

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, Terry Hall, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Schuler, Glenn Scott, and John Gary Welch, the chief deputy, Brian Morton, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. Councilman Steve Crabtree and council attorney, Cody Kendall, were absent.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 12th were approved as presented on a motion by Mike, seconded by John Gary and all agreed.

#1 2017 Salary Ordinance

Gayle had given each council member a copy of the proposed 2017 Salary Ordinance based on the numbers that were discussed/approved at a previous meeting. This salary ordinance is based on a 2% pay increase. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the 2017 Salary Ordinance which was seconded by Rachel. The motion passed with 3 voting yes, 1 voting no and Glenn abstained.

#2 Transfer Ordinances

The following transfer ordinances were approved on a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Mike 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>CIRCUIT COURT</i>	
200 SUPPLIES	
4212 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	INCREASE \$ 68.00
400 CAPITAL OUTLAY	
4411 OFFICE EQUIPMENT	DECREASE \$ 68.00

Adopted this 9th day of NOVEMBER 2016.

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Transfer Ordinances cont'd

TRANSFER ORDINANCE

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COUNTY GENERAL FUND (1000)			AMOUNT
<i>CIRCUIT</i>			
200	SUPPLIES		
	4212 REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT	INCREASE	\$1007.50
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4376 CSI MAINTENANCE	DECREASE	\$1007.50

Adopted this 9th day of NOVEMBER 2016.

TRANSFER ORDINANCE

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COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND (1121)			AMOUNT
<i>JAIL</i>			
200	SUPPLIES		
	4242 PRISONER MEALS	DECREASE	\$7904.00
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4342 BUILDING MAINT.	INCREASE	\$7904.00

Adopted this 9th day of NOVEMBER 2016.

TRANSFER ORDINANCE

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COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND (1121)			AMOUNT
<i>EMA</i>			
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4381 REGISTRATION/TUITION	DECREASE	\$473.38
400	CAPITAL OUTLAY		
	4411 RADIO EQUIPMENT	INCREASE	\$473.38

Adopted this 9th day of NOVEMBER 2016.

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Transfer Ordinances cont'd

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 HIGHWAY FUND (1176)		AMOUNT
200 SUPPLIES		
5243 CINDERS	DECREASE	\$1933.28
300 OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
5371 RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	INCREASE	\$1933.28

Adopted this 9th day of NOVEMBER 2016.

#3 Riverboat Revenue

Glenn had asked this to be on tonight’s agenda to discuss the disbursement plan since it is normally up for discussion in November or December. Some of the entities depend on this for operating money.

Josh informed council that the commissioners did get an extension on the payment for the tech building until May of 2017. The payoff amount would be 2.4 million dollars.

Glenn told Gayle that the salary ordinance would have to be redone and he abstained from the vote but accidentally signed the actual ordinance. Since there has to be a majority of the board to approve the salary ordinance Elizabeth made a motion to table approving the salary ordinance until December, seconded by Mike and all agreed.

Gayle had a form that showed 2014, 2015, and 2016 commitments. Rachel thought maybe the council would want to discuss the School Endowment funding. Pat Lanman, School Endowment board member, explained that they have taken money out of their Rainy Day money (\$1,000,000.00) to pay the debt service, like the council suggested. The school’s debt service for 2017 is \$663,861.00 which is to be paid in 2 installments, in June and December. The text book cost for 2017 totals \$217,764.25. In order to pay for just these 2 things, they would spend \$881,625.25. Currently they receive about \$700,000.00 a year. They are also going to pay the debt service for 2017 out of their Rainy Day money. The school has a contract with the YMCA for \$32,500.00 per year to use their facilities since the school does not have these types of facilities, which the endowment pays for. The board pays \$12,000.00 each year for the buses for the 8th graders to be able to go to Washington DC.

Mark writes a letter at the end of each to the DLGF on behalf of the School Endowment telling them that they will pay for the schools debt service so that it does not get passed on to the taxpayers. Now is the time for this letter to go to the state and the endowment is just trying to figure out how to proceed. Glenn asked if the endowment could continue to pay the debt service if that is the only thing they had to pay. Pat replied yes, if their funds are not cut, but this would cut out the free textbooks for the parents/students.

Rachel said her and Gayle had a discussion about putting the debt service back on the tax bills. Their calculations showed that the taxes would go up about \$114.00 per hundred thousand dollars of value. The property owners that this would affect the most are the ones that do not reside in the county.

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Riverboat Revenue cont'd

Rachel and Gayle also discussed putting half of the debt service on the property taxes and it would not require an increase for the school endowment and this would raise the taxes about \$75.00 an installment per hundred thousand dollars of value.

Gayle said if they wanted to cover all of the commitments the consequences of what the school would need would be about \$510,000.00 and that would be an increase of approximately \$210,000.00. The endowment is going to pull about \$700,000.00 out of their reserve funds to finish paying the debt services for this coming year. After they draw this out they will have approximately \$1,000,000.00 left. They have been putting 15% from each check that the county has given them away just in case the revenue went away. They have 10 more years of debt service left.

Glenn definitely does not want to raise property taxes. Mark Lohide said that when he originally was appointed to the Endowment, he was told by a councilman that council definitely didn't want to raise property taxes.

Terry asked if there would be a way to state that council would be willing to pay the current debt service but not future debt service. Glenn wants to have a joint meeting in December with the endowment board, the school board (current and newly elected), and the council to discuss the debt service. This would be mainly to see what projects, if any, the school board is planning.

Josh South said, as a commissioner, he would be in favor of the commissioners giving up \$100,000.00 of their casino revenue.

Terry said he would make a motion to leave the riverboat revenue contribution to the School Endowment the same as it is, no cuts, so they at least have enough to cover the current debt service. This motion was seconded by John Gary for discussion. Glenn called for a vote; the motion carried with Rachel, she is an endowment board member, abstaining. Glenn said he was not in favor of Josh South's suggestion.

Mark Lohide, commissioner, informed the council about possible major expenses on the horizon, a chiller at the courthouse, a grader for his district, and some of the highway trucks have over 200,000.00 miles on them, Glenn said there are expenses coming up with the EERSD and the tech building payment.

Glenn asked if the endowment thought there should be a joint meeting to discuss these matters. Mark thought it might be a good idea. Gayle asked about some of the local foundations providing some monetary support. Terry thought maybe the meeting should wait until after all of the commitments for the council's riverboat revenue are discussed/decided.

The letter to the state from the endowment can be written and the property taxes will not go up for 2017 because of the debt service.

Elizabeth didn't think any of the commitments could be cut much further. Gayle uses \$8,000,000.00 as the basis instead of \$9,000,000.00 for the revenue amount. The county did come in this year about \$300,000.00 over the \$8,000,000.00.

Glenn said the Fire Chiefs Association is allowed \$300,000.00; 5% of that goes to the Jeff-Craig Fire Dept., 19.7% goes to the East Enterprise Fire Dept., 18.4% goes to the Posey Fire Dept., 17.5% goes to the Moorefield Fire Dept., 12.6% goes to the Florence Fire Dept., and 11.3% goes to the Patriot Fire Dept. The Fire Chiefs Association did not keep anything off the top after the significant cut 2 years ago. But actually this year the Fire Chiefs did keep 2.5% before dividing the rest. The percentages were set a long time ago; based on population/district. This was all in the original plan submitted to the gaming commission to get the license.

Elizabeth asked if the Fire Chiefs could be cut. Jim Wingate, Moorefield Fire Dept. treasurer, said Moorefield would probably break even, but this includes some fund raising events, not just the riverboat revenue. The insurance costs have really increased. Mike asked how much the Fire Chiefs currently have, Glenn said approximately \$275,000.00.

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Riverboat Revenue cont'd

After further discussion, Glenn suggested everyone look at the commitments and come back ready to make decisions at the December meeting.

Glenn needs a motion to remove the motion tabling the 2017 Salary Ordinance until the next meeting as now all of the board members are present except one. Elizabeth made a motion to remove the previous motion of tabling the salary ordinance, seconded by Mike and all agreed. Elizabeth then made a motion to approve the 2017 Salary Ordinance, seconded by Rachel, the motion carried with Rachel, John, Terry, and Elizabeth voting yes, Mike voting no and Glenn abstained. It will be officially signed at the December meeting.

With no further business to come before council, Mike made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John Gary and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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