

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 17, 2016

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 17, 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 regular meeting of October 3rd were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Special meeting of October 12, 2016 were also approved when Mark Bacon offered the motion and Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Bruce Levi noted some adjustments to the APC office. Bryant Niehoff has left for his new position in Shelby County and Carmen Clark is now reporting to the City. The Surveyor has volunteered to keep the APC office open three days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The office will be closed during the lunch hour. Commissioner Levi has asked Linda Ashwill if she is interested in working in the office. Mark Bacon stated that the APC board has started the process to search for a new director and will hold an executive session on Thursday night.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION

Attorney Leigh Morning presented information regarding the purchase of a used fiber hut at a cost of \$21,535 from CELLSITE Solutions. Jason Clemmons representing Rush Shelby Energy stated that the proposed hut meets the specifications and saves the County \$40,000 compared to the purchase of a new structure. Mark Bacon moved to purchase the hut and Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Morning also shared the instructions relative to circulating the petition for the County to enter into an agreement with Rush County, Indiana Jail Building Corporation for the purpose of proceeding with the jail project.

An executive session needs to be scheduled to negotiate the purchase of the Pavey building. The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Auditor's Office of the Courthouse.

NEXT ERA

Mary Solada representing West Fork Wind, LLC requested the Commissioners to consider replacing Craig Trent's appointment on the BZA for someone that is unbiased about wind energy. Paul Wilkinson stated that he had never heard Craig Trent say anything against Next Era and questioned if a petitioner has the right to request that a member be withdrawn. Bruce Levi asked if we have anyone that would express pro wind that needs to be removed.

Mark Bacon reflected that Mr. Trent went against the recommendations of the APC attorney and the Executive Director at a recent meeting leaving the county open to a lawsuit. Tom Monka asked, "Are board members to answer to the short table." "Are we in charge of them or are they in charge of us?"

A Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the assembly room of the courthouse on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PURDUE EXTENSION

Extension educator Gracie Marlatt reported on a Purdue event taking place in New Castle on Wednesday, Oct 27th to assist students preparing for college. The Extension office has two employees on medical leave.

SHERIFF

The Sheriff reported 48 prisoners in the Rush County Jail. Terry Drake found guns and 31 grams of marijuana on a routine traffic stop. The interdiction team made ten stops which led to two arrests. No Rush County residents have been arrested during these stops. The Sheriff pledged to have an electronic report in the near future.

The Sheriff has been asked by Mary Roller of Ivy Tech for a one day extension to the required evacuation of the RSE building due to final examinations. The request was granted.

The Sheriff also had a proposal from Rusty Harmeyer to conduct an online auction of items such as overhead doors, radiant heaters, plumbing fixtures and even the old highway garage. Mark Bacon moved to proceed with the online auction with Jack Krouse and Sheriff Cowan overseeing the process. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

VACATED ALLEY

Ruth Geise representing Arlington Christian Church requested that two alleys adjoining the church be vacated. The church owns the property on either side of the alleys. Joe Conde stated there were no sewer lines in the property in question. Jerry Sitton has no objection but a legal description of the alley is required. Mark Bacon moved to have a public hearing on November 14th at 10:00 a.m. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented a contract with USI for Bridge #170 on 450 E south of New Salem. Fifty percent of the construction funds come from the Community Crossing Grant. Mark Bacon moved to sign the contract. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Mary Ann Beard, Auditor submitted the Treasurer's monthly report in her absence.
- An excess loss insurance application from Great Midwest Insurance Company was signed on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.
- Beard questioned a bill from Coor Consulting to find it was for survey work behind Kroger. Leigh Morning has the contract.
- Beard presented tax sale certificates for twenty nine unsold properties. No action was taken.
- Raleigh EMS report was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Judge Northam had requested to move the Court Administrator to the area vacated by the Clerk's deputies to retain security for the Judges Chamber. Apparently the Prosecutor spoke with the Commissioners before the meeting and the problem is resolved.

PAYROLL

The Auditor continues to question why Jeff Vogel has not filed FMLA papers. Superintendent Jerry Sitton stated that he is just using sick and vacation days but he is not on FMLA. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the payroll. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Having no questions regarding claims, Mark Bacon moved to allow the claims be paid. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APC

Jeff Slayton, member of the APC board had the following questions:

- Is our contracts still in place for a consultant and legal counsel?
- Do we need a full time director?
- Would you like a professionally trained director?
- How much money is available for a budget?

Bruce Levi stated that many of these questions have yet to be answered. Auditor Beard shared that there is some funds left for this year and there is a budget for next year but it is composed of a single payment to the city and that pay to board members has been eliminated for 2017.

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