

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 4, 2019 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, and Bruce Levi, Jodi Harr, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 22, 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 February 4, 2019 in the amount of \$374,155.11. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending February 8, 2019 in the amount of \$190,882.95 was presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #26 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$330,127.37 were presented for approval. Commissioner Wilkinson asked County Attorney Leigh Morning if the Mechanic Lien issue between J.C. Ripberger and R.L. Coon has been resolved. Morning reported they have come to an agreement and Coon is to be filing a release with the Rush County Recorder. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi 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 Levi seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Secretary of the Board of Finance, Cindra Humphrey, opened the Annual Rush County Board of Finance meeting. Minutes of the January 22, 2019 minutes were presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Since Commissioner Levi was absent at the January 22, 2019 meeting, he did not vote. Motion carried. Humphrey reported she will be requesting bids from local banks for \$1,000,000 in the LIT Special Purpose Fund for a six month certificate of deposit.

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

Commissioner Chairman Mark Bacon reconvened the Regular Commissioner meeting.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey reported that one of her full time deputies has transferred to the Auditor's office. She requested permission from the Commissioners with a part time person for now. She would like to try a part time employee until budget hearings in September to see if the decrease in staff hours will work. This will get them through one collections process. She requested permission to advertise for a part time person to work twenty nine hours per week. The commissioners expressed their appreciation for her willingness to try a part time person. She asked them to understand that she may have to come back and ask for a full time person. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to allow the advertising for a part time person. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is restructuring their grant process. The County needs to appoint an administrator. Each county agency will need an administrator. For example, each of county department, sheriff, EMA, etc, who applies for a grant will need their own administrator. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to appoint Kemker as the EMA grant administrator for the IDHS. Grants will still need the approval of the commissioners. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Kemker also reported the Youth Challenge Academy is interested in working with emergency responders for safety policies and procedures. He will be meeting with them.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Solid Waste District Director Carole Yeend said she has received questions as to what is recyclable within the courthouse. She distributed fliers to each office telling what can be recycled and where the drop off locations are within the courthouse.

HEALTH

Julia Apple reported they will be asking the county council to transfer money to cover salaries for her and for the health officer if needed. The Health Board has spoken to three individuals regarding the open health board appointments. They will be approved at the next health board meeting and the appointments brought to the commissioners at their next meeting.

On March 7, 2019 she will be conducting an installer workshop at the courthouse for anyone interested in septic installation.

They are still utilizing the services of a part time nurse to allow the staff nurse to use some of the comp time she has accumulated.

The Indiana State Health Department did conduct an air quality test at the courthouse on January 28, 2019. No mold was found. The dust particle count was high. The air quality was rated high.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the January Monthly Report. He reported that Engineers have been out to look at Offutt Covered Bridge. They are working on plans for the

needed repairs. There is evidence that a heavy truck went through Moscow Covered Bridge last week. They have not been able to locate who was driving the semi.

Ordinance 2019-1 Adopting a Wage Scale For the Rush County, Indiana Highway Department Drivers, Operators, Laborers, and Mechanics was presented for approval by the commissioners. It will be effective February 21, 2019 for new hires and January 1, 2020 for current employees. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. It will be taken to the County Council at their next meeting.

HR

HR Director Tony Personnet reported receiving several outstanding applications for the position in the Auditor's office. Susan Spaeth has been hired as the Payroll/Financial Deputy.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice gave the department update and reported forty seven inmates housed at the Rush County Jail. Overtime continues to be high. There has been three jury trials already in 2019. This requires extra Correction Officers on duty to be at the courthouse. There is one Merit Deputy on light duty and the two new deputies are completing their ride time with other deputies. The hiring process has been started to replace retiring Officer Houston.

Rice reported two auto accidents with both involving him. The first was a pursuit ending in a crash. The second was an escort out of town of a high school sports team. Another individual did not yield the right of way and hit the county vehicle. No injuries were reported in either incident and both cars are being repaired.

The Preventive Maintenance Contract for the Jail building with QPH was presented for the commissioner's approval. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the one year contract with QPH in the amount of \$1,216.25 per quarter. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The Sheriff Department will be participating in a school safety meeting on Friday. Rice reminded those in attendance that this is a serious matter and the threats are real.

COURTHOUSE

Commissioner Wilkinson reported receiving two quotes from QPH to install bag filters on heating and cooling loops. The first one is in the amount of \$2,100 to supply and install new sock style filtration system on the heating loop. The second is in the amount of \$2,100 to supply and install new sock style filtration system on the cooling loop. They offered to give a price break to \$3,800 to supply and install new sock style filtration system on the cooling and heating loops at the same time. This will help to better maintain both systems. Bruce Levi made the motion to proceed with the new filtration system for both the heating and cooling systems in the amount of \$3,800. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

BROADBAND

Commissioner Wilkinson would like to put together a local task force to see what is needed to bring broadband throughout all of Rush County. Commissioner Levi asked if the Fiber Board has been involved in discussions. Wilkinson noted they would be included in the task force.

He said there is a great deal of fiber already in the county. We just need to get the vendors to share the fiber and bring the services at a reasonable rate to consumers. Wilkinson made the motion to form the task force. Levi seconded. Motion carried. Councilman Scott Barnes commented we want to encourage business owners to be on the task force with very limited elected officials on the board.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

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

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor