

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 22, 2018

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 22, 2018 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Mark Bacon, and Bruce Levi, Jodi Harr, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney, in attendance.

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

Minutes of the January 9, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the minutes. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for January 22, 2018 in the amount of \$394,954.14. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending January 26, 2018 in the amount of \$180,431.69 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve payroll as presented. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ashley Stevens, Director of Community Corrections, requested the letters sign a letter for submittal of the fiscal year 2019 grant application. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign the letter. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

RECESS – Mark Bacon made the motion to recess the commissioner meeting in order to conduct the Board of Finance Meeting. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Finance meeting was held to approver their minutes from January 9, 2018.

Paul Wilkinson called the Regular Commissioners meeting back to order following adjournment of the Board of Finance meeting.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported that when the courthouse lost power last week, the generator did not turn on automatically. Upon contacting GenSet Service, LLC, they discovered the exercise clock needs to be replaced. There have been problems with the weekly test on the generator also. The estimate to replace the clock is \$1,154.00. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the estimate. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

EMS REPORT

The Commissioners received the third quarter financial report from Rush Memorial Hospital.

HIGHWAY

The commissioners noted they received from Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton the INDOT Apparent Bid Results for Bridge #170 at CR 715 W over Mud Creek North of 100 S.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Auditor Jodi Harr presented an amendment to the employee health insurance plan. The change would make a new employee eligible for county health insurance coverage the first day of the month following sixty days of full time employment. The change is retroactive to January 1, 2018. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the change. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan presented a sheriff/jail department report and statistics. There are currently sixty three inmates housed at the jail. He noted that construction has started on the new jail building.

Cowan reported that the department has purchased new patrol rifles for each sheriff deputy. These were purchased from the Firearms Fund. He requested trade in value for the old rifles but could not find a dealer who was interested in trading them or buying them. The dealers did estimate that they are worth \$300 per rifle. There are a total of eleven rifles available. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised it is allowable to sell them to the deputies. Mark Bacon made the motion to allow the rifles to be purchased by deputies in the amount of \$300 each with the money being receipted into the Firearms Fund. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

It had mentioned that the floors in the assembly room were in need of restoration. Sheriff Cowan reported that there is an inmate currently housed at the jail who has experience in sanding and refinishing floors. The commissioners agreed to allow the inmate trustee to do the work.

NEW JAIL

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented a Transfer Deed to transfer all properties owned by the county where the new jail is being built to be transferred to the Rush County Jail Building Corporation. The deed was prepared by her office. The Building Corporation is not for profit; therefore, they are tax exempt. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign the transfer deed. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Rick Hall from Barnes & Thornburg was present to request the commissioners sign documents related to the lease and debt service correspondence for the new jail. All documents have been previously approved by the commissioners.

Commissioner Wilkinson ask if there were any questions from the audience regarding the financing of the new jail. There were no questions asked.

Craig Custer reported as soon as parts for the new communication tower come in, they will finish their portion of the jail project.

EMS STUDY

Commissioner Bacon presented the Engagement Agreement with Fitch and Associates to do the study of county EMS services. The agreement has been reviewed by county attorney Leigh Morning. The agreement is not to exceed \$10,000. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the agreement. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Roll call was taken for county council members in attendance. Janet Kile, Warren Norris, Marvin Hedrick and Steve McCorkle were present. Gerald Mohr, Scott Barnes and Charles Smith were absent. No business was discussed by the county council.

VACATE ALLEY – MILROY

Attorney Grant Reeves representing Dave and Wanda Perkins presented a petition to vacate an alley in Ryse and Atchinsons Addition to the Town of Milroy, as recorded in Cabinet A, Slide 25, in the Office of the Recorder for rush County, Indiana, being described as follows: the 12 foot wide alley lying adjacent to Lots 21 and 22 in said Ryse and Atchinsons Addition to the Town of Milroy, being bounded on the North and South sides by 12 foot wide alleys per said plat. The county right of way would remain in case needed for future utility needs. Mark Bacon made the motion to set a public hearing for this matter on February 20, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. The auditor will prepare and advertise the public hearing notice.

COUNTY FARM

Paul Wilkinson reported his findings regarding placing solar panels on the county farm land. It would take at least two years to start the project so the commissioners can go ahead and award a two year cash rent contract for the farm today.

At 9:40 Commissioner Wilkinson recessed the commissioner meeting until 9:55 a.m.

At 9:55 Commissioner Wilkinson reconvened the commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Wilkinson explained the procedure for the open auction of the cash rent for the county farm. Mark Bacon made a motion to set the floor bid at \$225 per acre to begin bidding. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

At 10 a.m. Commissioner Wilkinson opened the floor for bidding. Cory Busald opened the bidding at \$230 per acre. Brad Gwinnup and Michael Savoy participated in the bidding process. Brad Gwinnup made the final bid at \$295 per acre. Mark Bacon made the motion to close the bidding process. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi made the motion to accept the \$295 per acre bid from Brad Gwinnup. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

The next regular Commissioner's meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

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

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor