

SWITZERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 21, 2025

REGULAR MEETING –TUESDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

The Switzerland County Council met in a regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: County Council: Carrie Barwick, Kim Janssen, Lance Collier, Mat Dutkiewicz, Todd Chase, Patti Kappes and Scott Crandell. County Auditor, Gayle Sullivan.

Lance Collier called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of minutes from the September 29, 2025 special meeting. Patti made a motion to approve and Carrie second. All in favor.

Approval of minutes from the October 14, 2025 regular meeting. Carrie made a motion to approve and Todd second. Mat-Nay, Lance, Kim, Todd, Scott, Carrie and Patti-Yay.

Park Board resignation-Carrie made a motion and Patti second. All in favor.

Old Business

New Business

Auditor's office-Gayle spoke about the reduction in staff that was made to help balancing the county budget. Deputy Il will go to part time working no more than 30 hours a week. Mat spoke about letting any other department heads speak that was in the crowd. Yvette spoke up about the reduction that she did to her budget.

2026 General fund budget-Discussion was had about the deductions that were made and not all departments made the cuts that were asked of them. Mat spoke about the cuts that were made but the fact that departments may need an additional appropriation next year. Sheriff Morton spoke about the cuts that he made and hopefully things stay the way they are and won't need any additional appropriations. Lance spoke about things that could possibly happen in the future and the cost wouldn't have to come from the general fund. Kim spoke about the raises and would like for a merit increase to be in place. She also spoke about no raises and if raises were given positions would need to be cut. Discussion was had about reducing council salaries. Mat made a motion for all elected officials except for Sheriff, Judge, Prosecutor and Public Defenders to take a \$2000.00 reduction in salary. And a \$1000.00 stipend for all other employees. Motion dies for lack of second.

Lance spoke about neighboring counties. And feels like they be in the same situation that our county is in. Their plan was to take advantage of their cash reserves. If we had a quote unquote balanced budget this year, we would have double the cash reserves the Baker Tiley is recommending for us. We would be at 32% and they recommend 15%. (gives an idea of what we have) Lance spoke staff reductions but doesn't feel like we are staff heavy in any offices. Scott spoke about the Assessor being understaff according to the parcels that are in the county. More discussion was had about raises vs no raises.

Mat made a motion for every elected official to take a \$1,000.00 reduction except for the Judge, Sheriff and Prosecutor and for every other employee gets a \$1,000.00 stipend. Kim made a second. This is based on the 2025 salaries. Yay-Mat and Kim. Nay-Scott, Lance, Todd and Carrie. Motion fails.

Lance spoke about using the general fund to balance the budget. The possibility of looking at what needs to be done in the future. Discussion was had amongst the council.

Kim made a motion for no raises within the general fund for the 2026 budget and Carrie second. Discussion was had amongst the council. Yay-Mat, Carrie, Todd and Kim. Nay-Patti, Scott and Lance. Motion passed.

Lance made a motion the remaining balance to be covered by the general fund for the 2026 budget. Scott made a second. Mat asked for a roll call vote. (State your name and vote) Yay-Patti, Carrie, Todd, Lance and Scott. Nay-Mat and Kim. Motion passed.

Lance asked about the other funds that are not in the general fund. Scer, Highway...Mat spoke about the medical health department and the administrator, nurse and sewer salaries being moved to 1159 fund. Mat made a motion to reduce the administrator's salary by \$5000.00, the county nurse salary by \$3000.00 and environmental health specialist salary by \$2000.00. Motion fails due to lack of second.

Lance made a motion to leave all other funds the way they were entered in Gateway. Patti second. Yay-Lance, Scott, Carrie, Todd and Patti. Nay-May and Kim. Motion passed.

Board Reports

Lance-School Endowment meeting next Tuesday

Mat-none


Patti-Sept. 24th, Tom is applying for more grants. He did receive some grants to get new AEDs and doing away with the mass notification as of 1/31/2026.

Todd-


Kim-Recycling meeting @ the end of November
Scott-did not attend because of council meeting
Carrie-


Next meeting will be November 3rd @ 4:30to approve the budget. And the 12th at the regular meeting will approve the salary ordinance. Comments were made from the audience.

With no further business to come before council, Carrie made a motion to adjourn, second by Kim. All in favor. Meeting ended @ 6:41pm.


Carrie M. Scott


Patti K. Scott



Lance J. Barwick


Kim J. Jones


Mat J. Sullivan


Todd J. Sullivan

Attest:


Gayle Sullivan, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana