

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 6, 2018

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 6, 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 23, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the July 30, 2018 Executive Session were reviewed. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for August 6, 2018 in the amount of \$484,248.71. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending August 10, 2018 in the amount of \$180,552.02 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve payroll. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #13 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$488,909.44 were presented for approval. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

Philip Morgan, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, requested permission to advertise a job opening for a Deputy Prosecutor to handle domestic violence and deferral cases. The position is paid through state grant funds. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the advertising of the vacant position. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

COUNTY PHONE SYSTEM

IT Director, Randy Herbert, was present to request permission to purchase a new phone system for the courthouse, sheriff department and county highway department. He has spoken with Nine Star and Frontier for quotes. His recommendation to the commissioners is to go with Frontier. The cost of the equipment is \$57,929.48 to purchase out right or \$1,169 per month to lease it for sixty months. County Attorney Leigh Morning is working with Frontier on some changes to the contract. She recommends the commissioners buy the equipment up front. The cost includes training for all county staff and a five year support agreement. The work can be started as soon as the commissioners sign the contract. NineStar was approximately \$800 more per month. The county auditor was asked to see if there are funds available to purchase the funds. All will report back to the commissioners at their next meeting.

RIDE RUSH

Tina Logan with Ride Rush requested the commissioners sign a notification of deobligation of Transit Grant Funds for the Indiana Department of Transportation. \$64.00 was not expended from the fiscal year 2017 grant. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the commissioners approve a contract with State of Indiana for reimbursement of engineering fees for Bridge # 63 at 800 East and 900 North in the amount of \$164,376.00. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded.

Sitton also requested approval of a contract with State of Indiana for reimbursement for expenses related to Bridge #94 in the amount of \$214,648.00. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The July 2018 monthly highway financial report was presented and reviewed.

Bridge #70 on 450 East south of New Salem is completed. It was paid for with Community Crossing Grant funds. Sitton will be applying for approximately \$900,000 in Community Crossing 2019 grant funds.

Sitton noted he is receiving calls from property owners for permission to install field tiles, etc. that cross a county road. The permit makes the property owner responsible for any damages to the tile instead of the county being responsible. Rush County Surveyor Marvin Rees requested that he be given copies of these permits and a copy of the policy. His office also receives calls regarding this issue. Sitton would like the commissioners to approve the form. A copy of the permit and policy will be placed on the county website. County Attorney Leigh Morning has looked at the form. Mark Bacon made the motion to adopt the form. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Organ Transplant Policy application for employee health insurance was presented for approval of the commissioners. QBE is the carrier with a monthly premium of \$1,301.96. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract application. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Auditor Jodi Harr gave an update on the open enrollment period held between July 3, 2018 and July 20, 2018.

AMBULANCES

With the termination of the emergency ambulance contract with Rush Memorial Hospital, the decision needed to be made as to what will happen with the three ambulances that were being used by RMH. Commissioner Wilkinson has the title for Medic 1. The ambulance was returned from RMH and turned over to the new central provider Rushville City Fire Department. The title was signed over from RMH to the commissioners. Once it is titled to Rush County Commissioners the intent is to transfer the title to the City of Rushville.

RMH made a written request to the commissioners for Medic 2 and Medic 3 to be given to RMH in order for them to provide transfer services for patients as needed. These two ambulances will not be used for emergency transports. Bruce Levi made the motion to give Medic 2 and Medic 3 to RMH to provide transfer services. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

The 800 mhz radios were returned to the county. They were purchased with grant dollars awarded to Rush County and will be distributed to EMS units who need them.

EMS Coordinator Chuck Kemker reported he met with sheriff, county dispatch, and EMS providers. They will meet every month for a while to continue to improve the communication between departments. The monthly financial report form to be submitted by departments receiving subsidy from the county have been redone to make them user friendly and distributed to EMS departments.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported sixty four inmates currently housed in the jail. One inmate is being housed at another facility. He will email the complete department report to the commissioners.

PROPOSED BIKE ROUTES

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton and County Attorney Leigh Morning provided Health Department Attorney Julie Newhouse with the requested financial information on buying and placing bike route signs around the covered bridges. No one from the health department was present at today's meeting. Commissioner Wilkinson stated he is not in favor of establishing designated bike routes. He asked if this would open the county up for liability issues. County Attorney Morning stated absolutely. He asked what if the county posted share the road signs. Morning replied that would make them responsible for some liability but why would you want to mark some of the county roads but not all of them. People ride bikes all over the county. Chamber of Commerce Director Sandy Fussner asked could the county simply place signs that had the name of the covered bridge with an arrow pointing in the direction of the bridge stating how many miles away. Sitton would like some more time to think about this. The commissioners will leave this topic open for discussion.

HR DIRECTOR

Commissioner Wilkinson reported the recommendation from the hiring team is to hire Tony Personett as the Rush County Human Resource Director. All three commissioners met with him last week to discuss the job offer. Mark Bacon made the motion to hire Tony Personett as the Rush County Human Resource Director with a pay of \$60,000 per year with a hire date of August 13, 2018. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried. This salary falls within the salary guidelines set by the county council at the joint commissioner/council meeting held on June 5, 2018. Commissioner Wilkinson noted that this is a new position but the funding for the position is from funds given up from the Rush County Auditor's budget by giving up one and half positions in the auditor's office.

COUNTY FARM

Commissioner Bacon reported he has found someone to harvest the timber on the county farm property. The purpose of harvesting the timber is to harvest the Ash trees before they die. If approved they would probably start harvesting the timber in the fall of this year. He will get the contract to the county attorney to review and the commissioners to consider at their next meeting.

TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Commissioner Levi noted he has talked to some people regarding the care of township cemeteries. Joyce Morrell was present and made a personal request on behalf of a group of people to form a Rush County Cemetery Commission. Her personal preference is to find a way to enforce the policy that already is in place regarding the care of cemeteries. No action was taken.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Commissioner Bacon reported construction is roughly two weeks behind schedule. They hope to start on the building around the tower by the end of the week. The plan is to start placing holding cells in November.

STEAM ENGINE SHOW

Commissioner Levi publicly thanked the organizers and the Pioneer Engine Club for hosting the Steam Engine Show.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 20, 2018.

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

Paul Wilkinson Chairman

Mark Bacon

Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

Jodi Harr, Auditor