

**REGULAR MEETING - MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: Mark Lohide, Josh South and Jerry Monjar, county auditor, Gayle Rayles, commissioners' attorney, Wil Goering, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

The meeting was opened by Josh South with the pledge of allegiance.

Josh presented Mark and Gayle with an appreciation gift in recognition of their years of service.

The minutes of the December 3, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Josh, seconded by Jerry and all agreed.

Josh made a motion to approve the claims; Jerry seconded the motion and all agreed.

**#1 Herschel Lewallen - Fire Alarm Sec. Tech (FAST):**

Herschel presented the commissioners with the costs for the FAST contract for 2019. The price has not changed. They cover fire alarms and monitoring at the courthouse, jail, health dept., senior center, tech. center, highway garage, animal shelter and emergency response buildings. Josh made a motion to accept the FAST contract for 2019 for \$7,350.00; Jerry seconded the motion and all agreed.

**#2 Sarah Brichto - Tech Building Annual Report:**

Sarah reported that she is working on new initiatives:

- The government has released \$1 million for broadband expansion. She is working with Purdue to increase the broadband in Switzerland County.
- New IVY Tech classes, with college credits, will be starting in 2019 at the Tech Center.
- Sarah is working with Carla, in the Highway Department, on Community Crossing Grants. We applied for funding for two bridges in 2018 and were denied because of the wording in the application. Those applications will be resubmitted with revised wording for the next round of grants. Darrell will have a paving project that we will also apply for.

**#3 Nancy Barker - Biohazard Cleanup Genealogy Room:**

Nancy expressed concern about the possibility of mold and biohazard material remaining in the genealogy room after a recent backup from a drain in the basement. Wesley and Bert cleaned up everything, but Nancy is concerned that bacteria may remain that would put the health of employees and others who use the room at risk. There is a company that does this type of clean up coming to the courthouse. They will be asked to look at the room.

Josh recommended relocating the genealogy room. It is too close to the utility room and at the lowest point in the basement.

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**#4 Elected Officials - Personnel:**

Nancy Barker brought up the issue of the county employees losing three holidays they had in the past. She asked what the commissioners gained by the change. Josh said that normal employees don't get that many holidays. Federal and State workers, who do get those holidays, work 40 hours a week and their pay is similar to the county employees. Several comments were made by the employees who were present:

- The county will not save any money
- The highway department works 40 hours a week and does not have a paid lunch hour
- Surrounding counties get these holidays
- Marion County has 17 paid holidays
- Employees do not receive a living wage. Perks are what make the jobs acceptable
- If there is no upside for the county, what is the point
- Taking a benefit away feels like punishment
- The programs that the employees use will not have support on legal holidays
- Employees feel that they are not appreciated

After consulting with Wil on the correct procedure, Jerry made a motion to bring the issue back to the table and give the three holidays back to the employees in 2019 and have the issue revisited for future years; Mark seconded the motion. Jerry and Mark voted in favor; Josh voted against the motion - the motion passed.

**#5 Eric Cole - YMCA Agreement:**

Eric presented the agreement for the county employees' use of the YMCA in 2019. The contract is identical to the current one. We have 49% participation by employee. The visits are up 5%, probably due to the 24/7 availability of the Y. Eric said that 258 people took advantage of the open door periods during times of emergency. The Y was used as a warming center and a place for people to take showers. The Y is working with Nadine Swift, SCER Director, to start CPR and First Aid classes.

Jerry made a motion to approve the Agreement for \$15,000.00 in 2019; Josh seconded the motion for discussion.

- Discussion: Josh brought up the idea of paying the Y on a monthly basis by usage, to be prorated as additional employee sign up. Eric said that the current agreement is about a 47% discount.

Mark called for the vote. Jerry and Mark voted in favor and Josh voted against the agreement; the motion passed.

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**#6 Other Business:**

- A. Purdue Extension 2019 Contract: Josh made a motion to approve the Purdue Extension Contract for \$43,270.00 for 2019; Jerry seconded the motion and all agreed.
- B. Sheriff's Agreement: Josh made a motion to accept the Sheriff's Agreement for 2019; Jerry seconded the motion and all agreed.
- C. Tech Building 2019 Elevator Contract: There was a brief discussion on the contract for elevator service at the Tech Center. Bruce had a quote from Kone. The commissions tabled the decision until information on the current cost with Kone and a proposal from Schindler is available.
- D. Parking Semi-Tractors/Trailers on Park Property: Sheriff Elect, Brian Morton, said that the violation of the recent ordinance prohibiting parking semi tractors/trailers on park property is a resident who lives on Bryants Creek and is parking in the lot to avoid driving his semi on the county road. Brian said he will address the issue with this individual and try to help him find an alternate site. He mentioned that the ordinance will also prohibit the state and county trucks from parking in the lots.
- E. Emergency Response Personnel Structure Changes: Nadine, director of Switz. Co. Emergency Response, said she would like to change the personnel structure for SCER to a military structure. The director's title would become Chief. This will open up more federal and state grant opportunities. Most require a chief's signature. Nadine will bring a formal policy to the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- F. Board Appointments: Gayle said that the county council wanted to have the board openings posted on Facebook and the county website to reach more people. She asked if the commissioners would like to do the same. Josh said that he felt that, if there were sufficient applicants after the first posting to fill an opening, that positions should be filled with current applicants. These positions will be voted on at the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. We can post any position that does not have enough applicants on the website and Facebook.
- G. Economic Development: Jerry made a motion to continue to pay Economic Development monthly going forward until a decision about the future are made; Mark seconded the motion. Jerry and Mark voted in favor and Josh voted against. The motion passed.
- H. Wil said he is still waiting on a letter from the Election Division for an opinion on the process for replacing the Jefferson Township Board person who resigned before he was sworn in.

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With no further business to come before the board, Mark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh, and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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