

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: Mike Bear, Steve Crabtree, Terry Hall, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Gary Welch, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Council attorney, Cody Kendall was absent.

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

Reorganization: Steve made a motion to have Glenn be the council president for 2016, seconded by Rachel and all agreed. Elizabeth made a motion to have Rachel serve as vice-president for 2016, seconded by Terry and all agreed. Steve made a motion to rehire Cody as the council attorney, seconded by Rachel and the motion carried with 5 voting yes and 2 voting no, Elizabeth and Mike.

The minutes of the previous meeting of December 9, 2015 were approved as presented on a motion by Rachel, seconded by John Gary and all agreed.

#1 Jeff Darling – East Enterprise Fire Department – Explanation of Truck Purchase

Jeff came with Harold Scranton, from the East Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department (EEVFD), and John Buckman from the State Fire Marshall's Office. He said with the budget cuts the Fire Chiefs Corporation has taken, the EEVFD can no longer make their annual payment on the ladder truck. Back in 2008 when the State Fire Marshall was Robert Johnson, he was very adamant that due to Belterra being the second largest hotel in the state of Indiana, at that time, that a full-time crew or an aerial device was needed. After crunching the numbers it was evident that buying an aerial device was cheaper than having a full-time crew. They found a used device that was 10 years old down in Texas; purchased it and went down and picked it up themselves. At this point they have owned the truck for 7 years. They have made 8 payments and were really working to get it paid off back when they had more funds.

Jeff had their profit and loss reports for 2013 and 2014 for the council's review. They did not have 2015 finalized yet. They are audited every year by an outside organization from Madison.

He said they have not bought anything that wasn't needed in the last 2 or 3 years and they received some supplies for free when the power plant in Lawrenceburg closed. Every member is a volunteer, not paid. Every year they used to do an appreciation dinner for the volunteer firemen but have also cut that out and they still do 4 or 5 fundraisers a year.

The one thing the truck has done for them is that their ISO rating is now 5, the best being 1 and the worst being 10. Which means lower insurance costs for everyone in the EEVFD fire district.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2**Jeff Darling – East Enterprise Fire Department – Explanation of Truck Purchase cont'd**

He went over their expenses; one of which is the truck payment of \$59,700.00. The EEVFD receives about \$90,000.00 from the Fire Chiefs' Corporation and just the insurance and truck payment almost take up that amount.

The payoff amount for the truck by January 31, 2016 would be \$112,599.85; but the current payment due is \$59,700.00. He has contacted Belterra to see if they would help pay on the truck and was told they would have to fill out the necessary paperwork and be put on the waiting list with no guarantee of money.

He has come tonight to ask for financial help for the EEVFD to pay for the firetruck. The Fire Chiefs Corporation keeps out 5% of the funds for a fire prevention program and training fire fighters. Last year they did not keep any out-it all went to the fire departments. This year they are just keeping out 2.5% for a fire prevention program and training.

Mr. Buckman explained the need for the aerial ladder. They bought the biggest one due to the risk factor at Belterra.

Rachel asked Jeff as to whether or not the Fire Chiefs Corporation has the funds to help pay for the truck. He said yes they have money but he is concerned that if you give money to one department the other departments are entitled to the same money. If the casino revenue goes away or they no longer receive money then the money for the programs, scholarships, and training would also go away and they would like to have a banked amount to fund these programs and other things.

Elizabeth really liked the idea that he had contacted Belterra and understands that he knows nothing about help from them at this point. John Gary asked what Belterra would do if the truck went away, Jeff did not know.

Rachel asked when the payment was due, and the normal payment is due in March but the payoff is due January 31st. Rachel and Elizabeth are more in favor of making the payment and not paying it off just in case Belterra would come through with some financial help. Jeff suggested that if council paid it off and Belterra did give them any money then that money could be given to the county.

John Gary said they don't want to jeopardize the relationship with Belterra. Rachel said it would be silly at this point to let the truck go back and would rather help out on the payment. Elizabeth said too that it would look better if the truck wasn't paid off since EEVFD is asking Belterra for assistance and Jeff agreed.

Larry Monjar with the Posey Fire Department, stated that they do not have a truck like that and do not have the facility to house one. There are 3 businesses in their district that if anything happened they would have to call East Enterprise or Ohio County for assistance.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 3**Jeff Darling – East Enterprise Fire Department – Explanation of Truck Purchase cont'd**

Terry said he was at Belterra from the beginning and served as their safety person for 6 years. He said the county probably needs an aerial truck. His thought is: This is 15 years that Belterra has been here and he is wondering if Belterra should be expected to help with the truck payment since they have already put a lot of money into the county through taxes, and etc. The county has received approximately \$8,000,000.00 over the 15-year period. He said it may be time to step up and do this. Glenn said that if they help they would still be ahead because they cut the Fire Chiefs Corporation \$115,000.00 and Jeff and the EEVFD is only asking for \$112,599.85. Terry made a motion to pay off the ladder truck, seconded by John Gary. Steve said he voted against cutting the fire departments back when the cuts to the entities were being made because he knew that EEVFD would be here needing funds due to a previous conversation with Jeff.

Rachel said they should just go ahead and pay it off. John Gary said he was fine with paying it off. If Belterra does give them any funds, those funds should come back to council.

Glenn called for a vote. Elizabeth voted no because she wanted to see what or if Belterra would make any kind of payment first and Mike voted no because he did not want to pay off the loan. The motion passed with 4 voting yes and 2 voting no with Glenn abstaining. Jeff thanked them for their help.

#2 Sheriff Nathan Hughes – Jail Dishwasher Purchase

Nathan came and asked for help with paying for a new dishwasher at the jail. The current dishwasher was designed to last for 8 years and has been in use for over 10 years. They have spent over \$3,000.00 in repairs in the past and now it is broken again. A new one equal to what they have now is \$12,882.00 and this includes installation. It is really a liability to have inmates do the dishes as someone suggested. Nathan said he could use his building maintenance and his kitchen supplies line items but it's only January. He could use these and commissary money but then he wouldn't have any money for anything else the rest of the year.

Glenn asked Nathan what the receipts for housing prisoners were for 2015; Nathan said a little over \$234,700.00. Elizabeth looked up the cost of a dishwasher and agreed he is on target on the cost of a new one. Rachel asked about there being any money in his law enforcement money from the casino funds. They are looking at necessary dispatch upgrades to come out of these funds; a cost of about \$100,000.00 for these upgrades. They had to pay approximately \$80,000.00 in upgrades to the jail in 2015. They are saving money on prisoner meals by implementing a new food program.

Steve made a motion to buy a dishwasher for the jail which was seconded by Glenn for the purpose of discussion. The motion passed with John Gary, Glenn, Steve, Terry and Rachel voting yes and Elizabeth and Mike voting no; they wanted to use some of the commissary money. Gayle asked where the money is coming from. Council decided to pay for the dishwasher half from COIT and half from Cum Cap.

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#3 Revised Salary Ordinances

After some discussion the following revised salary ordinance was approved on a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

REVISED SALARY ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF ALL OFFICERS, DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, AND EMPLOYEES, AND FIXING THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, AND OTHER EMPLOYEES FOR EACH OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR **2016**, FOR SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR **2016**, THE SALARIES OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS, DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, AND EMPLOYEES AND THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, AND EMPLOYEES FOR EACH OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT OF SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA, BE AND ARE THE SAME HEREBY SET AND FIXED AS FOLLOWS:

<u>TITLE OF POSITION OR EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>BUDGET/ DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>RATE OF YEARLY COMPENSATION</u>	<u>RATE OF PAY PER CHECK</u>
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER	GENERAL/VSO	1	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 538.46

#4 Bond Ordinance

The bond ordinance allowing blanket bonds was approved on a motion by Terry, seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

#5 Scanner Purchase

Gayle asked council to buy a new document scanner. The scanner that council purchased a few years back is now broken and so old you cannot get parts to fix it. Elizabeth, Cyndi Barnes, who currently works in the recorder's office, Nancy Craig and Gayle went to a demo for the scanner. The purpose of the scanner would be to scan the old books in the courthouse or anything that would need to be retained for a long period of time.

Elizabeth said that the 4H, the historical society, and the library could make use of a scanner. A 600-page large old book can be scanned in half of a day.

The cost for the scanner is \$40,750.00. There is a maintenance agreement included. It can also be rented but that would limit the use by other entities. Elizabeth made a motion to purchase the scanner which was seconded by Rachel for discussion. Rachel asked where the funds would come from. Rachel asked if there would be a trade-in value later; Gayle is to check.

Glenn called for a vote of the purchasing of a scanner. The motion passed on a unanimous vote. Gayle is to ask about future trade-in value before she signs any paperwork. Terry wants a report periodically showing how many books are being scanned. Elizabeth mentioned, at some point, letting the library and other entities know we have it.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 5**#6 Funding Requests**

Gayle had given council members information showing the requests for the last 2 years. She sent the Relay-for-Life entity a form but Glenda Sullivan is currently sick. She asked if council would want to go ahead and approve an amount then if they come back at a later date asking for help then the money would be available.

After Prom had already been decided at an earlier meeting because of when the event is.

The high school golf scramble has not requested money for the last two years. So it was removed from the list.

The Hoosier Theater requested \$10,000.00 and received \$6,000.00 last year. By consensus council approved \$6,000.00 for the Hoosier Theater.

The car show is not asking for any money this year.

The Relay-for-Life requested \$5,000.00 and received \$2,500.00 in the past. By consensus council agreed to set aside \$2,500.00 for this entity.

The Salvation Army requested \$6,000.00 last year and this year and were given \$5,000.00 last year. By consensus council approved \$5,000.00 for this entity.

The Shop-With-A-Cop program requested \$2,500.00 last year and this year but they received \$1,250.00 last year. The council agreed to \$1,250.00 for 2016.

The Main Street Beautification Project requested \$5,000.00. This would be money for a matching program. In 2015 they did not receive anything. Steve said when you have an accredited main street program, that program is eligible for more points toward other grant money. Jeni Scudder of the Main Street Program said they only have enough operating money to last about 2 more months. They have also asked the Town of Vevay and Tourism for assistance. They have talked to Madison Main Street to find out how to become self-sufficient. They also contacted Belterra over 5 months ago for assistance and not heard anything; they were to receive a reply within 90 days.

Rachel asked who is funding them now; Council, and the Town of Vevay. They go to the Town meeting on the 25th to find out if they will be getting anything from them. They asked the Town for approximately \$9,400.00. Tourism does not donate any money but they give them office space rent free. Tourism said they would help fund facade and signage upgrades but nothing toward the operating costs, at this point. Tourism wants them to take over some of the events they have been doing; the Egg Extravaganza and Sleepy Hollow. Vevay Main Street is trying to get the businesses more involved in the First Friday events. The Vevay Community Foundation has helped them out but regulations won't allow them to help with operating costs. Jeni said it is the same way with the grants, none of them are ever for operating costs.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 6**Funding Requests cont'd**

After a lengthy discussion, Terry made a motion to match up to \$15,000.00 with the Town of Vevay for Vevay Main Street. His motion was seconded by Steve and the vote was unanimous.

Steve said the Vevay Community Foundation's grant cycle is in April. He asked Vevay Main Street, Vickie Hinman, to come to the Foundation tomorrow and talk about money for the Beautification Project.

The Swiss Wine Festival has asked for \$15,000.00 in the past and for this year. Mike said he thought that Tourism should be funding this event. After some discussion Glenn recommended giving this entity \$10,000.00. Steve made a motion to give the Swiss Wine Festival \$15,000.00. His motion died for lack of a second. Rachel made a motion to approve \$10,000.00, seconded by Glenn for discussion. Glenn called for a vote of \$10,000.00; the motion did not pass. The vote was 3 in favor and 4 opposed (Terry, Steve, Mike, John Gary). Terry made a motion to give them \$7,500.00, seconded by Glenn for discussion. Glenn called for a vote on \$7,500.00. The motion passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 3 opposed (Mike, Elizabeth, and Steve).

The Cemetery Board has asked for \$20,000.00; they received \$5,000.00 last year. Terry made a motion to give the Cemetery Board \$10,000.00, seconded by Steve and the motion carried with Glenn voting no.

HearthHouse asked for \$7,500.00 for this year and this is the amount they received last year. Council agreed to approve \$7,500.00 for HearthHouse, \$15,000.00 for LifeTime Resources, \$4,245.00 for SIRPC Region 12, and \$10,000.00 for the Child Advocacy Center. Council also agreed to approve \$7074.00 for Safe Passage.

Glenn asked for a motion to approve all of the above amounts that were not approved by a motion; the ones that were just agreed upon. Rachel made a motion to approve the agreed upon amounts for the above entities, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

#7 EMS Board Appointment

Glenn said he would like to be the council's representative for the EMS Board. Rachel made a motion to appoint Glen as the council's representative to this board, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed with Glenn abstaining.

Rachel said that Terri Grove and Connie Adams have expressed an interest in being the citizen representative appointed by council to the EMS board. Rachel made a motion to appoint Connie Adams as the citizen representative appointed by council to the EMS Board, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

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#8 Courthouse Roof Repair/Replacement

Commissioner Steve Lyons wanted council to be aware of some roof leaks on the old part of the courthouse. Herschel Brichto is doing some work on the cupola to fix some of the problems but there are more issues to be addressed and a new roof may need to be put on so the commissioners may need to come back for funding.

With no further business to come before council, Steve made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Terry and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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