

EMERGENCY MEEETING RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 18, 2020

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in an emergency session Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi. Auditor Jodi Harr, County Attorney Leigh Morning, Rush County Councilman Charles Smith, EMA Director Chuck Kemker, Julia Apple, Dr. Russell Daugherty and Ron Jarman were also in attendance.

Commissioner Mark Bacon called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Rush County Health Officer Dr. Russell Daugherty updated the commissioners on the COVID-19 pandemic. His recommendation to the commissioners is to close the courthouse to the public completely. Much discussion was held on how to handle employees work and pay.

Acting on advice of the CDC, Indiana Governor Holcolmb, and the President of the United States, Paul Wilkinson made the motion that effective Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. the courthouse will be closed to the public. Business will be conducted via phone, email or U.S. postal mail or by appointment with approval of the elected official or department head. This will be effective until April 6, 2020. This will be reviewed as circumstances unfold. Bruce Levi seconded.

Before a vote was taken, Commissioner Bruce Levi requested a fifteen minute recess. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

8:55 a.m. Chairman Bacon recessed the meeting until 9:10 a.m.

9:10 a.m. Chairman Bacon reconvened the meeting.

Judge David Northam appeared and requested it be noted the Rush County Courts will be open to essential hearings and the public should contact their attorneys.

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to amend the above motion to add for the schedule of hearings and other court proceedings, please contact your attorney or the court for instructions. Bruce Levi seconded. Amendment to motion approved.

The vote for the full motion including the amendment was taken. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Discussion was held on how to pay employees during this COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding full time employees, Paul Wilkinson made the motion to pay full pay to all full time employees. If an employee is receiving pay, they must be available to work for any county business. If an employee cannot be available to work because they are sick or have an appointment or on

vacation, you should use appropriate time off instead of COVID-19 pay. This will be reevaluated on an as needed basis. If you choose to not be available to work for county business, you shall use your earned paid time off. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi made the motion for office holders to use their discretion on whether part time workers are needed. They will be paid their regular rate of pay for hours worked. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

BZA/APC MEETINGS

APC Director Greg Duke was called in to discuss the April BZA and APC meetings. The recommendation is to limit the number of people at the meeting and to take public comments by written communications only. Bruce Levi made the motion to allow the BZA/APC meetings with Dukes' discretion as to whether to hold them. There should be minimal people in attendance with everyone registering as they come in. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

EMA

Chuck Kemker reminded everyone that we should be documenting any extra expenses that we have regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in case federal reimbursement is available at some time. Normal work hours will not be reimbursable but extra hours will be. He advised the State of Indiana declared an emergency on March 6, 2020.

ORDER FOR RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID-19

An ordinance from the commissioners for restrictions due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 was presented for discussion. Discussion was held on how this will effect small business.

10:45 a.m. Bruce Levi made the motion to recess until 11:00 a.m. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

11:00 a.m. Mark Levi reconvened the meeting.

Ordinance 2020-03 Order of the Board of Commissioners of Rush County, Indiana for Restrictions Due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 was prepared and presented by County Attorney Leigh Morning. It will be effective at 4:00 p.m. March 19 through April 6, 2020. Bruce Levi made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-03. It is to be reviewed and advised upon at any time new information becomes available. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR Director Tony Personett will gather the department heads to provide the information to them.

TASK FORCE

A task force was created for this pandemic. It will consist of Julia Apple, Chuck Kemker, Tony Personett, Mark Bacon, Dixie Meyer, Dr. Daugherty, Charles Smith, Leigh Morning, and representative of Rushville City. They will meet on Friday, March 20 at 8:00 a.m. There is the capability for members to call in via conference call for these meetings.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice asked what the policy for employees returning to work will be for those who have taken time off for vacation. It was agreed to base their return on if they have symptoms. He notified them of another possibility of overtime and shortage of staff.

Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the new Comcast Cable contract at the new jail. Paul Wilkinson second. Motion carried.

Bruce Levi made the motion to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson

/Bruce Levi/
Bruce Levi

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor