

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JUNE 8, 2020

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 8, 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.

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

MINUTES

- Minutes of the special meeting on May 22, 2020 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 26, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the executive session held on June 1, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for June 8, 2020 in the amount of \$86,645.13 were presented. Sheriff Allan Rice requested that we hold the claim to Starweld in the amount of \$1,427.50 until he has a chance to review it. Discussion was held as to whether it could be paid from Jail Commissary. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve all of the claims except the \$1,427.50 to Starweld for a total approval of \$85,217.63. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for June 12, 2020 in the amount of \$195,150.71 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 June 8, 2020 in the amount of \$19,833.57 were presented for payment. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER

The May 2020 Treasurer report was received at the meeting but not emailed prior to the meeting.

HR

HR Director Tony Personett gave the following updates:

- The Rush County Surveyor is requesting to replace and post the job of his part time employee. She has indicated that she will be retiring. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- A proposal was presented requesting that vacation time earned in 2019 to be used in 2020 be allowed to carry over and used to 2021 if needed. This is due to the COVID-19 staffing issues. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the amendment to the vacation policy. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Presented a proposal offered by Judge Hill to help cover the cost of hiring an additional security officer on the first floor of the courthouse. He suggested to allow office holders to make the decision if any of their staff could go back to working thirty two hours per week instead of thirty five. Now that we are on an hourly rate, the employees would not be paid for the three hours that were not worked. That savings could be applied to the cost of a new employee for security. This was taken under advisement. The commissioners asked the Personett speak to other department heads to get their thoughts.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Personett reported the health insurance committee met last week to go over the preliminary renewal information for county employee health insurance. The employees have done an outstanding job on keeping claim expenses low over the last year. There are no recommended changes to the policy or to the premiums. It is recommended that employees be given a health insurance rebate two times over the next policy year. On October 16, 2020 and April 16, 2021 employee and employer premiums will not be withheld from employee pay. This will result in a savings to the employee and to the county of approximately \$83,061.00 on each of the pay dates. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the request. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The employee health fair has been rescheduled for June 25, 2020.

The Spectrum Underwriting Managers, Inc. Disclosure Statement for health insurance renewal was presented for approval. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Xchange Benefits Stop Loss Disclosure for health insurance renewal was also presented for approval. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9:30 A.M. RECESS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE AN ALLEY IN MANILLA

At 9:30 Chairman Mark Bacon opened the Public Hearing for comment on a request made by James Bowling to vacate an alley described as a part of the James W. Trees Addition to the Town of Manilla south of Pearl Street and North of Vine Street running west to east, south of

lots 12, 13, and 14, north of lots 15, 16, and 17. Bowling commented that the adjoining property owners were already using the land as if no alley existed. Bacon asked if there was any comment from the public. Hearing none, Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the vacating of the above described alley. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

RUSHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Nicole Kirchoff, Director of the Rushville Public Library, recommended to the commissioners that Karen Brashaber be reappointed for another four year term to the public board. Brashaber did express an interest in being reappointed. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to reappoint Brashaber. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner reported there will be a Fourth of July Fireworks show held in Rushville. There has not been a decision made on the parade.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker reported another weather incident last week which involved high winds. Trees were down and several were without power for several hours. The National Weather Service determined it was a microburst.

Plexishields have been installed at public areas. There are a couple of doors that will be done within a couple of weeks.

COURTHOUSE REOPENING

Judge Brian Hill asked when the courthouse would be open to the public. The commissioners are waiting on direction from Governor Holcomb.

He discussed court videoing conferences. He is aware of a company that is being used by other counties. They charge \$600 per month which includes the equipment and the technology. He will meet with Sheriff Rice to discuss. This would be more secure than a zoom connection. It is believed that we could use the state COVID-19 funds to cover this expense through 2020. If the courts and the sheriff wish to continue the service in 2021, one of them can propose it in their 2021 budgets.

COUNTY DITCH COMPLAINT

Rush County property owner Kevin Geise requested guidance from the commissioners on how to handle a neighbor dumping pavement, concrete and dirt in the ditch of a county right of way. It is hard for him get his semi off of his property when the ditch is filled with trash.

Commissioner Levi has driven out there to see it. Law enforcement has been out to the property regarding the complaint. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton said his department has been out and cleaned the ditch. It is not causing any water back up so he does not plan on going back out there. Sitton has no proof of who is doing the dumping and if there is proof then a complaint should be filed against the landowner who is doing the dumping. Sheriff Rice says this is a civil issue so it would not be handled by law enforcement. County Attorney said the neighbor is dumping on his own property so there is nothing that can be done. She also noted that no one at the table can give Geise any legal guidance on what to do. Sheriff Rice agreed to see if there is anything his department can do and will get back with Geise within seven days.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the commissioners approve a contract with INDOT in the amount of \$14,856.00 to purchase right of way for the replacement of Bridge #63 over Shawnee Creek on county road 800 East. Eighty percent of this will be reimbursed with federal funds. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the contract. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The May monthly highway financial report was presented.

Commissioner Bruce Levi asked if there is enough money in the covered bridge fund to repaint and do something about the heavy trucks going through the bridges. Sitton commented the First Covered Bridge is in the engineering phase of getting a major overhaul next year.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice gave his department update. The Sheriff Ap is almost complete and ready to be rolled out to the public.

There is a protest scheduled on the courthouse lawn from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to allow Barb Hershberger to utilize the courthouse lawn for the protest. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Bullet Proof Vest Grant application deadline is today. Rice has one quote and is waiting on the second one. There are seventeen vest needed. Seven are for the reserve officers and they will be paying the match for them. The county match for the remaining ten vest will be between \$4,750 and \$5,750. He is hoping to have money in the 2020 budget to cover the match. It will not be due until 2021 so he will encumber the funds. Commissioner Wilkinson suggested he may need to hold off on the purchase of one vehicle in the Public Safety fund and use that money for the vests.

The county has been awarded the COPS grant to hire an additional road deputy. Rice will be working on coming up with the thirty percent match to the grant. It will be effective January 1, 2021.

The Sheriff Association has a grant to pay the cost for Lexpro to look at the jail and sheriff department procedure and policy manuals. They will make recommendations on changes. The only cost to the county would be if there is a cost to make the recommended changes.

JAIL BOND

The first jail bond payment is due on June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$609,000.00. A completion certificate was presented for approval by the commissioners. It shows the completion date of February 27, 2020. It gives permission to transfer the remaining construction funds to the bond fund. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve and sign the Completion Certificate. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY JAIL BUILDING CORPORATION

An addendum to the lease was presented for approval by the commissioners. It will then be presented to the Rush County Jail Building Corporation. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. County Attorney Leigh Morning will meet with the Building Corporation to get their signatures.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION ISSUES UPDATE

After meeting with DLZ, DLZ agreed to write off half of the balance remaining on their contract to be applied to any outstanding issues at the jail. This includes the HVAC problems. They did recommend changes to the hot water system. Bruce Levi made the motion to go ahead and do the HVAC work in the dispatch area. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. It was proposed by Stanley Brothers to install discontinued cameras. Ron Jarman does not advise doing that. He would like to purchase a camera and see if he and IT Director Randy Herbert can install it. CCI inquired as to whether we have released payment application #11 in the amount of \$42,260.75 to Horning Roofing. It has not been released. The commissioners have not received any warranty information or anything from Firestone.

COURTHOUSE ROOF

Blackmore Roofing will be here sometime next week with their crane operator to start the roof repairs caused by storm damage. The crane will be parked on the sidewalk of the west side of the building. They will do their best to leave the handicap door entrance open. The insurance company has agreed to pay with the estimate and will deposit the funds via ACH. There may be a need to add two temporary handicap parking spaces on the north side of the courthouse.

BILLBOARD

Summit Locations requested the commissioners consider placing a billboard at property owned by the county commissioners located north of Milroy on State Road 3. After reviewing, it was determined the proposed sign is too large for a county ordinance and would have to have INDOT approval. It would also be a twenty five year lease with a twenty five year extension. Bruce Levi made the motion to not allow the sign. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

EIRPC would like to apply for a grant with the Department of Tourism to promote women’s history. They would like each county in their region to secure \$1,500.00 in matching funds. The commissioner’s asked Carole Yeend to check with the local chapter of DAR to see if they are interested.

PARKING SOUTH SIDE OF COURTHOUSE

Commissioners Bacon received a request from a local farm owner requesting the commissioners eliminate three or four parking spaces on the south east side of the courthouse. The commissioners will review this once the public parking lot is completed on the south side of the courthouse.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Due to the Rushville Republican no longer being published for Rush County, finding places to legally advertise county and city business has been an issue. The city and county have agreed to advertise on each of their websites any legal business needing advertised for Rushville City and Rush County.

TOX AWAY DAY

Carole Yeend stated the next Tox Away Day will be held on Saturday, July 11 from 8 a.m. until noon. The June collection was more than double the normal amount due to not having one for several months due to 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