

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 15, 2018

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 15, 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 October 1, 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 October 15, 2018 in the amount of \$310,663.29. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending October 19, 2018 in the amount of \$177,305.01 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve payroll. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #18 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$373,673.18 were presented for approval. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION

Commissioner Bacon requested an update on the balance and expenditures in the Jail Bond Fund. Auditor Harr will request the information from First Financial Investment services.

PERSONNEL

HR Director Tony Personett notified the commissioners that the county won the appeal on an unemployment claim.

He requested approval from the commissioners to make an offer of employment for the position of Environmentalist/Office Manager for the Health Department. Since no changes have been made to the personnel policy, the new employee would work thirty two hours per week with an annual salary of \$35,880 for the year 2019. The new employee will be working with State Environmentalists Kim Roe to get the training to do septic permits until the health board decides how they want to handle septic permits in the future. Bruce Levi made the motion to hire the new employee as specified above. Mark Bacon seconded.

HEALTH BOARD

At the October 1, 2018 commissioner meeting, the commissioners approved the health department to contract with Attorney Geoffrey Wesling for the legal needs of the Health Department. Auditor Harr presented the commissioners an engagement letter for their signature stating the terms of Wesling's services. The monthly fee will be \$375.00 to attend the monthly

health board meetings. Research and litigation services will be charged at \$150.00 per hour. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve and sign the engagement letter with Wesling. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

RIDE RUSH TRANSPORTATION GRANT

County Attorney Leigh Morning received and reviewed the 2019 Section 5311 & PMTF Operating Assistance Grant for Ride Rush. She did not see any issues with the grant agreement. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the grant. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner stated the Milroy Economic Development Commission is looking for businesses located in Anderson, Orange and Richland Townships to apply for three grants that they will award.

PROPERTY TAX SALE

Auditor Harr presented the commissioners with a list of twenty two properties that did not sell at the County Property Tax Sale held on October 2, 2018. Discussion was held to whether to conduct a Commissioner Certificate Sale to try to get these properties in the hands of people who will pay the property taxes. County Attorney Leigh Morning presented a resolution establishing the intent to conduct a commissioners' sale to sell tax sale certificates for properties that are severely delinquent in payment of property taxes. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if Harr or Morning knew anything regarding the property Blithe program. Morning suggested he talk to the City of Rushville about the program they participate in. Wilkinson believes we need to get these properties in the hands of someone who will care for the properties even if that means the county waive past due taxes. Other taxing units who have filed liens on the properties do not mind waiving the liens; however, they would like to recover the cost of releasing the liens from the Rush County Recorder's office. Commissioner Levi would like the commissioners to not take any action on this until they have a chance to talk to the Sewer Districts who have liens on these properties and to County Treasurer Cindra Humphrey. Commissioner Wilkinson will talk to South Henry Regional Sewer District and the Town of Carthage. Commissioner Bacon will talk to the Anderson Township Sewer District and Commissioner Levi will talk to Western Rush Sewer District. They need to get a commitment from each of these districts to release the liens.

MANILLA GRAIN ELEVATOR

Commissioner Levi wants to re-address the old grain elevator in property in Manilla that the commissioners took deed to several years ago. The property needs to be cleaned up, surveyed to find the property lines and listed to sell. The County Surveyor and APC Director will work with County Attorney Morning regarding the surveying options.

2019 RUSH COUNTY CALENDAR

Auditor Harr presented the 2019 Rush County Calendar which lists county holidays, commissioner meeting dates, council meeting dates and claims deadlines for 2019. Commissioner Levi made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

2019 APPOINTMENTS

The commissioners requested the Auditor to advertise the list of appointments needed for 2019 and ask interested people to submit a letter of interest to the county auditor's office before 4:00 p.m. on November 8, 2018. It will be advertised on the county website and the Rushville Republican.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the September monthly report. He announced the retirement of Rick Snapp effective October 31 and requested permission to advertise for his replacement. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the advertising of his replacement. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported fifty six inmates currently housed at the Rush County Jail. He also reported that the State Department of Health is coming down to administer Hepatitis A vaccines to inmates. They will be working with the Rush County Health Department to get this completed next week. One inmate has tested positive for Hepatitis A so that cell block has already been vaccinated. They have also been in touch with anyone else who was in contact with this inmate. Individuals who are currently in the Community Corrections program will also be offered the vaccination. While the state will vaccinate the inmates, they will not vaccinate the employees who come into contact with the inmates. The Rush County Health Department is working with the Sheriff Department to also get the employees vaccinated.

Sheriff Cowan noted that Sheri Raab has given her written notice of intent to Retire. Her last day will be March 22, 2019. Commissioner Wilkinson asked the Sheriff and Auditor to look at funding to find a way to hire Raab's replacement as soon as possible for training purposes.

Sheriff Cowan also informed the commissioners of Madonna Hedrick's notice of resignation effective December 31, 2018. Because she is responsible for the Sex Offender Registry, her replacement will have to receive training from the Indiana Department of Corrections and training on other administrative duties. There is money available in the Sex Offender Registry fund to go ahead and hire her replacement to get them trained.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 29, 2018.

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

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson Chairman

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor