

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 11, 2020

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 11, 2020 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi present. Auditor Jodi Harr and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also in attendance. The Public was invited in person, by conference call and by zoom.

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

MINUTES

- Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 16, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the emergency meeting held on March 18, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the March 23, 2020 emergency meeting were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the April 3, 2020 special meeting were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the April 29, 2020 special meeting were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the special meeting held on May 4, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for March 30, 2020 in the amount of \$128,699.23 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claims for April 13, 2020 in the amount of \$229,530.27 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claims for April 27, 2020 in the amount of \$208,695.79 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claims for May 11, 2020 in the amount of \$118,407.47 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for April 3, 2020 in the amount of \$196,303.86 was approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Payroll for April 17, 2020 in the amount of \$193,362.13 was approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Payroll for May 1, 2020 in the amount of \$194,424.13 was approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Payroll for May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$192,392.85 was approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS

- Jail Construction Claims to be paid from LIT Special Purpose funds for March 30, 2020 in the amount of \$85,266.15 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Jail Construction Claims to be paid from LIT Special Purpose funds for April 13, 2020 in the amount of \$19,641.10 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Jail Construction Claims to be paid from LIT Special Purpose funds for April 28, 2020 in the amount of \$9,685.32 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Jail Construction Claims to be paid from LIT Special Purpose funds for May 11, 2020 in the amount of \$329,610.78 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

The County Treasurer's Monthly Report ending March 31, 2020 was received.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice was present. His biweekly reports were forwarded to the commissioners via email.

There is still a problem with radio communications within the jail. ECS believes a repeater system is needed to correct the problem. The estimated cost is \$7,980.00. He does not have funding for this. If approved by the commissioners, he will ask the council for funding. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the purchase pending approved funding by the county council. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff Rice requested permission to have the windows on the north side of the jail tinted. There are blinds but if the blinds are open you can see into the offices. The estimate from Mikes Mobile is \$824. This quote is for the Sheriff Department side only. Community Corrections has expressed an interest in having theirs done also. He has money to pay for the sheriff department side in the institutional line of the current jail budget. After no motion to approve, Chairman Bacon moved to continue the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the correction officer's working twelve hour shifts. New officer training is completed and officers that were off for COVID-19 have returned to work. The correction officers are back to ten hour shifts. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to amend the Rush County Policy Concerning COVID-19 removing the correction officers being allowed to work twelve hour shifts. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Levi asked to revisit the request to tint the windows on the north side of the jail. He is concerned about the security of being able to see into those windows from the street. Levi made the motion to approve the request to tint the windows. Wilkinson seconded the motion as long as no new money is requested to pay for it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval of a contract between Rush County and USI for Right Of Way at Bridge #63 in the amount of \$18,570.00. The county will get eighty percent of the money back. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton presented a Supplemental Agreement with USI Consultants from Bridge #127. The maximum amount of the contract is \$317,325.00. The additional cost is due to increased work in a wetland area. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A letter to the Indiana Department of Transportation certifying that all Rush County roads are in our inventory system and maintained by Rush County was presented for signature. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The engine locked up in Truck #64 a 2005 Sterling with 90,000 miles. The highway mechanic has taken it apart. A new engine was found for \$22,970.00. Sitton asked the commissioners if

they want to put a new engine in it or salvage the truck. The engine will have a warranty and he does have the funds available to purchase it. Since the truck is still in good condition, Levi made the motion to approve the purchase of the new engine. Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VACATE ALLEY

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to reschedule the public hearing to vacate an alley in Manilla located south of Pearl Street and north of Vine Street for June 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. The request is made by James Bowling. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

GUIDELINES TO REOPEN THE COURTHOUSE

HR Director Tony Personnet and County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Guidelines for Rush County Offices for Coronavirus/COVID-19. The courthouse is still closed to the public. Each office can make the guidelines more stringent to meet the needs of their office. Personnet will go to each office and talk to employees. The water at the water fountains will need to be turned off. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Morning noted the commissioners current ordinances related to COVID-19 will expire prior to their next scheduled meeting. The Governor is expected to make announcements for the state at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 22. Bruce Levi made the motion to hold a special commissioner meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 22. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple updated that they are still not doing food inspections during the COVID-19 emergency. They are doing spot checks and investigating complaints. Septic installations are continuing as usual. They are still monitoring COVID-19 complaints. Dixie Meyer gave an update on COVID-19 cases in Rush County. Commissioner Bacon commended the local task force for all of their work.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

Auditor Jodi Harr requested the commissioners approve the annual report of congressional interest collected. She noted all of the money held in this fund has been turned over to the State of Indiana. This will be the last report that needs to be filed. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAY DATE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Auditor Harr presented a proposed change to the pay date schedule. Currently employees are paid to date. Payroll claims are turned in two weeks in advance of the hours being worked. This can create ghost employment issues especially if an employee leaves employment within the two weeks of payroll being turned in and when the pay is issued. This used to be common practice in counties; however, over the last several years, the State Board of Accounts has issued audit comments because of the ghost employment. Wilkinson agrees that we need to correct this before the SBOA makes us do it all at once. Jerry Sitton expressed his opinion that since he is a salary position with an annual salary that it should not pertain to him. Wilkinson made the motion to approve the new pay schedule that will get all employees paid two weeks in arrears by only paying one week of salary on October 16, 2020 and one week salary on April 16, 2021. Both of these are months that employees are paid three times. Hopefully, this will lessen the financial burden. It was reminded that employees are not losing this pay. When they leave employment with the county, they will still receive a check for the two weeks they were paid in arrears. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried. All in favor. Harr will present this to the county council at their next meeting and get a notice out to employees so that they can plan for this.

RIDE RUSH

Tina Logan emailed the quarterly INDOT report for the Ride Rush grant. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve it. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. The commissioners asked that Logan be notified that they would like a full report next quarter.

SMALL BUSINESS UPDATE

Commissioner Wilkinson commented the ECDC was awarded a small business loan grant. He also commented the Chamber of Commerce is doing a good job of keeping our local business updated on COVID-19.

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