

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APRIL 3, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 3, 2017 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Mark Bacon, Bruce Levi, Jodi Harr, 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 20, 2017 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for April 3, 2017 in the amount of \$120,203.17. Bruce Levi moved to approve the claims for April 3, 2017. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending April 7, 2017 in the amount of \$174,508.89 was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, County Highway Superintendent, requested the commissioners' approval to advertise a Notice to Bidders to purchase a 3500 gallon asphalt distributor. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the advertisement for bids to be received by 10 a.m. on Monday, May 15, 2017 at which time the bids will be opened. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Auditor, Jodi Harr, requested the commissioners' approve a letter notifying HIIG, who is the county employees' health insurance reinsurer, of the change in Agent of Record from Apex to PCE. Mark Bacon made the motion for commissioner chairman Paul Wilkinson to sign the letter. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

OPH QUOTE

The Commissioners received a revised quote from QPH for the cleaning of return air grills for both large air handler units. The new quote is in the amount of \$1,750.00. The work will be done on Friday, April 14, 2017 with no overtime involved. The courthouse is closed that day so the public entrances will be locked. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

TAX LIENS CITY OF RUSHVILLE

The City of Rushville has requested an agreement with Rush County Commissioners regarding the removal of taxes, weed liens and demolition liens on any property that is transferred to the City of Rushville. These are properties that are blighted, unsafe or properties

that need to be revitalized. Commissioner Wilkinson and County Attorney Leigh Morning are working with Mayor Pavey and City Attorney Julie Newhouse to come to an agreement. County Treasurer, Cindra Humphrey, was present to answer any questions the commissioners had regarding how these properties are currently handled. This matter was continued until further information is received.

COURTS

Judge Northam requested the commissioners' approval and funding of a study regarding renovation of the courthouse. Mike Montgomery from the Preservation Collaborative was in attendance with Judge Northam. Montgomery provided copies of a letter dated July 10, 2015 describing the services and fee proposal for Preservation Collaborative to conduct the study. The cost would range between \$35,075 and \$73,500.00. The low end estimate would be an energy efficiency study. The high end estimate would include estimated costs and designs of the project. There is money available in the Riverboat Fund to cover the cost of the study as long as the county council will approve the transfer of funds. Montgomery noted as they start the study if they find the higher end is not needed, they would change the proposed cost. The study would partially consist of the group evaluating the last two years of energy bills at the courthouse and speaking with our current vendors who provide repair/maintenance services for the courthouse. After much discussion, Bruce Levi made the motion to ask the county council to transfer \$75,000 in the Riverboat fund to pay for this study of recommended renovations to the courthouse by the Preservation Collaborative. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. County Attorney Leigh Morning will get the contract and review prior to the next commissioner meeting.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported on activities at 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 51 inmates housed at the jail.

Cowan notified the commissioners of the retirement of K9 Officer Dax. After eight years of service to Rush County, Dax is experiencing some medical issues. Sheriff Cowan and Deputy Brinson have researched how other counties throughout the State of Indiana handle the retirement of K9 officers. Deputy Brinson compiled a list of ideas on how the county should handle this situation. A transfer of Ownership Agreement was presented transferring ownership of Officer Dax to his current handler, Deputy Brinson. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the retirement and transfer of ownership of Officer Dax to Deputy Brinson. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. Two new K9's will be put into service by the end of May 2017.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

It was requested that Commissioner Wilkinson sign the title for a 2004 Ford Explorer which is being traded for a new vehicle for the health department. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. Thanks was offered to Campbell Brothers for being patient while the red tape of government business is being taken care of.

COURTHOUSE ROOF

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented a contract for Wellman Brothers to provide replacement of the north side valley on the courthouse roof. The cost is \$41,338.00. The north doors of the courthouse will need to be closed for a period of time once the project is started. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. The media will be notified when the north doors will be closed. This will be paid from the Cumulative Capital Fund.

The next Commissioner’s meeting will be held on Monday, April 17rd at 9:00a.m.

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

/s/Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/s/Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/s/Jodi Harr
Jodi Harr, Auditor