

SWITZERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

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

Those present: Commissioners: Jamie Peters, Jerry Monjar, Maintenance Personnel, Wesley Poling, Circuit Court Judge Gregory Coy, Chief Probation Officer, Jeff Theetge, Juvenile Probation Officer, Natalie Williams, Economic Development Director, Jon Bond, County Administrator, Susie Swank, and Auditor, Yvette Emmich.

The meeting started promptly at 4:00 PM.

The special meeting was scheduled to meet with Judge Coy and the Probation Department Officers to discuss the need for additional space and funds for the growing Probation department. Per Judge Coy, Chief Probation Officer, Jeff Theetge is at maximum capacity with number of cases and Natalie Williams helps when she is available and not tending to her own case load. Per Judge Coy, the department will likely add one or two personnel starting January 1, 2024. Per Judge Coy, the goal is to secure a grant through JRAC to pay for this position(s).

There was discussion around renovating the existing classroom at the Technology & Education Center on the main level that is currently occupied by Judge Coy and staff. The question was raised how this room was used previously. Per Jon Bond, local groups including IVY Tech College would use it for educational purposes and workforce training. Additionally, Purdue Extension and other local groups have utilized the room for meetings, trainings, etc.

The use of the lower level of the Technology & Education Center was discussed, but per Judge Coy, this space is not an option for safety reasons. Per Judge Coy, the Probation Officers must generally be surrounded by others and have quick access to an exit if a client were to become aggressive in nature.

Per Jeff Theetge, he prefers to stay at the Technology & Education Center due to the resources that are onsite and available to their clients. This includes the Veterans Service Officer and a local private counseling practice.

Per Judge Coy, the State will be completing a safety assessment on November 4, 2022. Switzerland County is one of two Courthouses that doesn't have metal detectors and cameras onsite for safety purposes. Per Wesley, there are four cameras on the exterior of the Courthouse, but if power is lost, the cameras transition to an inactive status and the Jail would have to be watching them regularly to know this, so they are returned to an active mode.

Jamie Peters mentioned available ground near the Sheriff's Office for expansion options.


Yvette shared the information concerning the Opioid settlement that the County will receive in 2022. In 2022, the estimated unrestricted amount will be \$22,274.51 and the estimated restricted amount will be \$51,973.85. Each year after will be a portion of remaining total balances. Per Yvette, the unrestricted amounts may be spent in the same manner as the money in the


General Fund and the restricted funds are for educational and prevention purposes.


Jon Bond spoke of the READI grant application process and to be eligible for funds for the existing round, the County will need to make decisions in the next 45 days.

Finally, Yvette mentioned a local space near the Courthouse and Sheriff's Office for rent that has two offices, waiting area, kitchenette, bathroom, and storage space, if an interim solution would need to be secured. The monthly rent is \$900.00.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 PM.





Attest: 

H. Yvette Emmich, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana