

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 21, 2018

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Friday, December 21, 2018 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.

Minutes of the December 10, 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 December 21, 2018 in the amount of \$281,027.07. Included in this docket of claims is the remaining payment to ECS for the county wide radio communications system. EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported that he and ECS completed the testing last Friday. They were able to communicate from the northern part of the county to the southern part of the county and also from the eastern part of the county to the western part of the county. They did travel to known areas where communications were the weakest. There was not loss of communications in any of the areas. They also switched from the sheriff tower to the WIFE tower with no loss of communications. They also communicated through the dispatch center and did not report any problems. The Rush County Fire Chiefs Association met December 20. Individual departments will start working with ECS in January. If a department does not have digital communication capabilities, they will still be able to communicate in mixed mode. Sheriff Cowan reported this system has been a long process. The system allows for all types of equipment to operate within the system. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if the system as it stands right now will work for all types of systems including analog. Kemker and Cowan both said yes it will. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending December 28, 2018 in the amount of \$184,058.89 was presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve payroll. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #23 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$4,427.51 were presented for approval. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

The November Treasurer Report was emailed to the Commissioners by Rush County Treasurer Cindra Humphrey. The Commissioners noted that it was received.

EXTENSION

Gracie Marlatt presented for approval the 2019 Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Rush County. The amount of the contract is \$43,720.00. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Marlatt also reported that beginning January 1, 2019 Carly Holland will be the new County Extension Director. Marlatt will remain as a Purdue Extension Educator. Marlatt will be working on a program titled Strengthening Your Family.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported the Indiana Department of Homeland Security published a calendar for 2019 of EMA related meetings and report due dates. They are finding ways to operate on a calendar year instead of a fiscal year whenever possible.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple updated the Commissioners on the sick leave being taken by their nurse supervisor. This has left the department with only one full time health nurse. They had to turn down a home health request because their full time nurse is at full capacity. The department would like to request permission to hire a part time registered nurse to work approximately four weeks to help with the work load. Discussion was held regarding the salary. County Council would need to approve and pay outside of the \$12.00 per hour for part time. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the request to hire a part time registered nurse at the current part time rate and as long as there is money in the Health Department budget to pay for it; however, the commissioners are agreeable to a higher rate if necessary and approved by the County Council. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton made the recommendation to accept both of the liquid asphalt bids received at the December 10, 2018 meeting. Marathon was the low bid; however, they do not offer all materials needed. Bruce Levi made the motion to accept both liquid asphalt bids. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

After reviewing the bids received at the December 10, 2018 meeting for the repaving project to be paid with Community Crossing Grant funds, Sitton made the recommendation to accept the low bid of Crim & Sons to do the repaving project including Henderson Road. Bruce Levi made the motion to accept the bid from Crim & Sons. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton then presented an Agreement between Rush County and Crim & Sons to do the work approved in the Community Crossings Grant. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the Agreement. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

9:30 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING TITLE VI CHANGES AND UPDATES

The Public was notified of the changes to the current Title VI policy. The policy will now be updated every three years. HR Director Tony Personett is the Title VI Coordinator. The changes required by the State of Indiana resulted in a one page policy being turned into a

thirty six page policy. The policy will be placed on the Rush County Website and sent to the Indiana Department of Transportation. Bruce Levi made the motion to adopt the TITLE VI Plan for Rush County. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2018-5 was presented by County Attorney Leigh Morning. It is the implementation plan of the policy. Bruce Levi made the motion to adopt Resolution 2018-5. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

The Title VI Assurances was presented for approval by the Commissioners. It states the county will comply with the Title VI policy. This is required in order for Rush County to continue to receive federal funding. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the Title VI Assurances. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

JUVENILE DETENTION CONTRACT

Ashley Stevens emailed the 2019 Juvenile Detention Contract to the Commissioners for their approval. The cost of the contract remains at \$37,500.00. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

JAIL BUILDING CORP

Nancy Rice notified County Attorney Leigh Morning of her resignation from the Jail Building Corporation. She believes that she will have a conflict of interest beginning January 1, 2019 when her nephew is elected Rush County Sheriff. Commissioners took this under advisement so that they can find a replacement for her.

PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATOR CONTRACT

The 2019 contract with Catherine Custer as the Prosecutor Investigator Contract in the amount of \$30,706.00 was presented for approval. This position is being monitored for the next year to determine if this should continue as a contract or this position should be a county employee. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

VETERANS SERVICE CONTRACT

The 2019 Veterans Service contract was presented for approval. The commissioners appointed Dannon Todd as the new Veterans Service Officer. The amount of the contract is \$13,440.00 per year. It is a four year appointment; however, the salary is revisited each year. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF CONTRACT

The 2019 Sheriff Contract was presented. The salary will be \$73,582.00 from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2022. If the prosecutor salary increases in July, the sheriff salary will also increase once a new salary ordinance is approved by the county council. The Sheriff will

continue his duty as a canine handler. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE CUSTODIAL CONTRACT

The courthouse custodial contract will remain with Gilliam Janitorial. The amount of the contract is \$55,000 for the year of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

At 9:45 a.m. bids were opened for the 2019 Courthouse Preventive Maintenance Contract. There were two bids received:

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

Both bids included other information. Bruce Levi made the motion to table the bids in order for the commissioners to review both bids. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ordinance 2018-6 An Ordinance Adopting A Capital Improvement Plan for Rush County was presented by County Attorney Leigh Morning. The plan outlines how the 2019 EDIT money be collected and how it will be spent. The plan includes expenses that have been adopted by the county council in the 2019 budget. Mark Bacon made the motion to approve Ordinance 2018-6. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with the Bridge Inspection Report for Bridge #112 Offutt Bridge over Little Blue River. It is dated December 13, 2018. This is a federal inspection. Due to the findings in the inspection report, the bridge has been closed and barricaded until the Commissioners make a decision on what to do about the needed repairs. Sitton estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 in repairs are needed. The first step will be to hire an engineering firm at a cost of approximately \$80,000. His bridge funds are currently committed to repair other bridges. Commissioner Levi commented he agrees the bridge needs to stay closed and the commissioners need to find a way to keep Rush County's Covered Bridges. The commissioners cannot take any action until Sitton reviews his budgets and speaks with the county council regarding possible funding.

Sitton also reported that he and the auditor received notice this week from the State Board of Accounts stating they are changing how MVH funds can be spent and how to account for them effective January 1, 2019.

In a final matter Sitton has an employee who has asked for the commissioners to grant them special sick pay as outlined in Section 4.4.1 of the Rush County Employee Personnel Policy. The employee would like the special sick pay from January 10, 2019 through February 2, 2019. Commissioner Wilkinson requested an executive session of the commissioners be held in order to discuss this situation. The official decision will be made at the regular

commissioner meeting on January 7, 2019. The Executive Session will be held at 8:00 a.m. on January 7, 2019 in the HR Director office.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan presented his department statistics and update. There are currently fifty seven inmates housed at the jail. There is mechanical problems with the garbage disposal at the jail. They are hoping to have it rebuilt instead of replaced. Jail Secretary Sheri Raab announced she is going to move her retirement date to February 22, 2018. Her replacement is working out wonderfully. They have hired a full time correction officer to replace retiring Joe Jarman. A part time person has been hired to take care of the sex offender registry. After retirement, Joe Jarman will be working part time as courthouse security. The hiring process for merit deputies has been completed. There were two viable candidates. Incoming Sheriff Allan Rice will need to advertise for another hiring process so that he has a list of candidates ready for a probable retirement of a third deputy. The commissioners agreed for Rice to start another hiring process.

Commissioner Bacon thanked Cowan for his service to Rush County and also as a US Marine.

It is customary for retiring sheriff deputies with twenty years of service and for retiring sheriff's to receive their service weapons. Mark Bacon made the motion to present Deputy David Sliger and Sheriff Jim Cowan with their service weapons. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr notified the commissioners that she has asked the county council to give her permission and funding to hire a full time payroll/financial deputy. She gave up the position on July 1, 2018 in order to hire a HR Director and tried to absorb the payroll/financial responsibilities with other positions in her office. It has not worked. If the council gives her approval, she will be asking the commissioners for permission to recreate this position.

GERALD MOHR

Paul Wilkinson thanked Gerald Mohr for his twenty eight years of service as county councilman service in addition to his many years as an educator.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 7, 2019.

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
