

**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, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Gary Welch, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. The council attorney, Cody Kendall, and council member, Elizabeth Jones were absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of January 13<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented on a motion John Gary, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

**#1 Katie Collier - Indian Creek Watershed Project Update**

Katie came to give the council the update on the Indian Creek Watershed Project which came to an end on January 31, 2016. She also gave them information on what went on at the Soil and Water Conservation District office for 2015.

She said they received a \$75,000.00 grant (Clean Water Indiana Funds) with Ripley County to help landowners implement cover crops and progressive crop scouting, including a system with aerial imaging and tissue sampling and soil testing. The deadline for application is April 30<sup>th</sup> and the grant paid \$11,097.00 in 2015 in the county. \$181,717.55 (90%) was paid out of \$202,000.00 that was available for cost share payments for the Indian Creek Watershed Project, \$21,285.25 was paid from the Clean Water Indiana Grant with Dearborn County and Ohio County for various projects, and county cost programs were mentioned. Katie went over other programs and the number of customers they dealt with at the SWCD office for 2015. The SWCD annual meeting is set for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the JSSCSCC.

Steve asked what happened to the money that was not used for the Watershed Project (\$20,282.45) and Katie said it had to go back to IDEM.

**#2 Jeremy Harsin - Jeff-Craig Fire Department**

Jeremy came to council asking for their consideration in helping pay off a loan that they have for a 75-foot aerial truck. He had given council a handout explaining the costs and what they are wanting help with.

Steve asked how far out Jeff-Craig Fire Department's coverage area is on SR56 and Jeremy said to Fairview Road and on SR156 Markland Pike is the cut-off point. On SR129 it is the top of the hill and they cover all the way to the Jefferson County line on SR56 in the other direction.

Mike asked if they have any money and Jeremy said they have about \$221,000.00 but \$40,000.00 of it is allocated for a roof and improvements at the firehouse. Some of it is invested in an endowment, a 50/50 grant, trying to insure their future and where they could be self-sufficient.

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Jeremy Harsin - Jeff-Craig Fire Department cont'd

Steve said he thought if you help out one firehouse you do it for all; so he made a motion to pay off the loan for Jeff-Craig Fire Department. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Terry said yes they made cuts, yes they helped 1 fire department, and they have helped about 15 different little entities that do not receive riverboat revenue. He told him to come back next year; there is nothing left for this year.

Jeremy thanked them for their time and consideration.

#3 Other Business

The following revised salary ordinance was approved on a motion by Terry, 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>
FOOD INSPECTOR	LOCAL HEALTH	1	\$ 30,060.00	\$ 1,156.15
CLERICAL	LOCAL HEALTH		\$ 2,025.00	
LEVEL II DEPUTY	ASSESSOR	1	\$ 500.00	

The following revised salary ordinance was considered, after an explanation by Commissioner Josh South and some discussion, on a motion by Mike which was seconded by John Gary. Terry asked about any property that council has helped the past EMS service with financially. At this time it does not revert back to the county but the commissioners have asked for 2 appraisals on the buildings owned by the Switzerland County EMS as they have offered to sell them back to the county. Another option is the old 7-Up building, which needs a lot of work, and the Tech Building was discussed. Another option might be the vacant lot by the sheriff's department that the county already owns. As far as ambulances, they will be taking bids/quotes. The fire departments would also be involved with their units.

Steve said he had been in Indianapolis for the last 2 weeks, and the consensus is that the state will be pushing next year to take the riverboat revenue funds away from the county. He wanted to make sure the new hires will be told this information.

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Other Business cont'd

After some discussion, Glenn called for a vote. The ordinance was approved on a vote of 4 ayes and 1 nay (Steve) and Glenn abstained. Steve said he voted nay because he didn't think the county is being fair to the newly hired EMS employees. He said he would have felt better waiting a year to start a county owned EMS.

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DIRECTOR	EMS	1	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 1,826.92
BASIC EMT	EMS	1		\$ 13.00/HOUR
ADVANCED EMT	EMS	4		\$ 14.50/HOUR
PARAMEDIC	EMS	4		\$ 15.50/HOUR

Steve said House Bill 1001, concerning road funding, talks about implementing a wheel tax and some other things. He said Jon Bond told him the county's part could be about \$165,000.00. The House is wanting to do a long term plan whereas the Senate is wanting to do something for 1 year. Neither one of them really like the governor's plan. They are talking about raising the cigarette tax to \$1.99 a pack and probably will raise the tax on other tobacco products.

With no further business to come before the council, Terry made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor  
 Switzerland County, Indiana