that with the issues facing the council this year, including the Belterra lawsuit and a new auditor, she felt it was necessary to have legal counsel. She introduced Mike Cunningham from Dearborn County who then told about his professional background. Mike is a member of the firm Mullin, McMillan and McMillan and is familiar with Switzerland County. He formerly worked in the State Auditor's Office under now Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch. Elizabeth made the motion to hire Mike and Rachel seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. The attorney would receive the same salary as the commissioner's lawyer, which is approximately \$10,000.00 per year. Rachel said that we should advertise the job. The president called for the vote. Lisa, Mike, and Elizabeth voted for Mike Cunningham as the council lawyer. Andy, Rachel, Todd and Lance voted against hiring Cunningham. The motion failed with a vote of 4 to 3. It was suggested that we advertise for legal counsel and re-visit the issue.

#2 Distribution of Belterra Gaming Funds

1. Belterra Property Assessment Lawsuit Discussions

Since there are two new council members, the president reviewed the critical situation with the lawsuit. The assessor's office will make the decisions concerning the settlement, but the council will be dramatically affected as they pay part or all of the final settlement. Elizabeth said that she felt the council should help the school corporation with their portion of the tax repayment. School Superintendent, Rod Hite, stated that the School Endowment would be unable to pay toward the school's portion. The possible repayment of \$837,000.00 to Belterra would be devastating to the operation of the schools. Lisa reminded the council that to absorb that amount of money, we would need to take a hard look at other expenses.

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Distribution of Belterra Gaming Funds cont'd

2. Fire Chiefs Association

The Fire Chiefs Association has received \$300,000.00 yearly in Belterra gaming funds since 2016. The organization subtracts 5% for projects, insurance and training and then distributes the remainder to the local fire departments. The Patriot Fire Department has been allocated 11.3% (approximately \$32,000.00 of the distribution) for the last several years. Since the Patriot Fire Department is no longer in operation and has answered no calls in the last two years, there was discussion that we should no longer fund a non-functioning fire department. The Posey Township Fire Department is under a financial contract with the Town of Patriot to provide services. According to a report from the Fire Chiefs Association treasurer, Glenn Scott, the Association has \$278,737.00 in savings and checking. There is a total of \$54,432.38 held from past installments for Patriot. The funds were being held in the event the status of the Patriot Fire Dept. changed.

Lisa Fisher made a motion to subtract \$32,000.00 (approximately 11.3%) from the Fire Chiefs allotment so that funds could be used for other things and Mike seconded the motion. According to the stated motion no other fire departments – not Jeff-Craig, East Enterprise, Florence, Posey VFD, or Moorefield would receive a decrease in funding. Only the funds normally directed toward the Patriot Fire Dept. would be reduced. The motion carried 5 to 2.

Lisa made the motion to leave the Belterra distributions the same as preceding years (2016-2018) except for the reduction to the defunct Patriot Fire Department; Andy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#3 Board Appointments

Lisa made the motion to accept the following board appointments and Mike seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development	Tom Conroy
ABC	Bernie Gaudin
Redevelopment Committee	Joey Rider
	Bernie Gaudin
SISWD	Lance Collier
SIRPC	Andy Haskell
EMA	Lisa Fisher

#4 Other Business

A. Sheriff Retirement

Sheriff Morton requested that his department's retirement plan trustee become:

Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc
 8801 River Crossing Blvd., Suite 120
 Indianapolis, IN 46240

Lisa made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Lance, and the motion carried.

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Other Business cont'd

B. Spay/Neuter Program

Spay/Neuter was listed as an agenda item. Elizabeth asked if there was any interest or desire to discuss. No discussion followed or motion made. The issued died for lack of a motion.

C. YMCA 2019 Contract

The YMCA agreement was signed by the commissioners. The motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Mike to concur with the commissioners; the motion carried.

With no further business to come before council, Andy made the motion to adjourn, Mike seconded the motion, and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Attest: _____
Carolyn J. Green, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana