

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 21, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 21, 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 August 7, 2017 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Bruce Levi and seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for August 21, 2017 in the amount of \$508,281. Mark Bacon moved to approve the claims. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending August 21, 2017 in the amount of \$173,021.02 was presented. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Cindra Humphrey, Rush County Treasurer, notified the commissioners that sixty eight (68) properties have been advertised for the 2017 Property Tax Sale. The first publication of the properties will appear in the Rushville Republican on Friday, August 25, 2017. The list of properties were emailed to each of the commissioners. Commissioner Levi asked if there is a way to get the unsold properties off of the tax sale list. He believes that sewer districts that have liens on the properties would work with the county to release the liens in order to get the property sold and back on the tax rolls. There are also seven personal property delinquencies. Five of them will be turned over to a collection agency.

Humphrey then presented the July monthly treasures report.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented a construction engineering contract with United Consulting for work on Bridge #138 in the amount of \$71,800. He does have the funds to pay it and will receive eighty percent reimbursement from the state. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

A letter of engagement was presented for Wesling Law Office to be legal representative to the Area Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. The hourly rate will be \$150.00. There are funds available in the Area Plan Commission budget to cover this expense. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the letter of engagement. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Gregg Duke, APC Director, presented a petition from the Northern Rush County School System to change the official zoning maps of Rush County. The parcel number of the property is 70-03-20-230-003.000-002 consisting of 12.948 acres. The request is to change the current zoning of manufacturing to residential. Duke presented the proof of publication and the favorable recommendation from the Area Plan Commission. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the zoning change for said property from manufacturing to residential. Bruce Levi seconded. Citizen David Hiner was given permission to speak. His understanding is that this would change the official zoning maps of the county. He asked how the commissioners can change something that does not exist. Duke noted that the county does keep an electronic official zoning map. The Area Plan Office also keeps an electronic spreadsheet listing the changes made to the zoning maps. Hiner reminded the commissioners that the current zoning ordinance states that a paper copy shall exist. Duke will print this change out for the file. He will also address this with the Area Plan Commission to get the changes made to the current zoning ordinance. Tom Monka commented that he believes Title V requires a printed zoning map. No further comments were made. Motion presented carried.

Duke also presented a favorable recommendation from the Area Plan Commission to repeal the Chicken Ordinance and Appendix E, Fowl Ordinance-Scorecard in residential districts in Rush County in the Rush County Zoning Ordinance. All legal notices have been done. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the requested changes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Gregg also presented the commissioners with some information that he has gathered regarding the current "40 acre rule" in the zoning ordinance. There has not been a public hearing on this but wanted the commissioners to know that conversations are being held on possible changes.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan requested the commissioners to approve a grant application with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$2,000. This grant will purchase the remaining AED equipment needed to make sure that every sheriff department vehicle has an AED in them. This is a reimbursable grant. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the grant application. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Cowan gave a statistical report of all departments within the Sheriff Department. There are currently seventy (70) inmates housed at the jail. The new transport van was delivered last week.

Sheriff Cowan has met with Raleigh Fire Dept. Chief Cain regarding the issues of responding along with Carthage EMS to EMS calls in the Carthage area. They are trying to set up a meeting with the Carthage Chief to look at a way for Carthage EMS to pay Raleigh for any calls that Raleigh responds to in the Carthage coverage area.

Cowan also reported the state has placed another unfunded mandate on the county. HEA1189 is effective January 1, 2018 and requires county sheriff departments to update the CAD program to update information to the state twice a year. The approximate cost for the Spilman update is \$15,000. Deputies are having trouble keeping internet connection while in

their cars. He is going to see if he can get this resolved at the same time. Cowan also noted that currently deputies have to enter the same information five different times into five different programs. He is working with Randy Herbert to try to find a way to bridge this information to save time and lower the chance for error.

MADRIGALS

RCHS Choir Director, David Doyle, requested permission to use the courthouse for the annual Madrigal Singers dinner. The dates are December 11, 2017 through December 17, 2017. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the use of the courthouse. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

EMS REPORTS

EMS reports for July were received from Carthage EMS and Raleigh Fire Department.

NEXTERA/WEST FORK WIND

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented information received from Nextera/West Fork Wind. They will be submitting an application for a special exception to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a switchyard and six power poles. They say they have the consent of the two property owners that are involved. Road and drain repairs will be done according to the Road Agreement already in place between Nextera and the Commissioners. They are asking for the Commissioners support as per the Economic Agreement which is already in place. Morning reminded the commissioners that Craig Trent and Steve Cain are the commissioner appointments to the BZA for this issue. There is a signed Decommission Agreement in place but it would have to be amended to include the decommissioning of the switchyard. APC member Tom Monka asked where the power is coming from that will be going to the switchyard. Morning replied it will be coming from the wind turbines being constructed in Fayette County.

APC Director Gregg Duke noted that he has received a request to be on the BZA docket from Nextera. He is the one who will determine whether it is a reasonable request to take to the BZA. He has not made that determination at this time. He has just received the request and would like some time to review it before he makes a decision. Bruce Levi made the motion to table this to give Duke the time to review and to make his recommendation to the commissioners. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner reminded those in attendance of the Big Brother Big Sister open house being held. She also reminded them of the upcoming Wendle Wilkie days which is in September.

FALMOUTH PROPERTY QUESTION

Tim Agee inquired if the commissioners were interested in buying his property located on the northwest corner of 600 N and 800 E. He is having problems with semis driving through

it to get to the grain bins in Falmouth. Someone had told him the county was interested in buying it to straighten out the turn. The county highway director nor the commissioners have had any conversations regarding purchasing this property.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be held on Monday, September 1, 2017 at 9:00a.m.

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

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor