

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 11, 2016

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 11, 2016 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Commissioner Bruce Levi was absent.

Commissioner Mark Bacon called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business is the organization of the Board of Commissioners for 2016. Paul Wilkinson nominated Bruce Levi for Commissioner President. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Wilkinson then nominated Mark Bacon as Vice President of the Board. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 28th meeting were dispensed until the next meeting for lack of a quorum of the Commissioners in attendance at the last meeting.

Bi-weekly claims and payroll were both approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and Mark Bacon approved the payments. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey presented the Treasurer's Monthly report. The year-end financial report showed that the county ended with a slight increase in the balance of total funds yet the County General Fund received \$150,000 less in revenue than the amount expended for the year. Humphrey reported that letters are being sent to delinquent taxpayers.

Commissioner Paul Wilkinson called for a recess of the regular meeting to conduct the annual organization of the Board of Finance. The current President is Bruce Levi. Paul Wilkinson moved to retain Mr. Levi in that position. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried. The motion to approve Cindy Humphrey as Secretary was initiated by Mr. Wilkinson and seconded by Mr. Bacon.

Mrs. Humphrey explained that two million dollars has been transferred from MainSource Bank to Citizens State Bank to capture a higher interest rate. Citizens Bank will also be collecting property taxes at their locations in Rushville & Knightstown. MainSource will be closing their North Branch so Citizens will be providing tax collection services for the north side of town.

Paul Wilkinson move to close the Board of Finance meeting and return to the regular meeting. Mark Bacon seconded the motion.

AREA PLAN

Bryant Niehoff, the new Area Plan Director was introduced by Surveyor Marvin Rees. Niehoff explained that he is currently in his last semester at Ball State University majoring in Urban Planning and Development. Until graduation he will be in the office on Monday,

Wednesday, and Friday. A full time administrative assistant will begin on January 21st. The Commissioners welcomed Niehoff and asked that they receive a monthly accounting of time, and that he be accessible by cell phone.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Mary Ann Bridges requested that Kathy Dean and Dale Gardner be re-appointed to the PTABOA board. This is the committee that reviews appeals of a property owner's tax assessment. The requested was approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon.

COURTHOUSE

A quote to repair the boiler pump was received by QPH. Paul Wilkinson approved the repair not to exceed \$3,600 as quoted. The action was seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

A contract for Gilliam's Janitorial Service was presented. Commissioner Wilkinson moved to sign the contract at the same amount as last year. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FOOD & BEVERAGE TAX

The State Legislators will be considering the passage of a Food & Beverage Tax for the City of Rushville and Rush County. The tax requested would be 1% each for both the City & County. Mr. Wilkinson moved to sign in support of the tax and Mr. Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMS

Monthly Emergency Medical Service reports were review from Milroy Volunteer Fire Department, Raleigh Fire, and Carthage Fire.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton submitted his department's monthly report and stated that the balances in the highway funds remain healthy. Six trucks recently purchased are experiencing problems with the sanders.

Steve Jones and Matt Lee from United Consulting Engineers presented the completed phase II bridge inspection report of the 194 Rush County bridges. Mr. Lee reviewed the bridge summary and reported that all bridges are compliant. The two phase inspection is funded by the Federal Government at 80%. The remainder is funded by the county.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan offered a detailed report for 2015. Rush County deputies were dispatched to 4,439 calls for service. Reserve deputies worked at total of 2,093 hours. The sheriff reported that 889 people were booked into the jail which represents the most ever inmates incarcerated. There were 543 warrants issued and dispatch answered over 21,906 calls.

The department received over 2,900 hours of training and Courthouse Security was added in 2015. The administrative staff received and disbursed \$544,003 dollars and maintained records on 38 sex offender, and 5 violet offenders.

COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

There has been interest shown in a parcel in Sexton that is owned by the county. Attorney Leigh Morning's research determined since the property is only assessed at \$5,500 that no appraisal is required. The property should be advertised for sale in the newspaper and adjoining property owners must be notified by certified mail. Commissioner Wilkinson moved to proceed with the sale of the property in question. Commissioner Bacon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

COUNTY FARM BID

The advertised auction for the rent of the county farm commenced at 10:00. The rent of 170 tillable acres was granted to the highest bidder. Doug Kinder was successful at \$275 per acre annually for the two year term of the contract. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the farm contract. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Joseph (Craig) Trent has raised some issues referring to information received after the appointment. Paul Wilkinson explained that pertinent information of a conflict of interest was not disclosed. Mr. Trent had a pending complaint filed with the BZA regarding MET towers at the time of his appointment. The question is the ability for Trent to make an unbiased opinion on windfarm matters. The options are to remove the appointee for cause and replace the appointment for all issues, or replace the position with an alternate for all windfarm and MET tower issues. Spectators Tom Monka and Ralph Adams spoke in defense of Mr. Trent. Craig Trent stated that he will stand by the Commissioners decision.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Verlin Custer Fire Chief of the Raleigh Fire Department Inc. presented the annual report for emergency services as required by contract. Custer reported a profit of \$12,000. The department had over 500 man hours of training including training with Glenwood, Rushville Township, and Milroy fire departments. Raleigh purchased a new ambulance and two AED's. Custer shared that the duel dispatch for Carthage has been improved, and offered thanks for the county's support.

SOLID WASTE

Solid waste director Carole Yeend stated that a load of stone is needed at the recycling dumpster location and suggested that the highway department could supply the stone.

Paul Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Mark Bacon seconded the motion.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor