

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 15, 2017

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 15, 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 from the May 1, 2017 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

Minutes from the special meeting held on May 10, 2017 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi and seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for May 15, 2017 in the amount of \$234,234.72. Mark Bacon moved to approve the claims. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll ending May 19, 2017 in the amount of \$175,626.80 was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindra Humphrey presented the April 2017 Treasurer Report. There are ninety seven (97) properties currently eligible for tax sale. She expressed her concern that we continue to expend more than we are receipting in the county general fund.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The 2016 Annual Report for the Rush County Health Department was given to each of the commissioners.

RIDE RUSH GRANT

Wanda Henderson, Director of the Rush County Senior Center, presented the quarterly report for 1/1/17 through 3/31/17 for signature by the commissioners. The Ride Rush Pass through Grant is expected to receive \$40,790.00 in reimbursement from the state and federal government. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign the report. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. Henderson noted that the first of the program's two new vehicles should arrive this week.

COURTHOUSE STUDY

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented a contract between the commissioners and Preservation Collaborative Group to provide a complete study of maintenance, security and

needed renovations to the courthouse. The amount of the contract is \$63,000 and would be completed by August 16, 2017. Bruce Levi commented that he was meeting with QPH and independent company Public Systems Inc. to do an exclusive energy audit of the courthouse. This is being done at no charge to the county. He asked Leigh if the \$14,000 being charged by Preservation Collaborative Group be removed from their \$63,000 contract. She does not know how much can be excluded. This would be part of the recommendations made by Preservation Collaborative. Bruce Levi made the motion to discuss this later in the meeting and allow him time to call Stan Richards from QPH to get more information about the information to be provided by the independent company. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

EMS REPORTS

EMS reports for April 2017 were received and reviewed for Anderson Twp Vol Fire Dept, Rush Memorial Hospital EMS, and Carthage Volunteer Fire.

MILROY PROPERTY – HENSON

The commissioners took deed from tax sale to parcel # 70-14-12-383-006.000-001 212 N. Main Street Milroy owned by Henson's with the intention of transferring it to the Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department. Indiana State Code does not allow them to transfer it to the fire department unless the fire department is going to build a new fire department. It must be transferred to the Anderson Township Trustee for a sum of money. Mark Bacon made the motion to transfer the property to the Trustee for the sum of \$1.00. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. The commissioners thanked Nick White for his assistance in getting this property off of tax sale.

EMS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Nick White representing the County Fire Chiefs Association would like the commissioners to take action on deciding which radio system they are going to approve. Sheriff Cowan commented he did test both systems last fall but has asked both companies to set up another test. He should have the dates next week for the commissioners to decide which date is best for them. Verlin Custer, Nick White and Rob Puckett each expressed their opinions on this issue and delaying the decision. Mark Bacon made the motion to move forward with the Kenwood System proposed by ECS. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

CARTHAGE EMS

EMT Frank Denzler expressed his concern of EMS coverage for the Carthage area. Raleigh has been responding but they are not being dispatched until after Carthage EMS is dispatched and does not respond. This is valuable lost time for the person needing treatment. He is requesting the commissioners and sheriff agree to dual dispatch with Carthage until Carthage EMS can resolve their staffing issues. Sheriff Cowan said it is not a problem to dual dispatch. Cowan also noted their coverage did get better for a while but they seem to be having problems again. Bruce Levi made the motion for the sheriff department to dual dispatch Carthage EMS and Rush Memorial. Brad Hatfield who is a member of the Raleigh Fire

Department stated Raleigh has not had a coverage problem while responding to Carthage. He feels they are more than capable to handle dual dispatching. They have the members to provide the coverage for Carthage. Levi rescinded his motion. Levi made a motion for the sheriff department to dual dispatch with the department having the authority to dispatch whichever service he feels necessary. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

NEW JAIL PROJECT

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented an additional contract with Creek Run LLC in the amount of \$6,650.00. The contract is for them to do additional soil samples on the north and west sides of the Rush Shelby Building. They will also do a sample in the bay area of the Rush Shelby Building. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

At 10:00 a.m. County Attorney Leigh Morning opened the two bids received for a 3500 Gallon Asphalt Distributor.

- Southeastern Equipment Co Inc bid for 2018 Freightliner \$202,744
- Southeastern Equipment Co Inc bid for 2018 Freightliner \$202,414

The bid sheet was incorrect for the \$202,744. It should have read a 2018 International. Don Miller from Southeastern Equipment was present and said he would honor the \$202,414.00 price for either piece of equipment.

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton recommended the commissioners to take the bids under advisement to give him a chance to review the specifications of both. Mark Bacon made the motion to take the bids under advisement. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

10:05 Bruce Levi made the motion to recess. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

10:20 Meeting reconvened by Chairman Paul Wilkinson.

COURTHOUSE STUDY

Bruce Levi confirmed that he will be meeting with QPH and Public Systems Inc. to do an energy study of the courthouse with no charge being made to the county. They will be looking at the energy system, lights and Levi is not sure what else. It will be a sales pitch in the end but at least we will have the information. Levi recommends tabling the contract with Preservation Collaborative until the commissioners see what this study will show.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked if the three commissioners were in agreement with the contract with Preservation Collaborative except for the \$14,000 for Mechanical and electrical systems review. Preservation Collaborative will be concerned with the independent study plans not comingling with the historical and security plans.

Leigh Morning expressed her concern is that Judge Northam made his intentions known in December 2016. It has been five months and we are still talking about this. Wilkinson noted his concern is that they received the contract on Friday and are expected to make a \$63,000

decision today. Morning noted that she has had difficulty getting the proposed changes to the contract done from Preservation Collaborative. She has notified Judge Northam of the difficulties. Wilkinson stated once again we have to conserve as much money as possible.

Mark Bacon made the motion to post pone making the contract decision until after they meet with QPH and Public Systems Inc. on Wednesday. The commissioners will hold a special meeting on Friday, May 19 at 7:30 a.m. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave department updates and noted there are currently 58 inmates housed at the jail. He also noted this is National Law Enforcement Week.

Due to additional repairs to the cooling system at the jail, the building maintenance line has been depleted. There have been some transfers made to cover the costs. He also noted the amount budgeted for part time at the jail has been depleted and they are now using the money appropriated in the Public Safety Fund. It is estimated to run out mid-June. The council has approved to advertise for an additional appropriation from the Rainy Day Fund. The jail is being treated for bed bugs. Wednesday is the annual jail inspection.

AREA PLAN

Gregg Duke, Area Plan Director, presented a petition to amend the official zoning maps of Rush County filed by Gregg Koors, K & W Holding LLC to rezone property at 1537 S 275 W from A-1 Rural Residential to Manufacturing. The Area Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation. Mark Bacon made a motion to approve the rezone request. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Duke also presented an example of a very simple comprehensive plan and a copy of the state code which has the requirements of what is to be included in a comprehensive plan. He asked the following questions. Does the county want to go through the process of developing a new comprehensive plan? If so, we need a plan to develop the comprehensive plan. Do we want to hire a consultant? How much do we want to spend on the plan? Duke was to get the conversation started with those involved to determine what it the county wants in a plan.

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend, Solid Waste District Director, requested the support of the commissioners to see if the county highway department can help remove the trees on the west side of the courthouse.

She also thanked the Soil & Water District for buying 1,000 trees which will be distributed at Garden Fest on May 20 at 9 a.m. She also thanked Sheriff Cowan and some inmates at the jail for helping to bag the trees.

COUNTY WEB SITE

Carole Yeend who is the current manager of the current county web site informed the commissioners that the new web site is almost ready. With that being said, she would like to

step down from being the one to update the site. She has spoken to Jerry Sitton and he may be interested in doing this.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Gracie Marlatt from the Purdue Extension Office gave a staffing update. Audrey Newman's last day was Friday, May 12. Christian Gosser has been hired as the summer assistant during fair time. He started today. The Community Wellness position being hired and paid for by Purdue is scheduled to start June 12.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 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