

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 30, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 30, 2017 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Mark Bacon, Bruce Levi, Jodi Harr, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney, in attendance.

Paul Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the October 16, 2017 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for October 30, 2017 in the amount of \$369,839.11. Bruce Levi moved to approve the claims. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending November 03, 2017 in the amount of \$173,145.77 was presented. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Harr presented the Application and Endorsements for the Rush County Employee Health Insurance Plan Aggregative Specific Attachment Point documents for the commissioners to approve and sign. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the documents. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Harr updated the commissioners on the status of the current dental plan. The insurance committee is still waiting on PCE and UMR to confirm the changes have been made.

EMS REPORTS

The September 2017 EMS Run Report was received by Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department.

RECORDER

Kevin Spilman, Rush County Recorder, requested the commissioners sign two continuing contracts with Computer Systems, Inc. The first one is the Disaster Recovery Services Agreement in the amount of \$581.00 per year. The second contract is the Microfilm Services Agreement in the amount of \$620.00 per year. County Attorney Leigh Morning has reviewed both contracts. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign both the Disaster Recovery Services Agreement and the Microfilm Services Agreement. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton notified the commissioners that Asphalt Materials has agreed to once again roll the 2016 liquid asphalt price to 2018. Sitton feels this is an

opportunity to save a great deal of money. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve Sitton's recommendation on continuing with Asphalt Materials as the liquid asphalt supplier for 2018. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton also presented the engineering plan prepared by USI for Bridge #170 on 450 East for approval of the commissioners. The plan is to take bids on the project at 9 a.m. on December 11, 2107. County Attorney Leigh Morning has looked at the contract documents and will have them prepared for the next commissioner meeting. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the plans. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

County Attorney Leigh Morning asked for the commissioners input on a conflict of interest policy that is needed with INDOT. At this time the commissioners are not allowed to accept any type of gifts from highway vendors unless a local INDOT conflict of interest ordinance is passed. The ordinance will need to state how much per day the commissioners can accept in non-cash gifts each day. The amount adopted by Hamilton County and by other counties is \$300 per day. This would cover dinners or lunch the contractor pays for at commissioner conferences or when they bring bids to the commissioners for approval. Mark Bacon made the motion to adopt the policy allowing \$300 per day as Hamilton County did. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. Morning will prepare the ordinance to be passed by the commissioners.

RUSH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Attorney Morning presented the Rush Memorial Hospital Rush County Indigent Care Agreement to be approved and signed by the commissioners. This is necessary for the hospital's 340B audit. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve and sign. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

NEW JAIL PROJECT

Attorney Morning presented the second appraisal services agreement required for the transfer of the new jail building to the Rush County, Indiana Building Corporation. The appraisal services agreement is from Rick Borges Real Estate Service, Inc. in the amount of not to exceed \$7,500. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign the appraisal agreement. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Ron Jarman presented a Cost to Closure Proposal from Creek Run LLC in the amount of \$92,850 of which \$34,120 will be for the removal of the fuel tank. This amount is included in the existing soft cost for the construction of the new jail. County Attorney Morning has reviewed. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Jarman also reported the foundation for the new tower has passed the twenty eight day curation period.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported the current inmate count is 59. He also gave department statistical updates. He reported the compressor in the commercial refrigerator in the jail kitchen

went out and is being repaired. Commissioner Levi asked if Cowan was aware of the new policy on providing benefits to reserve officers. Cowan is aware of this.

EMA

Commissioner Wilkinson reminded the commissioners that they need to seek a place for storage of the EMA equipment. EMA Director, Chuck Kemker, commented he feels at this time the only option is the Solid Waste District Building. His biggest concern with this building is the security of the building.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

Commissioner Wilkinson reported that Raleigh had a proposal to the county to provide the services that RMH is currently providing for District 3. Commissioner Levi believes the hospital based service is the best for our community along with paramedic services; however, the cost to the county is the concern. County Attorney Leigh Morning commented that ambulances are to be provided by Rush County. The county does not own the ambulances. Wilkinson commented the contract with RMH says the ambulances belong to the county.

Wilkinson noted he does not object to RMH providing the services. They have done a great job. His problem is if the county does not fund the volunteer services. Commissioner Bacon commented he has been told that if the county discontinues monthly subsidies to Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department for EMS services, they will not continue to be first responders for the county. He does not want this.

Wilkinson stated the commissioners need to state what they want in EMS services for the county and accept proposals from providers located within Rush County. Levi noted we have 2017 contracts for all current providers. Morning stated the commissioners are out of time to request proposals and have a decision by the end of this year. County resident Gordon Hall asked why the county can not extend the current contracts for thirty to sixty days to give time to accept proposals. Frank Denzler asked how much the county is willing to pay per year. The budgeted amount for 2018 is \$586,000. Wilkinson stated the commissioners have not acted in a timely manner to resolve this. Levi requested to talk to Raleigh and have another meeting later this week. An audience member stated she feels it is important to keep the level of care that we currently have.

Bruce Levi made the motion to recess the commissioner meeting until 8 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. He would like for all EMS providers in Rush County to know of the extended meeting date and time. The commissioners would like their input on a long range plan for EMS services. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

RECESS UNTIL 8 A.M. NOVEMBER 1, 2017

At 8 a.m. on November 1, 2017, Commissioner Chairman Paul Wilkinson reconvened the commissioners meeting.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTINUED

Commissioner Wilkinson asked for all in attendance to put their differences aside and help the commissioners find a long term solution for county EMS services. He stated Rush County has the best EMS services with more ambulances than other counties. Financial reasons are the only reason we are where we are right now.

What type of service should be offered to county residents? Wilkinson feels we need both paramedic and basic services. County residents are insisting that paramedic service is provided when needed for emergency situations.

Levi ask what dollar amount of insurance does each unit have and what type of liability insurance does the county have by doing contracts. He stated he wants to keep the services we currently have. He also asked if the county has any responsibility for supplies that are provided.

- Raleigh has \$1,000,000 coverage and has a current certificate of liability
- Anderson Twp Vol Fire Department stated their Township Trustee takes care of this
- Carthage – Due to being called out, no one was available to answer this question
- Rush Memorial Hospital has \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 in coverage

County Attorney Leigh Morning stated the county will have liability with contracts. You will not ever eliminate the liability. Units will have to provide proof of Insurance, hold regular audit review sessions and make the county part of their insurance coverage.

Wilkinson asked who provides maintenance on vehicles and equipment and do you have regular maintenance schedules? It was noted the State of Indiana provides inspections.

- Raleigh is current on inspections. Mechanical repairs are done by Davis. Their department does other maintenance/inspections and sends to the vendor who provided the equipment if necessary.
- Rush Memorial Hospital is current on inspections. The hospital pharmacist oversees the drugs and the maintenance department does preventive maintenance.
- Anderson Twp Vol Fire Department is current on inspections. Don Meyer Ford takes care of their vehicle. Their department does equipment maintenance.
- Rushville City Fire is current on inspections. The vendors of the equipment take care of the equipment and the Assistant Fire Chief tracks the vehicle maintenance

Wilkinson asked if it would work if we retain all current services but all services work under one set of protocols and all use the same medical director.

- Nick White from Anderson Township said you are dealing with career services and with volunteer services. Attitudes, jobs, operations and situations are very different between the two. Their systems are handled very differently.
- Steve Cain with Raleigh Fire Dept agrees with Nick. You are dealing with two very different entities. Each have different liabilities and risk. Commissioner Levi asked for him to explain the differences. Cain replied that you simply do not need a paramedic on every run for instance. It depends on if the call is for basic services or needs advanced life services.
- Brad Smith from Rush Memorial Hospital stated he believes there should be a coordinated effort. He referred to the medical protocols. All should want to provide the

best patient care possible. There needs to be a coordinated effort with dispatchers and training. He would like to focus on needs rather than territories.

- Nick White stated that the information that dispatch gets is only as good as the information that is provided to them via the person making the 911 call. Good, accurate information is not always available until someone is on the scene.

Wilkinson asked how a call should be dispatched. When should a paramedic be called?

- Chuck Jenkins from Rushville City Fire Department noted their medical director is the same as Raleigh's. The fire department uses advanced EMT's. Because of the types of calls the fire department receives, they determined that being an advanced EMT service was best. Prior to going to advanced services, approximately ten percent of their calls required them to call for a paramedic. Now that they are advanced the fire department handles approximately ninety eight percent of the calls without a paramedic. Some of the reasons they would call for a paramedic are cardiac arrest, pain management and severe trauma.

Wilkinson noted that everyone agrees that not every call requires a paramedic.

Bacon commented we have been discussing this for months. He is not in favor of eliminating the volunteer services. They are all dedicated to serving Rush County citizens. He asked how many hospitals are still in the ambulance business in our state. Brad Smith stated he can get the information but was not aware of the question until now. He believes it is mixed.

Levi stated with volunteer services it is hard to keep enough trained staff because they are volunteers. He understands the philosophy of load and go for trauma; however, paramedics make a big difference on cardiac situations.

Wilkinson recognizes the value of volunteer, the time it takes to get on the scene and the initial care received. We need a county standardization of when a paramedic is called. He wants to make a decision on facts. It would be easier if the agencies could come together to agreements amongst each other.

8:30 a.m. County Attorney Leigh Morning had to leave for another appointment.

Wilkinson continued by saying the commissioners should have acted sooner on this situation. All providers of service are trying to make financial budget decisions for 2018. He asked if the current providers would agree to work under the current contract for an extended period of time.

Levi thanked EMA Director Chuck Kemker for putting together a spreadsheet with statistics on the runs each services has had in 2017.

Bacon would like to put a task force together to look at the big picture and numbers. He made a motion to extend the current contracts until February 1, 2018 and put a task force together to study the county EMS services and make a recommendation to the commissioners. Bruce Levi seconded but requested a time frame be added for the task force to report back. Brad Smith appreciates the extension but asked if this is truly enough time to make the best decision. He would like to see at least a sixty to ninety day notice given once the new policy is established. He does not want the commissioners to rush into anything. He agrees that all want what is best for the county residents. Nick White agrees that a decision should not be rushed into.

Bacon amended his motion to read as extend the current contracts until July 1, 2018 and for a task force to be formed to study and make a recommendation to the commissioners no later than May 1, 2018, and the commissioners to make a decision at their May 14, 2018 meeting at the latest. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Wilkinson stated he would like the entities to work together with the task force. Brad Smith commented he is committed to working with the volunteers and Rushville City. Raleigh Volunteer Fire Dept also agrees.

Smith recommended the task force be totally independent members with input from RMH and the volunteer services. The Commissioners will select the members of the task force. Wilkinson would like to see a representative from each entity to be appointed by each entity.

Smith asked for clarification that the motion above results in a seven month contract renewal which includes the sixty day notice once the decision is made and that funding is in place to cover the extended contracts. Wilkinson stated that is correct.

The next regular Commissioner's meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 9:00a.m.

Bruce Levi moved to adjourn. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor