

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, and Glenn Scott, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Councilman John Gary Welch was absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of September 14th were approved as presented on a motion by Mike, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed.

#1 Chris See – Jeff-Craig Fire Department – Pay Off Ladder Truck & Grant Match

Chris told council that back in 2015 the fire department applied for an AFG grant which was approved. They will be receiving \$131,000.00 from FEMA for new air packs and their match is \$6,500.00 and with the upgrades the match is now \$10,408.00. He is asking for help with the grant match and the ladder truck will be addressed next year. They are looking at taking out a loan and their other money is tied up in cd's; they have a little over \$200,000.00 saved in case a fire truck would need replaced or a pump would go bad.

The air packs they are wanting to purchase are guaranteed for 15 years and should last another 5 to 10 years after that and the bottles are guaranteed for 30 years.

Elizabeth said that the fire department had about \$300,000.00 saved last year and wanted to know where the difference went. Chris said they made a couple of payments on trucks, have purchased ambulances, and made insurance payments of approximately \$16,000.00. They have a little money in the endowment but they don't touch that.

Steve asked if they had any money coming in. The endowment will give them about \$3,500.00 at the end of the year and then they bill for everything to go on.

Rachel asked about the fire chiefs helping them. They haven't asked them yet. He said the fire department hasn't received any casino revenue since April from the fire chiefs association. Rachel would like to see the fire department ask the Fire Chiefs Association for help with the grant match. The ladder truck payoff is \$45,100.14. The rest of council agreed by consensus for the fire department going to the fire chiefs association for assistance.

Glenn asked Chris about the EMA department getting in trouble for using the Jeff-Craig Fire Departments radio frequency during an emergency situation. Chris said they did turn him in to the state for using their frequency. Glenn said in Dec 14, 2011 the county paid \$2,000.00 toward helping improve the radio link; he would like to know why they turned him in for something the county helped upgrade. Chris said the EMA director has to have permission and he did not ask. Glenn asked if the night the \$2,000.00 was approved that all county agencies would be able to use the frequency; Chris couldn't remember. He wanted to know why the FCC had to be brought in when it could have possibly have been handled within the county. Chris said it was just a warning letter; but Glenn said that a gentleman from the FCC drove from Chicago to here because of the complaint. Chris said the FCC representative was already in the area.

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Chris See – Jeff-Craig Fire Department – Pay off Ladder Truck & Grant Match cont'd

Glenn thought it would have been nice to have tried to handle things within the county since the county also has supported other projects for the fire department. He wanted to know what the procedure is for getting permission to use the frequency; Chris said to write a letter requesting it. Glenn said all parties involved could have handled things better.

#2 Darin Wood – Light Tech

Steve gave an explanation as to why Mr. Wood came to the meeting. Steve had contacted him about changing lights from fluorescent to LED bulbs and that Duke had a rebate going on to support the change. He stopped by Steve's office and did a survey to change the lighting there which they are going to proceed with. Mr. Wood had changed the lighting in the Ripley County courthouse and the Ripley County jail.

Jon Bond and Steve took him down to the tech building here in town which has over 200 lights in it. Mr. Wood did a survey on that building which proved that it would be a big savings but obviously there would be an initial investment.

Mr. Wood explained his process which is that he would change the bulb wattage from 85 to 40 watt (LED). They calculated that it would be about a \$6,200.00 annual savings at the tech building with a 5-year warranty on all the products. The cost would \$7,294.00 to make the change and Light Tech does take all of the rebate money so that the full cost does not have to be paid by the customer. He takes care of filling out all of the rebate paperwork. Steve asked what the payback was for Riley County and Mr. Wood said about \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00 annually.

The savings amount is based on a 3,000 kWh per year consumption. But at the tech building there are timers on rooms so the usage would not necessarily be the 3,000 kWh. Glenn wanted to know what could be saved here at the courthouse. The courthouse is different in the fact that there are different light fixtures here and they would have to use a different type of light. The heat output from the LED lights is minimal and the life expectancy is 50,000 hours or about 5,000 days.

Terry suggested having Mr. Wood look at the rest of the county buildings and then get the commissioners involved since it is ultimately their decision.

#3 Other Business

Spay/Neuter Fund: Gayle wanted to know if council will once again fund it for 2017 and the balance is currently in the negative by \$1,358.00. She is asking for \$3,000.00 to finish this year but no more vouchers are currently being issued and there are vouchers still out. Steve made a motion to approve \$3,000.00 to finish 2016, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed. Terry made a motion to fund the program at the \$10,000.00 level for 2017, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

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Other Business cont'd

NMC salary clarification: Gayle said when Carol Ann Sublett came to council asking to increase Kelsey's salary that it was thought to be effective January 1, 2017 but there was a miscommunication and they were actually wanting it effective immediately. Also there is still the question as to whether or not she will still get a raise, like the other employees, on January 1st. Gayle thought Carol Ann said this would be her increase in pay and she would not get an increase in January. The NMC board wanted it effective immediately and now retroactively. The NMC doesn't get enough grant money to cover all of the salaries but between their grant money and fees they do earn enough to cover their budget. It was suggested going back and listening to the minutes from the September 14th meeting again for clarification. Mike made a motion to make the salary change effective January 1, 2017, seconded by Elizabeth and after some discussion the motion carried with Steve voting no and Rachel abstaining as she is on the NMC board.

2017 Budget approval: Gayle had given Glenn the signature pages for the budget approval that has to go in Gateway, (state program). The actual salary ordinance will be approved at a later date. Two things Gayle changed on salaries: she took Kevin Hayes and Darrell Keith to the FLSA minimum in order for them to remain exempt employees if it is approved by the sheriff and commissioners; \$47,476.00 each. Another thing that came up was that Megan Kilborn, election deputy, wants to be considered full time. The salary is not an issue but she would get all the benefits. She would be making about \$1,000.00 less than other deputies in the courthouse. Terry made a motion to approve the request to move the election deputy position to full time at the rate of pay listed in the budget, seconded by Rachel and all agreed.

The amount of the pay raise was brought up again; Gayle had 3% figured in the budget due to a previous discussion. Due to the budget deadline, Gayle suggest that council approve the state approved budget. Since the salary ordinance takes precedence over the budget, changing salaries to a different rate can be covered by the ordinance providing the totals stay within the budget totals. Terry made a motion to approve the 2017 budget, seconded by Elizabeth and all agreed. The 2017 budget figures contain the salary matrix for the sheriff department and jail employees. Terry said there would be 2 things voted on/discussed with the salary ordinance; the new matrix and the salary increase. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the salary matrix for the sheriff department and jail, seconded by Steve and all agreed. Last year a 2% raise was given to the county employees; Steve said other counties are giving 2% to 2.5%. Mike said that because of pending debt and issues, that maybe there should be no raises. Gayle wanted to know what kind of increase to use for the salary ordinance. Glenn said he would be in favor of a 2% raise for county employees, except the sheriff department and jail employees who have the new matrix. Mike was in favor of 1% or nothing. Glenn made a motion for a raise of 1.5% to get the conversation going. He wanted to know if Gayle did not include a raise for the SCER employees; she did not due to hire dates. Glenn's motion died due to a lack of a second. Terry made a motion to approve a 2.5% raise, seconded by Steve and the motion dies due to a tied vote. Terry made a motion to approve a 3% raise, seconded by Steve for discussion. The motion did not pass. Terry made a motion to approve a 2% pay increase, seconded by Steve and the motion passed with Mike voting no.

The council members signed 2 copies approving the 2017 Budget.

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#4 ***Transfer Ordinances***

The following transfer ordinances were approved on a motion by Rachel, seconded by Steve and all agreed.

TRANSFER ORDINANCE

Pursuant to Auditor’s Bulletin of July 1972, and also Public Law Number 54 of 1971, the County Council has the authority to transfer funds to different appropriations from one major classification to another within a department or office, at any regular public meeting.

COUNTY GENERAL FUND (1000)			AMOUNT
<i>CORONER</i>			
200	SUPPLIES		
	4221 DISASTER BODY POUCHES	DECREASE	\$ 100.00
	4219 BIO-HAZARD BAGS	DECREASE	\$ 160.00
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4321 HOSPITAL FEES	INCREASE	\$ 260.00

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COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND (1000)			AMOUNT
<i>JAIL</i>			
200	SUPPLIES		
	4220 KITCHEN SUPPLIES	INCREASE	\$1500.00
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4341 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	INCREASE	\$2000.00
	4345 UTILITIES	DECREASE	\$3500.00

Adopted this 12th day of OCTOBER 2016.

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With no further business to come before council, Steve made the motion to adjourn, seconded Mike and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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