

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 7, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 7, 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 July 24, 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 August 7, 2017 in the amount of \$465,552.52. Bruce Levi moved to approve the claims. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending August 11, 2017 in the amount of \$174,559.47 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

SURVEYOR

Marvin Rees requested the commissioners to sign a lease with US Bank for a digital copy machine lease. The savings will be approximately \$45.00 per month. County Attorney Leigh Morning had questions regarding the percent of interest charged. US Bank assured her the percent was correct due to the \$1.00 buyout option. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve and sign the lease agreement. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

RIDE RUSH TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Wanda Henderson asked if the commissioners and county attorney had time to review the second quarter report due to the State Of Indiana by August 15. All have reviewed it. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign the report. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Henderson noted she is having difficulty obtaining municipal plates for the Ride Rush vehicles. She requested that a county ordinance be established stating that Ride Rush is the transportation provider for Rush County. The commissioners took this request under advisement.

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend, Director of the Rush County Solid Waste District, notified the commissioners and the public in attendance that on August 30, 2017 there will be an opportunity for Rush County residents to drop off agricultural and pesticide containers for recycling. The collections will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Rush County Fairgrounds. The same service will then be offered at the Henry County Highway Garage from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on the same day.

TRUE SCRIPTS

Jodi Harr, Auditor, presented the Summary of Pharmacy Description from TrueScripts to be approved by the commissioners for plan year August 1, 2017 through July 30, 2018. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the summary of benefits. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Harr then presented exclusions to the pharmacy coverage to be placed in the medical schedule of benefits. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

2018 SALARY RECOMMENDATION

Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the following 2018 salary recommendations to the Rush County Council. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

1. Highway Department receive the raises as requested in their 2018 Form 144.
2. Courthouse Employees receive no raises unless it is a salary mandated by the State of Indiana. 2018 salary remain the same as 2017.
3. Health Department Employees receive no raises. 2018 salary remain the same as 2017.
4. Surveyor Office eliminate the full time position as proposed replace with a part time person.
5. Extension Office have one full time county employee and make the second position a part time county employee.
6. Sheriff Department –We recommend the council to consider a salary increase for sheriff deputies, dispatchers and jail staff at a lower increase then proposed.
7. We also recommend developing a policy approved by both the County Council and County Commissioners regarding replacing/hiring full time positions. Perhaps vacancies be filled with a part time person.
8. Consider using contracted services whenever possible rather than hiring new full time employees.
9. We also recommend cutting 4% from what has been proposed in the total county general budget. The reason for 4% is that is the amount of the reduction in the net assessed value for the county for the 2% circuit breaker properties for 2017 pay 2018. In order to try to build a cash balance, it is recommended to appropriate the 4% on a line in the commissioner budget for council use only.

EMS REPORTS

EMS reports from Rush Memorial Hospital for June and July were received and reviewed.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the July monthly report. He noted that the county has applied for two Community Crossing Grant projects. One is for reimbursement for the repaving of Milroy streets and the second is for reimbursement of summer construction reports.

Sitton reported the Carthage Pike project is nearing completion. The State has approved the engineering phase of Bridge #127. Due to a problem between the State and the contractor, the State Road 244 project has been stopped. The county has no responsibility in this project.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan presented the six month sheriff and jail department summary. It included a three year summary and comparison for the same January through June period. He pointed out the increase in arrest for drug charges. The number of reserve hours worked has decreased due to the retirement of some of the reserve members and some of them moving to full time law enforcement positions. The Chaplain program at the jail has also increased.

There are currently 69 inmates housed at the jail.

TELEPHONES

Commissioner Levi has requested that IT Director Randy Herbert review the county phone lines. He would like for the Auditor to provide Randy with one year of phone charges for Frontier.

MEETING DATE CHANGE

The regular commissioner meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 9 a.m. has been rescheduled for Friday, September 1, 2017 at 9 a.m.

The next Commissioner’s meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 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