

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 07, 2019

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 7, 2019 with Commissioners Paul Wilkinson, Mark Bacon, and Bruce Levi, and Jodi Harr, Auditor in attendance and Leigh Morning, County Attorney.

Paul Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Wilkinson called for the 2019 organization of the Board of Commissioners. Bruce Levi made the motion to appoint Mark Bacon as Chairman to the Commissioners and Paul Wilkinson as Vice Chairman. Paul Wilkinson Seconded. Mark Bacon accepted. All were in favor.

Minutes of the December 21, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for January 7, 2019 in the amount of \$606,099.86. Included in this set of claims is \$234,500 for the Central Ambulance/Paramedic coverage for the county for January through June 2019, \$143,000 to be paid to the Employee Health Insurance Fund, and \$102,726 for the Interlocal Agreement with Rushville City to pay City Dispatch Salaries from the E911 Fund. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the claims. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending January 11, 2019 in the amount of \$191,761.12 was presented. In addition to a high amount of overtime at the Sheriff Department and Jail for holiday and vacation coverage, there was approximately \$6,724 paid out to a retiring employee for vacation and comp time due them. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #24 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$712,514.93 were presented for approval. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

On December 21, 2018 the Commissioners opened two bids for the Courthouse Preventive Maintenance Contract and tabled them for further review. The Bids were as follows:

- QPH bid \$8,880 per year or \$740 per month
- Choice Mechanical Services bid \$7,770 per year or \$647 per month.

Commissioner Wilkinson commented QPH has done an outstanding job but there is a lower bid to consider. Discussion was held between the Commissioners and representatives of QPH and Choice Mechanical. QPH has a charge of \$85.00 per hour for work outside of preventive maintenance with no travel charges for work outside of preventative maintenance. Choice

Mechanical charges \$91.00 per hour outside of scheduled appointments and a travel charge only if service is needed the same day as the service call is made. Commissioner Wilkinson noted our heating and cooling system is older and we spend as much on unscheduled maintenance as we do on preventive maintenance. Dave Drew with Choice Mechanical commented that the county has a new chiller and boilers and they will be handling installation of services at the new jail. Commissioner Levi agreed the new equipment will reduce the cost of additional repairs. The difference in the travel charge is the biggest difference as far as he sees this. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to award the contract to QPH due to the lower hourly rate for additional repairs and travel time charge. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY JAIL BUILDING CORP

The commissioners received notice of the resignation of Nancy Rice from the Rush County Jail Building Corporation at their December 21, 2018 meeting. They continued this under advisement today while they continue to find a replacement for her.

EASTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Bruce Levi made the motion to retain the current appointments of John McCane, Carole Yeend and Paul Wilkinson to the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. All three agreed to serve another year on the board. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE SICK TIME REQUEST

Section 4.4.1 Special Paid Sick Leave is allowed with the permission of their elected official. A highway employee is requesting this special leave to the commissioners since the highway director is appointed by the elected commissioners. The commissioners met in an executive session prior to their public meeting to gather information regarding this request. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to deny the request. Mark Bacon seconded stating this employee received additional paid sick time in the past and he does not want to set a precedence in approving this type of request. Wilkinson and Bacon voted Aye. Levi voted No. Motion to deny the request carried.

CENTERSTONE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The commissioners received the FY2018 Annual Report from Centerstone Mental Health Services.

COUNTY OFFICIALS BONDS

Auditor Harr requested the commissioners approve four County Officials Surety Bonds. They are for newly re-elected Mary Ann Bridges, Kevin Spilman, and Phil Caviness and for newly elected sheriff Allan Rice. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the bonds. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

FRONTIER

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Frontier Contract with a Schedule of two PRI's for a total of \$600 per month for thirty six months. Per IT Director Randy Herbert this is simply continuing the contract that we currently have with Frontier at no additional charge. He still does not have an answer as to whether this cost includes the county fax lines. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign the contract. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried. January 15, 2019 is the target date to start the installation of the new phone system at the courthouse.

HIGHWAY

County Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the December monthly financial report for the highway department. He notified the commissioners of a new accounting procedure for highway funds received from the state per the State Board of Accounts. A new fund will be created and fifty percent of the monthly receipts must be deposited and spent from this new fund. This will result in the county council creating a new fund and doing an additional appropriation for the new fund. The state legislatures want counties to prove they are spending fifty percent of the highway funds on road projects.

Commissioner Levi asked for an update on the covered bridge that has been closed. Sitton is gathering estimates for engineering costs.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Correction Director Ashley Stevens was present to follow up on an email request sent to the commissioners requesting permission for her to purchase blinds for the probation office on the third floor. She will pay for them out of the community corrections funds. The commissioners gave their consent.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice introduced the new employees at the sheriff department. Christopher Morgan and Zachery Shultz have been hired as Merit Deputies. Jonna McIntire has been hired as the Jail Secretary and Roxanne Hatfield has been hired as the Sex Offender Register employee. Arlen Henderson has been hired as a full time Correction Officer. Joe Jarman has been hired to do part time courthouse security. He is in training this week to re-instate his arrest powers.

Rice gave the department update and reported there are sixty six inmates currently housed at the jail. One of his goals for the department is to make drug interdiction stops part of daily activities. This will not happen until he has deputies fully trained. He also reported that David Schultz has given his intention to resign from the Merit Board. They are currently looking for his replacement.

APPOINTMENTS

Paul Wilkinson made the motion for Bruce Levi to replace Mark Bacon as the commissioner appointment to the Area Plan Commission. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson made the motion for Bruce Levi to remain the appointment to the EMA Advisory Board. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY DIGITAL CONNECT

Carole Yeend and Paul Wilkinson invited the public to attend a public discussion on rural broadband services in Rush County. An interest group is being established to address this important topic for the growth of Rush County. Dr. Roberto Gallardo from Purdue Center for Regional Development will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be held on January 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

APPOINTEE PAY

APC Appointee Tom Monka stated he cannot find an Indiana Statute that says appointed board members must be paid through payroll instead of as a contracted person with a 1099 tax statement. Someone should point this out to the State Board of Accounts.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to adjourn. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson

/ABSENT/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor