

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: Tom Conroy, Steve Crabtree, Terry Hall, Mike Jones, Rachel Schuler, and Glenn Scott, the sheriff, Roy Leap, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Councilman Jeff Darling arrived later. Council attorney, Cody Kendall, was absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 6th were approved on a motion by Tom, seconded by Glenn and all agreed.

#1 Jane Yorn - Safe Passage

Ms. Yorn brought council a summary sheet of what Safe Passage has accomplished. Their shelter is located in Batesville but they also serve Switzerland County and 4 other counties in southeastern Indiana. They provide services to domestic violence victims. They have served 20 clients from Switzerland County this year with 600 days of shelter use at an estimated cost of \$77.00 per day. Their fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. All of the services they provide are at no cost to the victims.

They try to tailor what they do to the community that they serve. She is requesting council to approve an additional \$5,000.00 over last year's amount (\$7,073.50) in order to help finance an office space expansion in Switzerland County. They are asking every city in every county for financial support - some have been lax in their support.

#2 Tom Talbot - Community Mental Health

Mr. Talbot thanked the council for letting him speak. He informed them that their comprehensive mental health center serves 5 counties in southeastern Indiana; they have 22 sites; some are residential housing sites and some are offices. They are looking at becoming a federally qualified health center or QAC. There are certain requirements; they have to become a primary care provider and have/contract for all the necessary services though a person's life span. They received planning grant to have a consulting group do a study to see if this is a medically underserved area - Switzerland County qualifies for that. They already have an office and 2 housing facilities in Switzerland County.

The federal government has to approve the QAC designation. They could use their current office space or look for other sites that would be suitable. Another opportunity would be to work with the existing healthcare structure in Switzerland County; Fr. Frede, Dr. Findley, and the Nurse Managed Clinic. He would prefer to have some type of collaborative arrangement with what is already here. The QAC is really intended to serve the Medicaid population and the uninsured population.

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Tom Talbot - Community Mental Health cont'd

Mike asked if this would be a competitive arrangement; Mr. Talbot said he would rather it be collaborative. He said they would contract with and maybe bring in other providers for the behavioral health component. They would also bring in an OBGYN, dentist, and another primary care doctor and this would be because of the increase in the number of patients. Mr. Talbot said they have talked to KDH and the nurse managed clinic and they have a meeting set up with Dr. Frede.

Mr. Talbot said another option would be to take over the nurse managed clinic to use their space and mental health's space. Rachel asked if it would only be for mental health patients, he said the patient would become a client of the QAC; a division within their organization.

Steve said he felt the county needed to have some type of roll in the QAC with the health department and nurse managed clinic. Rachel said the 2 county offices already serve the uninsured not to mention providing physicals for CDL's.

Glenn asked him what he is looking for tonight. Mr. Talbot said he was there just to broach the subject to the county and just set something up regarding on-going discussions.

Saundra Adams, of the nurse managed clinic, said that they and Dr. Frede's office, especially the nurse managed clinic, are concerned that the QAC could possibly affect their state funding. They do have quite a few patients and they are afraid the competition would hurt the clinic financially.

There is a meeting Wednesday at KDH at 8:00 a.m. and Community Mental Health would like someone from council or anyone from the county to come.

#3 Craig Beckley - HeartHouse

Mr. Beckley is requesting, on behalf of HeartHouse, the same amount as last year, \$5,000.00. Between 80 and 90 percent of the residents of HeartHouse are currently employed which is unheard of at other shelters. They are working more closely with the Department of Corrections than ever before. They are working with Jack Ross, a parole officer, to allow parolees to come to the shelter; but only if approved by Mr. Ross.

He said they would appreciate any help they could get as they were just recently cut \$10,000.00 in funding from the state. The majority of their funding comes from donations and the apartments they own.

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#4 Other Business

GFC contract: GFC provides financial and budget services. Steve made a motion to approve the contract with GFC, seconded by Glenn and all agreed.

Joint Meeting dates: The quarterly joint meeting dates were changed at a previous joint meeting. This is a document just confirming the changes in dates. The last 2 joint meetings for 2014 are September 17th and December 17th which are Wednesday evenings. Tom made a motion to approve the meeting dates, seconded by Jeff, the motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1 with Glenn voting no.

Budget meeting date: After some discussion it was decided to have the meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 28th.

Percentage committee: After some discussion it was decided to not form a committee to work on the casino revenue percentages; the council will just decide. They will meet after the August 28th budget meeting.

Gayle suggested paying for the insurance and deferred compensation out of the Belterra Fund with the understanding that if the income goes away so does everything that is being paid out of it. This was agreeable to council.

There was discussion about paying off the county debt. Jon Bond, of the EDC, said that with the type of county debt there is it could probably be retired by the end of the year. The only reason the Redevelopment Commission debt gets lumped in with county debt is that the auditor has always paid it directly. The way it would work anywhere else, is that the Redevelopment Area would capture the debt service funds and pay it themselves. Jon said the only county obligations are the YMCA payoff bonds that could be retired at the end of the year for approximately \$1.5 million.

Steve asked if the Redevelopment Commission could take over the annex building. It would have to provide something that would benefit the Redevelopment Area; such as work force training. The money would ultimately have to come from the county. Jon said there could be a way to get a lower interest rate on the money that is owed.

Food Pantry: Glenn wanted to confirm that the commissioners had agreed to lease/sell the building that the Food Pantry is in to an industry. He wanted to know if the property appraisals are back - Jon Bond said he hasn't received the final appraisals. Jon said all the commissioners did was ask the Food Pantry to leave. Getting the building leased or sold is up to the Redevelopment Commission. The commission had the hearing to open bids on August 11th; there were 2 bids. There are copies in the auditor's office. Glenn was disappointed that the council had not been informed earlier of what was going on. Pam Acton, of the Community Foundation, is working on getting a new location for the Food Pantry.

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Commissioner Mark Lohide brought council up to date on what is happening with all of the road closings and repairs. Mark and Steve Lyons have talked to SIRPC about a focal grant for the Food Pantry but the grant cycle is not until next year. There was also discussion about the repairs for the generator at the annex.

With no further business to come before council, Tom made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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