

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APRIL 1, 2019

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 1, 2019 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi, Jodi Harr, Auditor, and County Attorney Leigh Morning 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 March 18, 2019 were reviewed. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the biweekly claims docket for April 1, 2019 in the amount of \$120,615.25. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending April 5, 2019 in the amount of \$181,712.65 was presented. Harr reported the Area Plan Office submitted their quarterly board members pay voucher. She was unable to process four of the board members pay because she has not received the proper paperwork from the board members. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Requisition #30 for Jail Construction claims to be paid from the jail bond proceeds in the amount of \$564,748.33 were presented for approval. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple presented the 2018 Annual Report for the Rush County Health Department. In 2018 there were eight new septic systems installed in Rush County with thirty six applications for the year. She already has thirty applications for 2019.

Twenty seven people attended the septic installer workshop held in the Assembly Room on March 7, 2019.

The Indiana Department of Health has nominated Julia for outstanding rookie in 2018. They want to highlight the Rush County Health Department and the progress they have made during their reorganization. This will take place at their fall conference. She will provide more information as it becomes available.

Apple reported the department has been posting public health information on the Rush County Health Department page of Facebook. They are receiving a large response from the public. She believes social media is a great way for county departments to communicate with the public.

Health Department Nurse Supervisor Marge Amos spoke to the commissioners regarding the Preparedness Grant. She requested they sign a new Memorandum of Understanding allowing the use of the courthouse when needed in emergency situations and for the

commissioners to continue to be supportive of preparedness efforts. She stated that she and EMA Director Chuck Kemker work closely together so services are not duplicated. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Rushville City Fire Department Chief Chuck Jenkins presented the 2018 Annual Report for EMS services provided to the county between July 2018 and December 2018. As of December 31, 2018, \$24,743.63 has been received back to the county from the City of Rushville for money collected for ambulance services.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported the County Fire Chiefs received a quote from eDispatches.com in the amount of \$4,015.00 per year which will cover up to 250 recipient phone numbers. All county emergency departments will be able to use the service if they choose to. He has provided a copy of the quote to Sheriff Rice. If approved by the commissioners, Kemker will request the county council to approve to pay this from county E911 funds. Bruce Levi made the motion to accept the quote and for Kemker to take it to the county council for funding approval. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Kemker has received reports that some of the tornado sirens did not sound during last month's testing. These reports are being investigated. It is believed to be battery issues. In the future it is recommended that the sirens be activated using the analog system. It is not known if the system is capable of working on the digital system. If in the future the digital system is utilized, townships will be responsible for funding the upgrades to the sirens.

In a final matter, Kemker has received weather radios from the State of Indiana. He will be distributing them to the public within the next few weeks.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner invited everyone to attend the Branding Basics class being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 24 at 8 a.m. at the Rush County ECDC office. There is no cost to attend. She believes this will be beneficial in helping put your information on social media or to the public in a more desirable format.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Carole Yeend notified those in attendance of the next Drug Take Back which will be held on April 27, 2019 at Rush Memorial Hospital between 10 a.m. and Noon. She has invited Shares to be there to do secure document shredding.

HR

HR Director Tony Personett reported another part time jail correction officer has been hired.

Personett presented the names of employees who expressed interest in serving on the personnel committee as advisory members. Sheriff Allan Rice requested he allow his employees to vote for their representative. Commissioner Levi expressed that he would like to have someone with tenure and someone who is fairly new. Rice believes the employees should have a say. County Attorney Leigh Morning commented the meetings are open to the public; however, they cannot speak unless the committee invites them to participate. Commissioner Wilkinson wants the employees to understand they are there for input but to not vote on the decision. He would like the chosen employees to be able to think on their feet and not have to go back to other employees for input. Morning also commented that you do not want the committee to get too large. Commissioner Bacon is okay with employees making recommendations. As far as how the employees are chosen, Wilkinson thinks they should each be chosen the same way across the board. Personett will arrange for a paper ballot for courthouse employees. Allan will take care of the vote at the sheriff/jail departments. No discussion was held regarding the highway department.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Rice gave a department update and statistics. There are currently fifty seven inmates housed at the jail. The date for the large jury trial has been changed to April 22. He reminded the commissioners of the financial impact on salaries. April 3 will be the interviews for prospective deputies with the Merit Board. Radar recertification will also be held on April 3.

Spilman software that is currently being used is from 2009. The cost to update it will be approximately \$93,000 of which \$73,000 will be the counties expense. He is working with Ron Jarman on the upgrade. This does not include what will be needed for the new jail platform.

Rice has been in contact with Stellar Services regarding a proposal to handle the inmate commissary and phone services. Stellar Services is offering a one-time technical grant in the amount of \$15,000 to the county if we sign a five year contract. The current provider of phone service is Securis. The jail has not been getting the support from them that is required. Rice will send the Stellar contract to the county attorney for her review once he receives it.

He received a quote from ECS for 800 MHz radios in the amount of \$76,000. This compares to the \$120,000 quote from Motorola. He is carefully reviewing both quotes to see why there is such a large difference.

Daniel Schultz expressed his desire to resign from the Merit Board in December. Rice has chosen Jeff Sherwood as a sheriff appointment to replace Schultz on the board.

AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr requested the Commissioners sign a letter of intent to not renew a contract with Maximus for the Annual County IVD Cost Allocation Plans for 2019 through 2021. Maximus has not done anything wrong. She believes it will be beneficial to have the same provider that does the IVD reporting for the Clerk and Prosecutor to also do the county cost allocation. She also expressed to the Commissioners that AIC endorses one vendor for each type of service and Maximus is their chosen vendor for cost allocation. Wilkinson does

not have a problem changing as long as the services are the same or better. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to sign the letter of contract termination with Maximus. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried. Harr then requested the commissioners sign the contract with Malcon Malinowski Consulting, Inc. The cost is \$3,500 per year which is the same cost that Maximus has charged in the past. Wilkinson made the motion to approve the contract. Levi seconded. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Mary Friedle inquired if the flower budget was still \$250.00 and if she could order the third tree for replacement. Levi made the motion to approve Friedle the \$250.00 budget for her to care for the flowers, landscaping and trees on the courthouse lawn. Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

The third floor restrooms continue to have plumbing issues. Bacon has been in contact with contractor Chad Bowles. He suggested moving a high flow toilet from one restroom to the other. Chuck Kemker stated he believes it will eventually require a complete re-plumbing and that problems arise in the restrooms on a weekly basis. Levi thinks they should go ahead and have Bowles put a high flow toilet in the men's restroom. Bacon commented third floor employees have again requested for the commissioners to permanently close the restrooms to the public; however, he commented Community Corrections use these restrooms to drug screen their clients. Wilkinson suggested they get a quote from Bowles to replace all of the toilets in both third floor restrooms. Kemker will contact Bowles to get the quote.

Commissioner Wilkinson reported he is still trying to find out if the county can use the engineering report done as part of the Courthouse Study in 2018 to get quotes for the roof. He will continue to work on it.

COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Two letters of interest were received for the commissioner appointment that is open on the Rush County Redevelopment Commission. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to appoint Darilyn Bedel to the board. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the March monthly report. He has hired Rodger Miller as a driver/laborer. Offutt Bridge is set to open bids on April 15, 2019.

WIND MILLS

Kevin DeWitt requested the Commissioners give guidance to the Area Plan Commission as to what they want done with the wind issue. The APC is currently reviewing and updating the entire ordinance. He stated the county can put a permanent band on wind development. APC Director Gregg Duke agreed that the wind ordinance will have to be addressed at some point. His only request is that a quick decision is not made. He further commented that if the commissioners want to ban wind turbines that they give a lot of consideration to all who are involved so there are not underlying issues in other areas of the ordinance. Currently the board

is working on the forty acre rule and that maybe they can move to the wind issue next. Commissioner Wilkinson stated other counties saw the division and strive the wind issue caused in Rush County. He personally does not want that battle all over again. He would like to disallow commercial wind turbines. County Attorney Leigh Morning stated the current section which includes wind turbines covers more than commercial wind turbines. She encouraged the Commissioners to give thought to what exactly they want to exclude. DeWitt simply wants the Commissioners to give guidance to the APC to ban wind turbines. Commissioner Levi would like for the APC to sort through this. Wilkinson has made his point clear to ban Commercial wind turbines due to the phone calls he has received from tax payers regarding wind turbines.

At this time the Commissioners directive to the APC is to come up with wording and what needs to be done and/or removed regarding wind turbines.

COUNTY FARM

The County Farm Rent was due to the Auditor by February 1, 2019. It has not been received. A letter was sent by the Auditor to the current contract holder and no response has been received. County Attorney Leigh Morning would like a chance to review the contract to see what the next step would be to take action. Commissioner Wilkinson would like a letter sent saying if the rent is not paid by a certain time, the county will terminate the contract. After further discussion, Wilkinson made the motion to hold a special meeting of the Commissioners to discuss the Farm Contract on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 3:45 p.m. Levi seconded. Motion carried.

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