

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 20, 2018

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 20, 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 August 6, 2018 regular meeting 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 20, 2018 in the amount of \$305,843.29. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending August 24, 2018 in the amount of \$183,948.64 was presented. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #14 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$6,929.11 were presented for approval. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindra Humphrey was unable to attend the meeting but did email the July County Treasurers Monthly Report to the Commissioners. It was reviewed with no questions.

PHONE SYSTEM

County Attorney Leigh Morning reported she has not received the updated contract with Frontier to purchase and install a new phone system for the Sheriff Department and Courthouse.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR Director Tony Personett reported on his first week of employment. It has been busy with new hires, terminations and learning the county government system. He is working on compiling employee hire dates and a longevity plan.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported there will be a communications meeting held in his office on August 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. to start working on communications improvements that were found during the emergency response exercise held last month.

WILLKIE DAY BIKE RIDE

David Willkie was present to update and obtain updates regarding the bike ride to take place during Willkie days. Over eighty riders have signed up. He suggest stating there will be two hundred riders participating for insurance purposes. Commissioner Wilkinson clarified that we will only need insurance for Saturday, September 15. He will contact the counties liability carrier to get the insurance taken care of. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton will try to get the faces of the covered bridges painted; however, he cannot guarantee it because his employees are busy with summer construction. Sheriff Jim Cowan offered the use of jail trustees to paint the bridges. He and Sitton will work on it. Willkie would like a list of roads that have been chip and sealed by the county highway department. Sitton will get that for him.

Willkie advised the commissioners of a similar ride being held in Wabash County on September 8, 2018. He encouraged the commissioners to contact the Wabash County Commissioners or to attend the event in Wabash County to see how the ride is set up and managed.

The Department of Natural Resources has recognized our local ride as an official bike route and have posted the event on their website.

Willkie offered to answer any questions the Commissioners have regarding the sign placements on county roads. He stated the committee is not looking for the signs to be in place prior to the September ride but would like to see them in place for future tourism opportunities and long term project to promote healthy living. He would like for the Commissioners to approve the plan so they can apply for funding. The Commissioners explained the concern is the placement and maintenance of the signs that will have to be done by the highway department. Willkie commented that the cost of the signs will be paid by grant funds as available. They ask Willkie why not put signs in the Amish community also. He said that request can be considered. Morning advised her concern is with the additional liability that will be placed on the county. Willkie stated this is more of a public service not changing any existing laws. He suggested the county talk to Wabash and Decatur counties on their findings. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if the Share the Road signs have a picture of bikes on them or only the wording of Share the Road. Willkie believes it is just the wording with an arrow pointing the direction of the bridge along with the name of the bridge. He will get the Commissioners pictures of the signs.

Chamber of Commerce Director Sandy Fussner reported the following schedule for Willkie Days: September 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. will be the Covered Bridge dinner; September 15 will have a parade at 10:00 a.m., Rush Fest downtown starts at 9:00 a.m. and a concert at 7:00 p.m.; September 16 will be the SPARC walk.

CARTHAGE

Cathy Gibson, Director of Future of Carthage, reported that the Carthage Freedom Festival grows each year. Rerouting traffic has become a bigger problem each year. She asked the Commissioners for assistance in rerouting large truck, semis, around Carthage on the day of the festival. They cannot reroute them through the streets in Carthage. Sheriff Jim Cowan suggested they put man power on the north and south ends of Carthage to turn the semis around before they enter town. Cowan will get with Carthage Law Enforcement to discuss this.

Morning suggested she asked the Carthage Town Board to pass a one day ordinance saying no semi traffic. The attorney for the Town Board should be able to help with this. Pioneer is trying to get the word out to their drivers to avoid that area of the county on September 22. Once the ordinance is passed, they should send it to Pioneer.

GIS

Auditor Jodi Harr requested the Commissioners approve a three year lease with Eastern Engineering Supply to continue the current lease for the mapping scanner/plotter used with the GIS system. Morning and IT Director Randy Herbert have reviewed the lease and agree this is the best way to go. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the lease. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

At the last meeting the Commissioners approved an application with QBE to provide the organ transplant policy for county employees. Once QBE received the application, they rejected it. The current policy with UMR will stay in force for another year.

Amendment #2 to the Rush County Employee Health Insurance was presented. The change is that UMR no longer handles the dental and vision coverage for county employees. UMR will only provide medical coverage. Dental coverage will be with Delta Dental and Vision coverage will be with EyeMed. Morning and the health insurance committee has reviewed. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the amendment. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

County Ordinance 2018-3 was presented as an amendment to Ordinance 2018-2A. The bridge work on State Road 44 is complete. County roads 100 South, 750 West and 800 West are in need of repair after the construction on State Road 44. The below ordinance was requested to maintain the speed limit to thirty miles per hour on these roads. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the ordinance. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

INSERT ORDINANCE HERE

Sitton requested the Commissioners sign a letter of commitment for the counties matching portion of \$200,000 for the Community Crossings Grant. The project will be asphalt paving wedge and level of Henderson Road and 400 West from US 52 to 750 North in Rush County. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the commitment. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan presented the Sheriff/Jail department reports. There are currently fifty eight inmates housed at the jail. A full time correction officer has resigned. Cowan asked

permission to advertise the replacement of the full time officer along with advertising for additional part time officers. There were no objections from the commissioners.

Cowan was recently made aware by the State Board of Accounts that the department was to file a semi-annual Commissary financial report with the county council. This is something new that they were not aware of. It is being worked on and will be presented at the next county council meeting.

COURTHOUSE

QPH prepared a quote to replace the air compressor that operates the controls for the heating and cooling system. This is not part of the system that will be replaced in October when the new chiller is installed. Option 1 is an oil type air compressor in the amount of \$4,710.00. Option 2 is an oil less air compressor in the amount of \$4,890.00. The recommendation from QPH is Option #2. Sitton agreed with QPH. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve Option # 2 for the oil less air compressor. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

COUNTY FARM

Commissioner Bacon has been working with Napoleon Hardwood Lumber Company, Inc. regarding harvesting the timber on the county farm land. The quote is for \$11,000 to remove 105 trees from the farm. The money will be paid prior to harvesting the timber. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

2019 SALARY RECOMMENDATION

Discussion was held on what salary recommendation to make to the county council for 2019 salaries for county employees. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve a 2019 salary recommendation in the amount of a two percent increase to all county employees. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

EMS

Kemker reported receiving the July EMS reports from all subsidized EMS providers. He emailed them to the commissioners and presented the claims for payment of the monthly subsidy. The agencies will meet the first week of September to continue following up on any issues or concerns that need to be addressed.

The title for Medic 1 was received from the BMV. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign the title over to the Rushville City Fire Department. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The final EMS run report from Rush Memorial Hospital for July was received and reviewed.

APC

APC Director Gregg Duke reported there is a retail company interested in locating to Glenwood. There will be a rezone request coming to the Commissioners soon.

SEXTON

Kevin DeWitt requested something be done for traffic control through Sexton. Sheriff Cowan will put an alert out to his deputies to do some extra patrolling.

WIND FARMS

It was brought to the attention of the Commissioners that the moratorium they placed on wind farms is coming to an end. Morning commented the contracts are void because turbine construction did not start within the allotted time frame as stated in the contracts. Nothing could be done unless the contracts were renegotiated. The current moratorium expires September 18, 2018. Bruce Levi made the motion to extend the moratorium for an additional year. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Levi and Wilkinson voted aye. Bacon voted nay. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

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

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor