

**REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 22, 2019**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 22, 2019 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Jodi Harr, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. Commissioner Bruce Levi was absent.

Mark Bacon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the Executive Session held on January 7, 2019 were reviewed. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2019 were reviewed. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for January 22, 2019 in the amount of \$434,899.16. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the claims. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending January 25, 2019 in the amount of \$184,046.56 was presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve payroll. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #25 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$1,791.34 were presented for approval. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilkinson made the motion to recess the regular commissioner meeting in order to conduct the annual Board of Finance meeting. Commissioner Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

Secretary of the Board of Finance, Cindra Humphrey, opened the Annual Rush County Board of Finance meeting. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to nominate Commissioner Bruce Levi as President. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. Mark Bacon made the motion to nominate Rush County Treasurer Cindra Humphry as Secretary. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Humphrey presented the December 2018 Treasurer report. She then presented the Annual Treasurer Report. Her intention is to close out the HH Series School Bonds in March 2019. There is no penalty in cashing them prior to their maturing date. The total interest on county funds in 2017 was \$99,020.93 and in 2018 it increased to \$216,755.83. Our investment policy is good until 2021. There are no changes needed at this time.

Mark Bacon made the motion to close the Annual Board of Finance meeting. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Chairman Mark Bacon reconvened the Regular Commissioner meeting.

### **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented State Form IC639 to close out the Bridge #138 project. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve and sign form IC 639. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton presented a contract with USI Consultants for engineering services for the Design and repairs of Offutt Covered Bridge # 112. The bridge is currently closed until the repairs are completed. The cost of the contract is \$19,822.00. He does have the funds available to pay for the engineering fees. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the contract. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

The commissioners thanked Sitton and his employees for getting the roads cleaned up over the last couple of weeks.

### **EMA**

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported he worked thirteen hours on Saturday, January 12 and seventeen hours on Saturday, January 19 due to inclement weather. The southern part of the county was hit the hardest. Three hundred fifty seven power outages were reported.

EMS reports for December were reviewed with no issues found. There is a scheduled meeting with EMS agencies to address any concerns.

City and County emergency agencies will also be meeting with Rush County Schools to go over and review school safety concerns.

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Sandy Fussner gave an update on upcoming events in Rush County. Some of those events are Digital Connect Conversation, US Post Office speaking at the Open Book, Grand opening of the Rush to Work Job Center, and MORE-Community Conversation meeting.

### **PERSONNEL**

HR Director Tony Personett requested clarification of interpretation of the current Sick Day Policy. Employees have asked him for clarification on the sick leave policy. After discussion, the commissioners interpretation of the policy is that sick days can be used to care for any one mentioned in the FMLA policy. This includes immediate family, parents, children, spouse and blood relatives living with them.

### **COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE**

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the Lawn Maintenance Estimates for 2019 presented by current vendor N & S Cleaning Service, Inc. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

### **JAIL BUILDING CORP**

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to appoint Jim Cowan as the replacement for Nancy Rice on the Rush County Jail Building Corporation. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**AUDITOR**

Auditor Jodi Harr requested permission to re-create the Payroll/Financial Deputy position in her office. The County Council has agreed to fund the position upon approval of the Commissioners. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to re-create the position and for Harr to hire a full time person for the position. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Allan Rice gave a department update and reported there are currently sixty four inmates housed at the jail. He pointed out that overtime within the department is high right now due to two new sheriff deputies being trained, weather incidents, and there have been two jury trials already this year resulting in correction officer overtime.

He informed those in attendance that East First Street between Main Street and Perkins Street will be closed from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 24 to install the courthouse cooling system. Auditor Harr will notify all county employees.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2019.

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to adjourn. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

/Mark Bacon.  
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Paul Wilkinson/  
Paul Wilkinson

/absent 1-22-19/  
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/  
Jodi Harr, Auditor