

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 20, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 6, 2017 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Bruce Levi, Cathy Pratt, Deputy Auditor and Leigh Morning County Attorney, 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 March 6, 2017 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Deputy Auditor, Cathy Pratt, presented the biweekly claims docket for March 20, 2017 in the amount of \$632,649.53. Bruce Levi moved to approve the claims for March 20, 2017. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending March 24, 2017 in the amount of \$176,458.90 was approved on a motion by Bruce Levi and seconded by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

COURTS

Judge Northam introduced Carl Mulvaney from the Preservation Collaborative. Mr. Mulvaney spoke to the Commissioners regarding a study of the courthouse regarding updates. Judge Northam requested that the Commissioners engage with Preservation Collaborative to look at the courts and courthouse and see how they are set up to see if there is a way they can be updated and fix problems. The approximate charge for the study would be \$37,000 to \$75,000, depending on the areas which might be looked at.

Bruce Levi mentioned that the county is in financial dire straits at this point and they are open to look at the study but reminded those in attendance that we recently had to replace the boilers in the courthouse and we still are in the middle of roof repairs. Bruce said they would consider it but they needed to discuss it.

Leigh Morning said that Jodi Harr said there is money in the Riverboat Fund, and that the council has appropriated the money.

Bruce said he wanted to wait until Mark gets back. Paul Wilkinson said they will set up a meeting with Preservation Collaborative.

Judge Northam said that he understands the jail project is moving forward. He has been asking for this and discussing it going on 8 years now. He said without the study you are all flying blind. The 35-75 thousand is due to different options. It also includes legal advice regarding bonds. He said the Preservation Collaborative is a group of firms who have chosen to combine forces and each does a different analysis. He said the Preservation Collaborative was recommended by the Franklin County Circuit Court where they did do a remodel and that the third floor's needs are identical to the changes made in Franklin County. He just wants a legitimate study. He thanked the Commissioners for their time.

YOUTH CAMP

Chip West is requesting regarding the Youth Work Camp for this summer. He is asking the Commissioners permission to waive the Area Plan permit fees related to this project. The council gave their approval on March 8.

Paul Wilkinson stated that this group assists the disabled and elderly people in the county.

Gregg Duke, Area Plan Director said he would have no problem waiving those fees. He stated he would need them to come in and talk to him about each project.

Bruce made a motion to approve that the permit fees for the work done by the Youth Work Camp, for the summer of 2017, be waived on the contingency that the projects are all approved thru APC. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER

Cindy Humphrey, Rush County Treasurer, presented the February 2017 Monthly Report.

She informed the Commissioners that last Friday the tax statement file was sent to the company that prints our statements. Because of adjustments that had to be made in the software, the file was sent about 10 days later than last year. This will make for a shorter collection period. Statements should be sent out the 2nd week of April. She stated that Mainsource Bank in Rushville and Citizens State Bank in Rushville and Knightstown will be able to accept check payments of taxes. They will be able to accept check payments only.

AREA PLAN

Gregg Duke, Area Plan Director, stated he had nothing for the Commissioners.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, County Highway Superintendent, stated he had nothing for the Commissioners.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Paul Wilkinson state that the Health Insurance Committee was recommending that the Commissioners hire Pfenninger, Claxton & Estelle Insurance/Keystone Insurers Group (PCE) as Rush County's agent of record.

After discussion, Bruce Levi made the motion to follow the recommendation of the Health Committee and hire PCE effective 8/1/17. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Paul Wilkinson said that due to complaints from several department heads, there is a recommendation made to change the liability insurance from Neace Lukens to PCE effective immediately.

Jerry Sitton stated the policies are effective until 12/31/17. Bliss McKnight has agreed to transfer those policies to PCE. He also said that PCE indicates they can get us a better policy with lower premiums during the next cycle.

Bruce Levi made a motion to approve the change in liability insurance from Neace Lukens to PCE effective immediately with Bliss McKnight transferring those policies to PCE. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave an extensive report on the Sheriff's department to date; including dispatch/communications, miles travelled in the county, the number of warrants issued and outstanding, training completed and upcoming, and investigations ongoing.

There are currently 56 inmates housed at the jail, as well as 7 individuals in other counties that will be returned here as soon as their case has been determined in that county.

E911 CONTRACTS

Maintenance contracts for E911 equipment were presented. This is for 911 equipment that was purchased a year ago. The warranty has run out and now we need to determine if we want a maintenance contract. Two choices were presented. One choice included only the 911 consoles. The second choice was for the consoles as well as the radios in the back.

Paul Wilkinson asked if this is for preventative maintenance or would it include repair costs? Jim Cowan stated repair costs would be in addition to this contract costs. Repairs would be additional.

The Commissioners spent several minutes discussing the pros and cons of each choice.

Bruce Levi asked if this was budgeted for this year. Jim Cowan stated it was not budgeted because they did not know this would be an issue until the company sent them this proposal. Bruce stated that it will have to go to the County Council for an additional appropriation. Leigh Morning, County Attorney, said it wouldn't need to be an additional appropriation if they had the money elsewhere and it can be transferred. She stated it has to be paid out of the 911.

Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract for the consoles only pending either approval of the County Council of an additional appropriation or by transferring monies into the correct account from other areas. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

AUDITOR

The Auditor's office has received a request from Shane Turbeville, from the IU Public Policy Institute requesting GIS EMS service boundaries in Rush County. Bruce Levi asked why they were requesting this data. Cathy Pratt stated that it was for collecting baseline data about fire and EMS service boundaries in Indiana for the State Fire Marshall's office and the Indiana Fire Alliance.

Bruce Levi made a motion to approve the request pending the signing of a GIS agreement with them indicating they will use the data for just the requested purpose. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD

Discussion was had regarding the approval of Curt Mock to the Community Corrections Board. Bruce Levi made a motion to approve Curtis Mock to the Community Corrections Board per Judge Hill's recommendation. Leigh Morning reminded Commissioners that this would be for the ex-offender appointment. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

QPH QUOTE

The Commissioners received a quote from QPH for the cleaning of return air grills for both large air handler units. Both Bruce Levi and Paul Wilkinson had concerns that the quote was based on Saturday overtime hours. It would require blocking the north door and stairway. They will have to rent scaffolding to complete the job. The quote includes 4 vents in the ceilings.

Bruce Levi recommended putting this on hold to see if we can get a better quote by not using Saturdays and overtime.

CARTHAGE EMS

Sheriff Jim Cowan addressed the Commissioners regarding Carthage EMS. He said they are experiencing service issues. The Commissioners will attend the next Carthage Town Board Meeting to try to resolve the issues. The February 2017 EMS run report was received and reviewed by the commissioners.

JOINT COMMISSIONER/COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Paul Wilkinson announced that the Joint Commissioner/Council workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 24th at 8:30 a.m. He said the workshop will be open to the public, but there will be no time for public comment.

PUBLIC ACCESS/OPEN DOOR

Public Access/Open Door training is Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. APC Director, Greg Duke, is coordinating.

WELLNESS SCREENING

Health insurance wellness screenings for employees and spouses will be held April 11th from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

FIBER HUTS

Ron Jarman reported on the status of the fiber huts. He is having a problem getting the necessary stamped approval from the State for the huts. He is continuing to work with both the company and the state to try to get the issue resolved. He will keep the Commissioners posted. The Commissioners indicated they would do all they could to help get the matter resolved.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be held on Monday, April 3rd at 9:00a.m.

Bruce Levi moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/paul wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

Mark Bacon

/s/bruce levi
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/s/Jodi harr
Jodi Harr, Auditor