

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 25, 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 July 11th were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson.

CLAIMS

Claims were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

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

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey submitted the monthly financial report. Humphrey reported that the tax sale list has been submitted to the Auditor and that 29 demand notices have been sent to owners of delinquent personal property. Half of that number are old delinquencies that have been on the books or have been in bankruptcy for years. These uncollectable demands will be presented to the court for removal from the tax rolls. Humphrey will also host an on line sale of delinquent mobile homes.

APC

Bryant Niehoff executive director of the Area Plan department presented a request from Rob Brown for a rezone of 23.698 acres from an A-3 (regulated livestock) to an A-1 (rural residential). Mark Bacon moved to approve the request with Paul Wilkinson seconding the motion. Motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner chamber director shared that the Willkie Festival will be September 17th with a bicycle run and dinner at the covered bridge on September 16th.

The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Run will travel through Rush County on September 24th. The torch will be handed off at the Rush/Shelby County line on State Road 44 it will travel around the courthouse and continue on Highway 44 to the Fayette County line. Fussner asked permission to host a cook out on the Courthouse lawn and to have the courthouse open for the use of facilities and historical tours. Mark Bacon moved to approve the plan. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented a contract with USI for bridge inspection in the amount of \$308,490.46. This is a four year contract and is 80% reimbursed by the federal government. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the contract. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi recognized that a former long-time employee of the highway department, Jay Stainbrook recently passed away.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that 56 inmates currently occupy the jail. Cowan presented a 6 month report of sheriff and jail activities. The Sheriff is compiling a list of property that has accumulated in the back garage and old records are being separated from the required retention of public records. Commissioner Bacon asked why transportation miles have increased so dramatically and if video conferences could be utilized instead. Cowan indicated that his office has no input on the use of video hearings.

WINDFARM

Auditor Beard presented an invoice from GIE Insurance for their representation of the County in the windfarm litigation. Beard was also asked by Craig Custer to present copies of e-mails that he had sent regarding his support of the windfarm project.

COURTHOUSE

Toby Gilliam of Gilliam's Custodial had reported that there are three broken hinges on exterior doors. A rebuilt hinge would cost \$75 each while an estimate on a new hinge is \$500. Mark Bacon moved to have the three hinges rebuilt. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RALEIGH EMS

The quarterly financial report was submitted by Raleigh EMS. Raleigh's monthly EMS run report was also received. No other EMS financial reports have been received at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

East Hill Cemetery Arch-A request for a donation to restore the cemetery arch was declined. Paul Wilkinson moved that with current budget restraints that he does not have the freedom to support the request. Mark Bacon seconded the motion and the request was denied.

Third Floor Restrooms-A petition to close the restrooms on the third floor to the public was denied. Mark Bacon moved to monitor the hall traffic but not to close the restrooms to the public. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn.

Hank Campbell spoke out that the Wind Awareness group has paid \$40,000 to their retained attorney for defense against the windfarms. Campbell asked the County to investigate its' insurance policy for coverage that would assist Wind Awareness legal expenses.

Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion to adjourn. 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