

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 3, 2020

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 3, 2020 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi present. Auditor Jodi Harr and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also in attendance.

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 on July 20, 2020 were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the Joint Commissioner/Council meeting held on July 30, 2020 were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for August 3, 2020 in the amount of \$258,407.04 were presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for August 7, 2020 in the amount of \$190,829.48 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 August 3, 2020 in the amount of \$52,117.63 were presented for payment. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

Tony Personett reported the COVID-19 coverage for the county employee health plan will continue through October 22, 2020. He requested the 5th Amendment to the Rush County Policy Concerning COVID-19 policy be approved. The only change is the change that was made by the CDC changing the quarantine time from fourteen days to ten days if you test positive. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the change. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Changes to the Rush County Employee Personnel Handbook were sent to the department heads in March for their review. Commissioner Levi, Councilwoman Kile and Personett met with any

department who wished to do so. County Attorney Leigh Morning has the changes to review prior to them being sent to HR Consultant Erwin, Waggoner and Scheelle.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ashley Stevens requested permission to apply for the second year of the Justice Partners Victim Response Grant also referred to as the Indiana State Opioid Response. The county receives \$60,000 each year for three years. The Pre-Trial employee in the court services office is paid from this grant. There is no match required. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the grant. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Chief Deputy Terry Drake and Administrator Jonna McIntire were present to handle the sheriff department business.

The Johnson Controls service agreement in the amount of \$1,590.00 was presented for approval. This is for the maintenance of the fire alarm system. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the contract. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

An Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education (ICE) training agreement for a high school student was presented for approval. The county agrees to let the student work at least fifteen hours per week at minimum wage and we provide workman comp insurance. The student's background check came back clear. He would do administrative work and possibly help in the control room. He will not have any contact with the inmates. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve as long they are falling the guidelines for employees under the age of eighteen. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The COPS grant has been approved by the grantor and needs to be signed by the commissioners no later than August 8. The sheriff is willing to transfer money from the sheriff department overtime to cover the extra county match. The grant document says the county match has to be a new appropriation so a transfer will not work. They understand they would need to request an extension because the grant started July 1, 2020 and they would not hire until January 1, 2021. After much discussion of the outlook of county finances, Paul Wilkinson made the motion that due to an increase in the financial commitment, the grant not be approved. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple requested approval to apply for two grants. The first one is the CARES Act Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infection Diseases grant in the amount of \$100,000. This will be used to help fund a testing site through Rush Memorial Hospital. Rush County would receive the funds and pass them through to Rush Memorial Hospital who will provide the testing. This is a federal grant. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the grant. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The second grant is the LHD IT Cares Funding to help for technology support, equipment and services related to COVID-19. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the grant. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RIDE RUSH

Sande Land was present to request the commissioners sign the 2nd quarter reimbursement report for the Ride Rush Transportation program. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the signature. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Senior Center is still closed; however, they are providing essential transportation services.

AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr requested permission to hire a new payroll deputy to be trained from October 5, 2020 until January 1, 2021 when current payroll deputy Tammy Justice will become the new County Auditor. She has funds in her budget to cover the payroll expenses for 2020 and benefits will not be effective until January 1, 2021. This is not an added position. Only training to replace a current position. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the request. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VACATE ALLEY

Johnie and Cristine Hamilton requested the commissioners set a public hearing regarding closing an alley in Sexton, Jackson Township. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to conduct the public hearing on August 31, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

QPH

QPH presented a proposal to replace five fan coil units. The cost for one unit is \$7,300.00 or five units for \$34,650.00. Currently there are three that need replaced with others that will need replaced soon. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the purchase of five units for a cost of \$34,650.00. Mark Bacon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLOSSER DITCH COMPLAINT

The commissioners received a complaint/petition from land owners regarding a regulated drain at 8378 N 800 W. It was received July 28, 2020. The commissioners commented this will be addressed at the next Drainage Board meeting.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the highway monthly financial report. He noted some of his appropriations will be short by about \$300,000 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Highway Department income has decreased by about twenty percent. In 2021 he is moving some of the highway payroll to the restricted MVH fund 1173.

Bridge #127 over Little Blue River is in the stage of buying right of way. The replacement date is December 2021.

Commissioner Bacon asked if any of the bridges with lower weight limits are due to be replaced to bring the weight limits back up. The answer is no due to lack of funding.

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