

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEBRUARY 22, 2016

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 22, 2016 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

President Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the February 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 12th were approved. Paul Wilkinson made the motion and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JAIL BUILDING CORPORATION

Elbert Gordon was recently named to the Jail Building Corporation but is not able to serve at this time. A motion to appoint Bruce Talbot to replace Mr. Gordon was made on a motion by Paul Wilkinson with Mark Bacon seconding the motion. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE

The Commissioners had a request at the last meeting to join a campaign to exhibit “In God We Trust” in the Commissioners chamber. The motto was placed on the county’s website prior to making a decision. County Attorney Morning stated that the statement was legally sound. Paul Wilkinson moved that the Commissioners add their support to the national motto “In God We Trust” and post the proclamation in the Commissioner Chambers. Mark Bacon seconded the action and the motion carried.

The following resolution was signed with the motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey presented the monthly financial report for January. Humphrey forecasted a cash flow problem based on the balance in the General Fund and the appropriated expenditures estimated until the spring tax distribution in June. Letters are being mailed to the delinquent taxpayers of the county to address the \$631,621.29 delinquent property taxes. Tax statements are scheduled to be mailed on April 4th with a deadline to pay of May 10th.

Humphrey shared a request from Julie Newhouse, City Attorney to remove taxes on three properties in the Blight Elimination Program (BEP). Although the county has worked with the city to return abandoned properties back on the tax rolls, research could not reveal an Indiana Statute that allowed the removal of property taxes under this program

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker announced a Road Show Seminar for District 6 on March 15th in Muncie. Kemker also stated that approval has been received for a FEMA grant to replace the security cameras in the Courthouse.

DUAL DISPATCH

Verlin Custer, Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department announced that dual dispatch with Carthage Volunteer Fire Department would cease at noon today. Chief Deputy Sliger confirmed Custer's statement.

INDOOR BATTING CAGE

Frank Denzler reported that the indoor batting cage located in the courthouse annex is up and operational. Fencing and a pitching cage are being installed.

COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

The Commissioners offered for sale a parcel owned by the county in the town of Sexton. Adjoining property owners had priority in the bidding process. Mr. Johnny D. Hamilton who owns property that is contiguous to the county property submitted the minimum bid of \$5,500. Mark Bacon moved to grant Mr. Hamilton a deed to the property at the submitted bid. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BZA

The Commissioners appointed Jeff Morgan to replace Craig Trent at a previous meeting for David Hiner's appeal on the met tower issue. With additional wind farm issues Paul Wilkinson moved to appoint Jeff Morgan to replace Mr. Trent on all APEX Wind/Flatrock Wind Farm LLC dealings. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Cain was appointed to replace Lois Hatfield to the BZA for windfarm agendas. It was reported that Mr. Cain missed two meeting which left the board without a quorum. A special meeting will be conducted on Friday, February 26th at 8:15a.m. in the Auditor's Office to determine if Mr. Cain will be retained.

SHERIFF

Deputy Sheriff Dave Sliger reported 35 inmates are currently housed in the Rush County Jail. Deputy Ratliff has graduated from the police academy and the department is back to full staff.

WEDDING REQUEST

The Commissioners received a request to close the Offutt Bridge for the wedding of Ashley Gettinger. The date is June 17, 2016 and the parties involved would be responsible to close the bridge and return the area to its current state. Mark Bacon moved to allow the bridge to be closed for the event. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE ANNEX LEASE

On February 15th an e-mail was received from the Rushville Republican that they would be moving from the annex building on March 1st. Attorney Leigh Morning was instructed to check if proper notice was given and to send a letter to address exit issues.

An EMS report was received from Rush Memorial Hospital.

Commissioner Wilkinson attempted to address Craig Custer but Mr. Custer had left the meeting.

Claims were presented by the Auditor. Mark Bacon moved to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll for 02-26-2016 was approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson 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