

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 16, 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Auditor Mary Ann Beard presented the bi-weekly claims. Mark Bacon moved to sign the claims dockets. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The payroll claims were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon with one adjustment. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **COURTHOUSE**

Surveyor Marvin Rees asked permission to install blue lights in the Courthouse tower in honor of law enforcement week. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the request. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER**

The Commissioners received the monthly report from Treasurer Cindy Humphrey. Tax collections are complete and there was an increase in collections.

### **APC**

Executive Director Bryant Niehoff submitted the APC monthly report for April. Niehoff reported receiving applications for 5 residential improvements, 1 non-residential improvement, 8 subdivision requests for the APC and 2 variance requests for the BZA, and one new 911 address was issued.

### **STELLAR DESIGNATION**

Mayor Mike Pavey announced that the City of Rushville has been named as one of the three finalist in the large communities division for the Stellar designation. If selected, the City would be eligible to apply for \$12 to \$24 million dollars in grants offered by INDOT, OCRA, and Indiana Housing and Community Development. The Mayor explained that the project would encompass the area from Flatrock River to the railroad tracks, and from Harrison to Julian streets. The presentation will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the determination will be made on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Sheehan stated that there are 8 key projects: the Morgan Street Corridor; Pedestrian walkways and alleys; revitalization of the housing district; downtown commercial improvement; Campaign Quarters-Durbin Hotel; the former boys club; Flatrock run trail and bike hub; and new retail area along Riverside Park.

Sheehan asked the Commissioners for a letter of support with a commitment to partner with the City to keep the new jail in the downtown location and if possible a funding pledge over the next four years. The deadline for the letter is June 25<sup>th</sup>. Mark Bacon asked if there is any consolation for second and third place. Unfortunately the answer is “No”, but the City intends to apply until they are awarded or sent away. Paul Wilkinson offered his congratulations to the City and his appreciation of the effort. Sheehan was told he could contact any of the Commissioners in regards to the letter of recommendation.

### **JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER**

Ashely Stevens appeared before the board to request to hire a replacement for Justin Jackson. This position is funded through the Circuit Court budget in the County General fund. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the hiring with Mark Bacon seconding the motion. Motion carried.

### **PURDUE EXTENSION**

Agent Gracie Marlatt announced that the extension office will be moving to the Root Building from June 10 through June 28 for the Rush County Fair.

### **CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL FUND**

Auditor Mary Ann Beard presented the annual report of the Congressional School Township Fund. Mark Bacon moved to sign the report. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **EMS**

Monthly ambulance run sheets for Rush Memorial Hospital, Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department and Carthage Fire Department were reviewed.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Cowan reported 59 inmates; forty-five male and fourteen female. The department has logged 1,243 hours of training this year. Emergency vehicle training is being scheduled. Devin Munson attended a class at RMH on stress management. The Sheriff conducted a class on safety for local firemen. The jail has incurred 1,425 transport miles to date. Due to this volume, there will be a shortage of funds for part time employees.

The Sheriff stated that there was an initial meeting with DLZ on jail design. Cowan stressed the need for another meeting with DUKE Energy and asked the Mayor to assist in negotiations. Attorney Leigh Morning was asked to write a letter to DUKE giving Ron Jarman the authority to be the spokesman in regards to the jail project.

**HIGHWAY**

Superintendent Jerry Sitton distributed copies of the 5-year bridge plan. The County Council earmarked \$552,000 of the special distribution LOIT tax to be used as the match on the federal bridge project to replace Bridge 127. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the application for federal funding. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton expressed his dismay that INDOT has held the request for reimbursement for the unofficial detour on 1<sup>st</sup> street and Seven Hills road in the amount of \$85,980. Mr. Sitton has been notified that his application is now outdated and a new application must be submitted.

The Highway Department's report for April was given to the Commissioners.

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

/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