

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

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

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 27th were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson then moved to approve the minutes of the joint special meeting with the county council. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

The bi-weekly claims were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon. The claim document for the individual claim for utilities submitted by the Highway Department was signed on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The payroll claims were presented by the Auditor reporting that Jail part time and the Prosecutor's Deferral fund require a transfer of funds due to a negative balance. Mark Bacon moved to approve the payroll. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APC

Bryant Niehoff executive director of the Area Plan department presented the monthly report for June. A professional service agreement was approved by the Commissioners at the joint meeting with the county council on June 26th. The contract was signed by the governing board of the joint APC. Bruce Levi asked Niehoff if he had a timeline as requested by Commissioner Wilkinson at the joint meeting. Niehoff stated that he was just returning from vacation but would be working on this request. Levi stated that the consultant should be used on a minimal basis. Jim Wainwright spoke out that the county shouldn't need a consultant and if the director cannot do the job then the county should find someone that can. Wainwright also stated that the county cannot afford a comprehensive plan. Niehoff defended his position and the work that has been accomplished in the office.

RIDE RUSH

Ride Rush director Wanda Henderson returned to ask the Commissioners to contribute \$8,800 for a portion of the match required for the grant signed at a previous meeting. The Indiana Department of Transportation recommended the county's contribution. The grant would allow the purchase of two vehicles; a bus and a van. Payments would be required in April and August of 2017. Paul Wilkinson moved to amend the Commissioner's budget to allow the one time contribution up to \$8,800 for two vehicles only. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner announced that a blood drive will be held in the Assembly room of the Courthouse on Thursday, July 14th from 2:00p.m.-6:00p.m.

SOIL AND WATER

Steve Schwering appeared to inform the board that the soil & water secretary has resigned as of July 14th. A request to hire a full time replacement and to use unused salary to pay for part time training was approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ECDC

Jim Wainwright asked the board if the cease and desist order on wind farms was still in effect. Wainwright presented a print out from the ECDC website which listed a wind farm project in the future for Rush County. The Commissioners confirmed that they were not aware of the posting or of any wind project.

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend shared that Mary Frances Fridel has donated countless hours and supplies to beautify the flower beds at the west entrance to the courthouse. Yeend stated that her efforts should be recognized.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that 52 inmates 42 male and 10 female currently occupy the jail. An arrest was made in Rush County as a result of a pursuit from Shelby County. Three arrests were made from 9 interdiction stops. Cowan noted that two individuals are being held in Texas waiting for extradition. Cowan is investigating the cost to contract the 960 mile transport.

Michael Harr will be recognized for saving a woman by instructing her husband to administer the Heimlich maneuver over the phone. Harr will receive the life-saving award at the annual Sheriff's Association dinner on Saturday.

The Sheriff presented the schematic design of the new Rush County Jail as proposed by DLZ. Design plans continued at a meeting of the jail committee on Thursday, July 7th. The plans will be used to formulate the probable construction estimate. Mark Bacon moved to accept the schematic design. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented a right of way contract with United Consulting Engineers for Bridge #138 on 715 W in Homer. The amount of the contract is \$3,750. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the contract. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton volunteered to become the ADA coordinator for Rush County. The following amendments to 2012- Ordinance were presented by Mr. Sitton:

2012-6 Grievance Procedures. Paul Wilkinson moved to adopt the amendment. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2012-16 Communication Auxiliary Aids. Ordinance will be placed on the website. Mark Bacon moved to adopt this amendment with Paul Wilkinson seconding the motion. Motion carried.

2012-17 Use of Mobile Devices. Mark Bacon moved to adopt the ordinance. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2012-18 Use of Service Animals. Mark Bacon moved to approve with Commissioner Wilkinson seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton submitted the June monthly report. The underground storage tank mandatory escrow amount has been lowered from \$20,000 to \$15,000 but Sitton recommended that \$20,000 remain in the fund.

Superintendent Sitton informed the board that he will present a request for an additional appropriation to the Council to replace the roof on the highway garage. The current roof dates back to 1994 at a cost of \$16,000. The replacement will be a vinyl material at a cost of approximately \$19,000 and has a 15 year full guarantee.

The chip and seal process began on Friday but the 2002 model oil distributor broke down. Sitton hopes the equipment can be repaired and put back in service quickly.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Levi reported that QPH has been authorized to repair the leaks on the Courthouse chiller at an estimate of \$15,000.

Levi received a letter from Julie Newhouse requesting a donation to restore the historic arch at East Hill Cemetery. Mark Bacon moved to table the request. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Levi signed eight variances for parking and towers at the proposed jail site to meet a deadline. Mark Bacon moved to ratify the signatures on documents to the APC and the City of Rushville. Commissioner Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A contract for the new Veteran Service Officer, Don Rolf for the remainder of the four year term was signed on a motion initiated by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi received a petition to close the 3rd floor restrooms to the public. A motion to table the request was offered by Commissioner Bacon. Commissioner Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The monthly report from Carthage EMS was received.

INSURANCE

Problems with our commercial insurance broker Assured Partners continue. An audit unveiled that surety bonds for elected officials were not received for 2015. The Treasurer received a notice that an unpaid bill for a bond would be turned over to a collection agency when the bill had been paid. Billing problems continue to be an issue. The auditor was instructed to inquire what company adjoining counties are using for commercial insurance and Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard, and Jerry Sitton were asked to meet with Kevin Krekeler of Assured Partners.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Insurance annual renewal documents were presented for signature. Contracts with HIIG for medical stop loss, the RX Help Center employer agreement, a business associate agreement and a consulting service agreement with APEX Benefits Group were approved on a motion from Paul Wilkinson as recommended by the health insurance committee. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kevin Dewitt presented the reference to Wind Farm print out from the ECDC website.

Mary Jo Lovett reported that weeds growing along 900N at County Line Road were creating a road hazard. The highway superintendent explained that clearing the ditch line is the responsibility of the land owner but he would inspect the site.

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