

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 members: Elizabeth Jones, Lisa Fisher, Glenn Scott, Mike Bear, Andy Haskell, John Gary Welch, chief deputy, Brian Morton, and auditor Gayle Rayles. Council woman Rachel Schuler was absent.

The meeting was opened by chief deputy, Brian Morton, with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the February 14, 2018 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Mike; seconded by Andy and all agreed.

#1 Martha Bladen - Historical Society Past Grant Match

Martha Bladen reviewed the information she and Anita Danner had presented to the council at the February, 14, 2018 meeting regarding their 2015 grant application with the Office of Tourism and Development for two projects. The Grant required matching funds. \$10,000.00 of the match was pledged by Switzerland County Economic Development. Due to a cut in revenue sharing, Economic Development is unable to honor that pledge. The Historical Society is asking the council for the \$10,000.00.

Martha gave an overview of the grant money they've received from 2001 thru 2018. Of the million dollars they've been awarded, over \$513,800.00 came from outside the county. Local donors provided approximately \$297,000.00 and the county's part was \$152,900.00. She gave a report of their cash on hand.

Josh said that he and the commissioners had discussed reducing the contract with Economic Development by the \$10,000.00 and using the savings to cover the commitment with the Historical Society.

John Gary made a motion to pay the \$10,000.00 to the Historical Society but the motion died for lack of a second.

Lisa made a suggestion for the commissioners to reduce the contract by \$10,000.00 for the purpose of giving the retained \$10,000.00 to the Historical Society.

Andy made a motion to pay \$10,000.00 to the Historical Society on the contingency that the contract with Economic Development is reduced by \$10,000.00 with a maximum contract amount of \$160,000.00; Lisa seconded the motion.

Discussion: Glenn said that he could not support covering another entity's pledge with county money since we didn't even give raises to county employees. If we can save \$10,000.00, it should come back to the county.

Elizabeth called for the vote; the vote was five to one with Glenn voting no so the motion passed.

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Martha Bladen - Historical Society Past Grant Match cont'd

There was a discussion on the need for a joint meeting to discuss Economic Development. It was set for Monday, March 19th immediately following the commissioners' regular meeting providing the director of Economic Development is available.

#2 Other Business

A. Task Force: Chief Deputy, Brian Morton, reviewed his request from the February 14th meeting due to the fact that Elizabeth had not been able to attend that meeting. There is a Drug Task Force already established in Jefferson County. The head of the Task Force in Jefferson County had approached him earlier and Brian has attended some meetings. The resources available to us, if we join, would come from the State Police as well as Jefferson County. The deputy assigned to the Task Force in Switzerland County would work out of our sheriff's dept. and be our employee; this would be their only job.

Brian explained that he does not have enough deputies to devote one to this operation. He would need to hire an additional officer. His plan would be to take an existing deputy and assign him to the Task Force and hire a new road deputy. Training for the drug enforcement officer, if needed would be done by the State Police. Since this would be an existing deputy, they would already have most of the training.

Brian said that the commissioners had agreed to provide a vehicle and the prosecutor is willing to provide the equipment. He is asking the council to approve one additional deputy. Brian explained that the true cost for the county could not be determined until he found someone, since they would be paid based on the pay matrix.

Lisa made a motion to hire a deputy to be paid for out of the General Fund and Mike seconded the motion.

Discussion: Glenn said he felt this was a great idea and the Task Force was needed. However, with no pay increases for the county employees he could not vote to add another deputy at this time.

Andy asked where the money would come from to pay the new hire. Gayle had previously said that, with the budget numbers the way they are, the deputy could be paid for out of the General Fund. She reiterated that this was still her opinion.

Elizabeth called for the vote. The vote was five to one, with Glenn voting against and the motion passed.

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Other Business cont'd

B. CFSCI - Disposition of check: Gayle said that the county had received a check for \$25,000.00 from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County for grant proceeds from the Switzerland County Quality of Life Improvement Fund. The check can be added back into the Endowment Fund or retained by the county. If retained by the county it can be added to the General Fund for regular operating or have a designated purpose. The 12/31/2017 balance in the Endowment Fund is \$628,170.12.

Andy made a motion to put the money in the General Fund; Lisa seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of four to two with Glenn and John Gary voting against.

There being no further business to come before council, Lisa made a motion to adjourn; John Gary seconded and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

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