

**REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JULY 23, 2018**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 23, 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 July 9, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for July 23, 2018 in the amount of \$395,355.13. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending July 13, 2018 in the amount of \$179,092.86 was presented. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #12 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$13,873.97 were presented for approval. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

**AREA PLAN COMMISSION**

Area Plan Director Gregg Duke presented A Certificate of Area Plan Commission giving favorable approval from the Area Plan Commission to rezone property owned by Lyle, David and Toni Schultz from Manufacturing to Rural Residential. The property is located at 2061 N 150 E in Jackson Township consisting of 52.5 acres, more or less. The petition was advertised and a public hearing was held by the Area Plan Commission on July 11, 2018.

David Hiner commented that because of official action taken at the April 2, 2018 Commissioner meeting, there is no action needed by the commissioners. He stated the commissioners voted to operate under the 2008 Comprehensive Plan which has the official land use of A-1. Duke stated the current official zoning maps are kept on the Beacon website and they state the current zoning is Manufacturing. Hiner believes the official zoning maps must be a written/printed map. Duke commented the county imports a master zoning file to the official zoning map for the APC. County Attorney Leigh Morning informed the commissioners that if their Director says it is zoned manufacturing, it is zoned manufacturing. She noted there is no harm in this rezone. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the petition for rezone as presented. Hiner stated this is a redundant act and the county has no official zoning documentation that says GIS is the official zoning map. Bruce Levi seconded the motion with the understanding that the commissioners need to address the paper zoning map versus the electronic GIS maps as the official zoning maps. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER**

Treasurer Cindra Humphrey presented the June Financial Report. She noted that August 4 through August 8 she will be at her state called Treasurers conference. October 4 is the date of the Tax Sale for properties with delinquent taxes.

## **EMA**

EMA Director Chuck Kemker gave a report on the emergency exercise held last weekend. Approximately 100 people participated. Communication was the biggest concern. The communications committee will put a response plan together and present to the commissioners. Mark Bacon thanked Kemker for putting this exercise together. His concern was that the people in the command had three or four radios to stay in touch with everyone. A county central dispatch would have been beneficial.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

A reinsurance application from Sirius America Insurance Company was presented for approval. This is the reinsurance carrier for the employee health insurance plan. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave a department update. There are currently sixty one inmates housed at the jail.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented a contract with United Consulting for consulting services for replacement of Bridge # 63 on County Line east south of 900 N. in the amount of \$268,310.00. The contract was reviewed by the county attorney. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

A second contract with United Consulting for consulting services for rehabilitation of Bridge # 94 Smith Covered Bridge in the amount of \$205,470.00 was presented for approval. The contract was reviewed by the county attorney. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton reported he has met with the consultant regarding the redesign of Bridge # 127 Over Little Blue River. It is being reviewed because of the wetlands designation by the state.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Julie Newhouse, attorney for the Health Department, presented an ordinance for approval by the commissioners. The ordinance is regarding bike routes for health and safety purposes. The ordinance would allow signs to be placed stating that the roads are used for a bike route. The signs will be purchased with Tobacco Funds available to the health department through the

Indiana State Health Department. They presented a map of the proposed route along with a map of signage placement. Bruce Levi noted the commissioners cannot act on signage being placed on State highways. He asked if the request is to designate a bike route or to only place signs up stating bikes are on the road. Newhouse replied it will be designating a bike route. County Attorney Leigh Morning commented she does not see the need in designating a bike route. There are bicyclists on county roads all of the time. She noted this will create an expense to the county highway department to place and maintain the signs. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton stated signs can last a maximum of twelve years depending on if they are stolen or damaged. Bruce Levi stated maintenance is a concern. The health department has grant funds to purchase the signs but no funds to maintain them. Chuck Kemker commented that other groups come in for bike tours. It is to promote health and safety. Mark Bacon stated it will cause more work for the highway and visibility issues on corners. Area Plan Director asked if county roads are where you want to direct bike traffic. Bacon commented we have enough signs around the county. Levi noted at his business he does see tourism from bike rides. He does not know how much money they spend in the county while they are here. Newhouse stated it is good for the county to promote Healthy Rush County regardless if signs are up prior to Willkie Days. Sitton counted over three hundred signs on the proposed list. You can only place two signs per post. The original list he saw only had one hundred signs. Kemker noted some signs would be paid for by the health department and others would be paid for by the state tourism department. Sitton said that the utilities have to be located prior to poles being placed. It is a lot of work. Levi could see a few signs promoting the covered bridges but this request is excessive. He would like for the health department to request a lower number of signs and answer who is going to maintain them. Kemker noted that roadway paint will only be used for the Willkie Days bike ride. It will not be permanent. The signs are more for vehicle traffic.

Bruce Levi made the motion to table this request until a request with a lesser number of signs and the question of maintenance of signs is presented. A new map excluding State Road 244 will also need to be submitted. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. Newhouse will get the requested information.

### **RIDE RUSH**

Tina Logan, Director of the Ride Rush Program, presented the annual grant application for approval by the commissioners. Corrections were made per request of the county attorney. The county will be responsible for making an annual donation in the amount of \$10,000. They will transport to VA hospital but it would be private pay meaning the Veteran would have to pay for the transport. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve and sign the grant. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

### **RADIOS**

Verlin Custer again stated his concern that the radio communications system does not work; therefore, before final payment is made on the radio system, the system needs to be tested.

