

**REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 4, 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 20, 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 September 4, 2018 in the amount of \$392,252.94. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending September 7, 2018 in the amount of \$177,047.68 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve payroll. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #15 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$278.25 were presented for approval. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**PHONE SYSTEM**

Randy Herbert presented the final documentation on purchasing a new phone system for the courthouse. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton does not want to update their phone system. The phone system at the sheriff and jail departments will be updated as part of the new jail project. The courthouse system will be compatible with the new sheriff/jail system. The contract with Frontier is in the amount of \$36,988.30 for the equipment and \$20,941.19 for labor and warranty for a total of \$57,929.48. County Attorney Leigh Morning has reviewed and approved the documents. The County Council requested the system be paid for with budgeted funds in the Riverboat Fund. Bruce Levi made the motion to purchase the phone system from Frontier for the courthouse only at this time as long as it is compatible with the phone system to be installed in the new jail. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL UPDATE**

HR Director Tony Personnett updated the commissioners on personnel changes. The Health Department received resignations from Health Officer Dr. Helen Steussy, Health Board Attorney Julie Newhouse, Health Board Members Fred Phillips and Bruce Levi. Environmentalist/Sanitarian Teresa Nigh also resigned.

The Health Board has requested the commissioners approve a temporary contract with Rush Memorial Hospital physician Dr. Dougherty. He has agreed to be the interim Health Officer until a replacement can be found. The amount of the contract is \$250 per week. Bruce

Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. Mark Bacon made the motion to advertise for a full time Health Officer. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The Health Board has met and is looking at restructuring the operations of their office. They requested permission to advertise for two part time and full time positions for the Environmentalist/Sanitarian. They will decide on how to fill the position once they see what kind of applicants they receive. It will either be with one full time person or with two part time people. Commissioner Levi stated his appreciation to Dr. Steussy, Julie Newhouse and Dr. Phillips for their time and service to Rush County through the Health Department and Health Board. He then made the motion to approve the advertising for two part time and one full time Environmentalist/Sanitarian in order to see what applications are received. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

The Health Department has already advertised to fill the position of Health Board Attorney.

It was brought to the attention of the Health Board that they can only have two citizen's appointments to the health board and they currently have three. With that being noted, Bruce Levi resigned from the board. The health board is currently seeking two board members and will report their recommendation to the commissioners for approval at a later time.

The administrator in Superior Court has given her resignation. The position was advertised with permission from the commissioners and council. Judge Hill would like to hire IVD Administrator Stacey Miller for this position. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the request. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Prosecutor Phil Caviness has hired a deputy prosecutor to replace the vacant position which is funded by STOP Grant funds. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve with the understanding that if grant funds run out, the position will not be funded. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. Personnet noted the county has received an unemployment claim on the last person who held this position. He has filed an appeal on behalf of the county.

The jail has advertised for full and part time corrections officers. The Sheriff would like to move a current part time correction officer to full time. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. They are still accepting applications for part time corrections officers.

## **EMA**

EMA Director Chuck Kemker gave an update on storm damage received last weekend. It had been reported that the Nixle notification system did not work properly. After reviewing the information it was determined that the National Weather Service did not issue the severe thunderstorm warning until after the storm hit Rush County; therefore, the Nixle system is working correctly. The damage was received from straight line winds and a microburst. Not including crop damage, it is estimated the storm caused \$2 million in damage to Rush County residents and businesses.

## **COUNCIL**

Councilman Scott Barnes was present and asked if the commissioners were going to discuss longevity within the courthouse. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that it would be talked about later in the meeting.

## **EXTENSION**

Gracie Marlatt reported their part time position has been filled.

## **RIDE RUSH**

The INDOT fiscal year fourth quarter report for the Rush County Ride Rush Program was presented for review and approval of the commissioners. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the report. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

## **COURTHOUSE ROOF**

Wilkinson reported repairs to the West side of the courthouse roof are scheduled to start today.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the August monthly report for review. He reported the Carthage Pike project is completed. The claim will stay open for one year to ensure the problems with the slope do not reoccur. He reminded the commissioners asphalt bids will be presented at their September 17 meeting.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported on statistical information for the sheriff/jail/dispatch departments. The average inmate population is 64. They have used trustee labor to paint half of the covered bridges in the county. They hope to have the other half completed prior to Willie Days. He reported the communications committee is still meeting and hope to bring their recommendation to the commissioners later in September.

## **COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEE WORK HOURS**

Commissioner Wilkinson reported the county council would like for the commissioners to make a recommendation on the hours worked by courthouse employees prior to the county budget hearings to be held September 11 and September 12. Currently courthouse employees work approximately 32 hours per week. There has been discussion over the last two years of changing those hours. Bruce Levi commented he knows the auditor's office is pushed for time to complete their work. Personnett stated other departments are waiting on guidance from the commissioners. He suggested the county look at other ways to extend days off without additional costs to the county. Mark Bacon believes that if the county is paying employees to work forty hours, they should be working forty hours. Levi stated he believes the courthouse jobs has its benefits and the county has great employees working within the courthouse. He said you have to balance the office needs with time worked.

