

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 6, 2017 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Mark Bacon, Bruce Levi; Jodi Harr Auditor, and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Chairman Paul Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2017 were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes from the special session held on January 30, 2017 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Jodi Harr presented the biweekly claims docket for February 6, 2017 in the amount of \$295,145.53. Mark Bacon moved to sign the claims. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi moved to approve the payroll claims for February 10, 2017 in the amount of \$172,822.56. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPT

Marge Amos, Nurse Supervisor for the Rush County Health Department, notified the commissioners the health department's intent to purchase a 2016 Dodge Journey SXT to be used solely by the health department. It will be paid for and maintained using their Local Health Maintenance Funds. Bruce Levi made the motion for Chairman Paul Wilkinson to sign the Vehicle Purchase Agreement. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Amos also reported they have received written resignation from Dr. Craig Fenimore from the Health Board and have a pending resignation of board member Dr. Jamie Morgan. The Health Board recommends Carol Yager to replace Dr. Fenimore for the remaining of his term of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. The Health Board also recommends Kendra Steible replace Dr. Winters at the time of her official resignation. Dr. Winter's appointment is set to expire December 31, 2017. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve both of these appointments. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY PLAYERS

Michael Fisher, Director of the up-coming production of *Sherlock Holmes: And the Curse of the Sign of Four*, requested to use the first floor of the courthouse for this production. They would expect around 50 audience member and approximately 20 cast members and crews. They do have liability insurance for cast, crew and audience. They would need to use the Assembly Room, the first floor hall and folding chairs. Mark Bacon made a motion to allow them to use the first floor of the courthouse understanding they would need to sign in and out at

the sheriff's department, responsible to unlock and lock the courthouse, clean up each evening and not put tape on the floors, walls or woodwork. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE VIDEO

Satolli Glassmeyer of History in Your Own Backyard requested permission to do historical video of the courthouse. The cost is \$299.00 and has been raised by donations of county citizens. The video will be done on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Jodi Harr will be responsible for locking and locking on that day. Marvin Rees and Mabel Berkemeier has agreed to be the narrator's for the video. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

EMS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Alexander from ERS, gave a brief history of the communications services and equipment they have provided the county using Motorola equipment. To continue with the plan that was put in place, he is recommending to place transmitter and receivers on existing towers located in the southern part of the county, northern part of the county and the tower at the Sheriff's department. He gave the commissioners documentation of the equipment we currently have and the coverage we have.

Sam Carpenter from ECS Communications introduced himself stating he was ask by EMA Director Chuck Kemker and Rob Puckett from Anderson Twp. Fire Department to evaluate the county radio communication needs. His company uses Kenwood products which is compatible with Motorola. He would recommend adding an additional tower in the Glenwood area and installing two repeaters, one for the sheriff and one for the fire departments. He expects the cost would be less then Motorola.

Sheriff Cowan had no comments.

EMA Director Chuck Kemker stated this has been a long process. He has talked with the Fire Chiefs Association, Motorola, and Kenwood representatives. There is still a lot to look at and talk about before a decision is made. Fire Chiefs meet again in two weeks. Bruce Levi asked how this effects funds in county general. Kemker said the cost is being evaluated and possibly going to ask the county to pay for repeaters and fire departments pay for their radios.

Matt Alexander commented that the Motorola will give budgetary consideration for their radios but has not yet considered the trade in and quality discounts available.

County Councilman Warren Norris explained that he and Councilman Marvin Hedrick have been talking with one fire department. His goal is for everyone to work together to get the best pricing.

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton asked how the repeater connects to the tower in the north and the one in the south. Matt Alexander stated they connect through an internet process.

RECESS Chairman Paul Wilkinson called for a recess to conduct a Board of Finance Meeting. Mark Bacon made a motion to recess. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Paul Wilkinson called the Board of Finance Meeting to order.

Secretary of the Board of Finance, Cindra Humphrey, presented the minutes from the January 23, 2017 meeting. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried

Humphrey presented the Statement of Investment Policy with the new signatures listed. Bruce Levi made a motion to sign the policy. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon made the motion to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilkinson reconvened the regular commissioner meeting.

EXTENSION

Gracie Marlatt invited the commissioners to their annual meeting on February 23, 2017. It is a joint meeting with the Soil and Water District. They should be receiving official invitations soon. This is the 100 year celebration of extension services in Rush County.

Purdue has release its annual extension report. Our local extension office is the connection point to all of the programs mentioned in the report.

COURTHOUSE

County Council Chairman Gerald Mohr asked if the commissioners were interested in purchasing one of the three foot by six foot banners that has all of the courthouses in Indiana on it. It was decided that each commissioner and councilman will donate to cover the cost of the banner.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, County Highway Superintendent, presented his departments December and January financial reports. He noted that his investments at Trust Indian are earning more than those at the local banks. He will be requesting additional funds from the county council to purchase a new distributor. The old one will be kept for a backup.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave an update on staff training and department statistics. There are currently 56 inmates housed at the jail. We are holding seven inmates for Marion County. Paul Wilkinson stated he appreciates the sheriff doing three year comparison reports.

AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr requested permission to fill the vacant full time position in her office with a part time person. The person would not work more than 29 hours per week. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the request and that the position be advertised per our policy. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Harr asked for clarification on how newly vacated and new positions be presented to the commissioners. Bruce Levi made the motion that a department head shall come before the commissioners to ask permission to fill a vacated or to add a new position in their office prior to advertising the opening. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. It was also stated that his includes grant positions. These requests should also go to the county council for permission.

COUNTY AMBULANCE STUDY

The commissioners were asked on the progress of the County Ambulance Study that was requested by Rush Memorial Hospital and the County Council at the September 2016 budget hearings. Commissioner Wilkinson stated they are looking for a vendor to conduct the study. Bruce Levi asked Rob Puckett if the State of Indiana can do such a study. Puckett stated he believed it would be up to the county to find a vendor to do the study. Puckett said the Indiana Fire Marshall Office, EMS division, might be able to give some guidance. He will get Levi a phone number or email address to contact them.

JAIL TOWER

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented a contract between Rush County Commissioners and Custer Electric for the installation of a new 911 communication tower behind Kroger. Commissioner Bruce Levi asked for verification that the contract has been through all necessary processes. Leigh has reviewed the contract. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract with Custer Electric in the amount of \$105,000.00. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY FIRE CHIEF ASSOCIATION

Nick White presented a letter from the Rush County Fire Chief Association requesting that consideration by the commissioners be given to have a Public Safety Ordinance that would require all new communication tower construction's within Rush County be required under permitting to reserve one space for public safety communication antenna and equipment.

It was noted that this would have to go through the APC/BZA boards. Craig Trent, BZA board member, commented and quoted 6.3.6 from the current zoning ordinance allows this. County Attorney Leigh Morning will review to see what needs be done.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

David Hiner brought additional information to the commissioners regarding the discussion on the Chicken Ordinance at their January 23 meeting. Since the commissioners gave a favorable recommendation with an amendment to the chicken ordinance at their June 2, 2014 public hearing, why is it not in place? Attorney Leigh Morning said because of the amendment it would have gone back to the APC. The question than is if it was not addressed within a certain time, would the amendment be in effect. Leigh does not know. Bruce Levi mad a motion to table this until Leigh has a chance to research it. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Hiner also asked if a request by the county is made to amend the APC ordinance, who pays the \$200.00 fee. Leigh will research.

Hiner also mentioned that if we are going to make request to not tape anything to the wall and floors, we should also follow that same rule. There are meeting notices taped to the wood work of the assembly room. Bruce will find a bulletin board to start posting notices on.

Next to speak was Janice Osborne of Rushville business Osborne Electronics. She asked the commissioners if they had received her email. They responded that yes they did receive the email. She requested that local businesses be allowed to bid on different aspects of the jail project. She has talked to Sheriff Cowan and the construction manager for the jail project.

MISC

- Carthage EMS reports for January 2017 was received.
- RMH Ambulance Financial Report ending December 2016 was received.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21 at 9:00a.m.

Bruce Levi moved to adjourn. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson Chairman

Mark Bacon

Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

Jodi Harr, Auditor