

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 13, 2020

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, October 13, 2020 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi present. Auditor Jodi Harr and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present.

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 September 14, 2020 were presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the special meeting held on September 21, 2020 were presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Mark Bacon seconded. Bruce Levi was absent at the September 21 meeting so he abstained from voting. Wilkinson and Bacon approved. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the executive session held on September 22, 2020 were presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 28, 2020 were presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for October 13, 2020 in the amount of \$438,807.574 were presented. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for October 16, 2020 in the amount of \$118,878.47 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 the LIT Special Purpose Fund 1114 in the amount of \$35,578.76 was presented for approval. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the claims. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

HR Director Tony Personett requested the commissioners approve the extension of the cost share waiver for COVID-19 testing and treating through the employee health insurance. Paul

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

Discussion was held on the proposed changes to the personnel policy. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that if a part of the policy is not working for a department, he asked the department head to please bring the concerns to the commissioners. The commissioners agreed for Personett to send the changes to Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele for their professional review.

PROPERTY TAX SALE

The Rush County Delinquent Property Tax Sale was held on October 5, 2020. There were eleven parcels that did not sell. Treasurer Cindy Humphrey provided a list of the properties that did not sell.

RUSH SOLAR PROJECT

Ordinance 2020-7 approving the option and lease agreement with Rush Solar Project II, LLC was presented for approval. This is a lease agreement for only the county farm property owned by the Rush County Commissioners. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2020-7. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE

Discussion was held regarding public use of the courthouse. It was noted that COVID-19 positive cases are increasing. Businesses are starting to take more precautions. At this time the commissioners are going to leave the courthouse closed except for normal courthouse business. The following request were considered:

- Greenfield Central High School Choral Director requested use of the courthouse for one weekend during October. The request was denied.
- RCHS Madrigal singers – The County has not received a formal request from RCHS at this time.
- Requests have been received to take senior pictures in the courthouse. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to allow pictures taken on the first, second and third floor but not in the attic or clock tower. There must be a courthouse employee present with a limit of four people plus the courthouse employee present. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Election night results were also discussed. Mask or face covering and social distancing will be required. No food will be allowed. There will be a limit of the candidate plus two additional people allowed in the courthouse. Courthouse security will be needed only in the evening.

County Attorney Leigh Morning will draw up the guidelines and have them ready for approval at the October 26 commissioner meeting.

CARES ACT

Ordinance 2020-8 regarding the reimbursement of COVID-19 relief funds was presented for approval. The State of Indiana expanded the use of CARES Act relief funds to cover payroll expenses for public health and public safety employees. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the ordinance. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kristi Amos announced the foundation received a \$100,000 implementation check from Lilly for community development. There will be more information forthcoming regarding more community meetings.

CHAMBER

Sandy Fussner reported three new ribbon cutting ceremonies for new business. The Rushville Reporter is all local news and published on Wednesday.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the September monthly highway report.

200 NORTH PROJECT

Paul Wilkinson made the motion to sign a letter of support addressed to INDOT regarding Phase 3 of the 200 North project. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice provided a training update for the sheriff department. The K9 golf outing was held. It was a very successful fund raiser for the care of the county K9 units. Two trucks and two Durango's have been ordered. They are currently having the equipment installed.

The door and water issues at the new jail are being taken care of. The parking lot is ready for use. A sidewalk will need to be put on the north side of the parking lot.

Rice requested the commissioners sign two titles for vehicles that were totaled and turned over to the insurance. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign the titles for vehicles with VIN ending 5410 and 4604. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH

The county has not received the \$50,000 from the Indiana Department of Health for the COVID testing grant. Rush Memorial Hospital would like to go ahead and start the testing on October 21 with the supplies that the state has already provided. The prior agreement was they would not start until we received the funds. Paul Wilkinson noted he has no problem with them starting the testing with the supplies already received; however, the county is not guaranteeing reimbursement of anything including salaries unless we get the funds from the state. Wilkinson made the motion to rescind the motion made on September 21, 2020 stating that testing will not

start until the grant funds are received. Mark Bacon seconded. Bruce Levi was not at that meeting so he abstained from the vote. Wilkinson and Bacon were in favor. Motion carried.

Wilkinson made the motion that all parties understand that the county does not guarantee any financial reimbursement to Rush Memorial Hospital until the grant funds are received from the state; however, testing can start with the use of supplies already received from the state. Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS 2021

The commissioners requested the auditor publish notice of all appointments to be made as of January 1, 2021. Letters of interest should be received by November 20, 2020.

BROADBAND

Rush County has been told by the FCC that we are not underserved in Rush County for internet services. This decision can be challenged. The broadband task force is looking at an option to allow speed testing within the county.

RUSH COUNTY ECONOMIC COOP

The Rush County Economic Coop group is working on a post COVID19 plan. They are asking the city of Rushville and Rush County to each pay \$5,000 toward the cost for the plan. The commissioners can pay this in the current EDIT budget. The study will be of economic development needs in Rush County post COVID. It will develop a new comprehensive plan for the county. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to allow the \$5,000 toward the economic development comprehensive plan. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. 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