

**REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 2, 2020**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 2, 2020 with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi. 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 of the February 18, 2020 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Bruce Levi. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Auditor, Jodi Harr presented the biweekly claims docket for March 2, 2020 in the amount of \$242,478.74. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve all claims as presented. Paul Wilkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Payroll ending March 6, 2020 in the amount of \$195,333.66 was presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve payroll. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

**JAIL CONSTRUCTION**

Jail construction claims in the amount of \$106,571.17 to be paid from fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose were presented for approval. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. Motion carried.

The following jail construction change orders were presented:

- 0710-002 to Horning Roofing for a deduct amount of \$3,385.65. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 1150-006 to Pauly Jail Company for an additional \$997.00. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 1550-001 Grunau for a deduction of \$524.08. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Construction Manager John Painter reported that the total of change orders is currently \$110,089.94 which is one percent of the project. The balance in the contingency budget is \$277,910.06.

Ron Jarman requested approval to purchase needed recording equipment for the tower used by the jail and courthouse. The cost is \$2,029.00 and includes a four year maintenance plan. It will be paid from the jail construction fund. Frontier will provide the equipment and install it. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the purchase of the equipment. Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber Director Sandy Fussner gave an update on happenings within Rush County.

## **HEALTH**

Julia Apple introduced Beth West as the recommended appointment to the Rush County Health Board member. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the appointment. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **HR**

HR Director Tony Personett updated the commissioners on the job description changes for the Public Defender's office. The review has been completed and there is no change to the classification schedule. He has contacted David Malson and Brian Barrett. The two employees will sign the new job descriptions.

He has met with our workman comp insurance carrier, Bliss McKnight. They offer free employee training. He would like to have a training for employees once per quarter. The recommended topics are Blood Borne Pathogens and Harassment policies for all employees. The third one will be Employment practices for all department heads. He requested the commissioners make these trainings mandatory. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve the training sessions and make them mandatory as long as offices are not closed to do them. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The employee health fair will be held on Wednesday, March 18 from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m.

## **SHERIFF**

Jonna McIntire with the Rush County Sheriff Department presented the Rush County Request for Grant Application to apply for the COPS grant. Commissioner Wilkinson asked where they would be paying the 25% county match from. It will be budgeted in the 2021 county general sheriff budget. Bruce Levi made the motion to approve as long as the county council approves applying for the grant and funding of the 25%. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Due to a lack of water lines in the new jail, an additional water drinking system was requested from Moffett's Watercare. The cost will be \$22.00 per month which will be paid from the jail budget. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor motion carried.

The postage machine at the jail is out of date. Pitney Bowes is offering a machine for a sixty day free trial with no contract necessary. The postage on the old machine will be refunded to the county. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Allan Rice gave the sheriff/jail department update. He reported the open house at the new jail was a success. They are in the process of training and moving employees. Commissioner Wilkinson commended the staff for their professionalism during the open house.

Rice presented a copy of a press release that he is giving to the media today. It shows his support of the Second Amendment and that he will enforce it.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested permission to advertise for bids for replacement of Bridge #37 on 600 North. He would like to open bids on March 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. This project will be done with Cum Bridge and LRS funds. No federal dollars will be expended. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve the advertisement for bids for this project. Bruce Levi seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sitton presented the Annual Highway Report that will be submitted to LTAP after the commissioners sign it. Bruce Levi made the motion to sign and approve the report. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

He then presented the February monthly report.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ACT**

Brad Hatfield was present with others representing local citizens in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. They have received over six hundred signatures of support of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Preservation Act. He presented a draft ordinance that the group would like the commissioners to review and consider passing something similar. Commissioner Wilkinson commented that the Commissioners are in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. They do not want to put laws on the books that lead to unnecessary laws. Commissioner Bacon is in support of enforcing the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment but does not want people swarming to Rush County for the sole purpose of gun control. Hatfield expressed that the group is presenting this as a starting point for open discussion. They understand the ordinance needs to be reviewed, done correctly and for everyone to work together. County Attorney Leigh Morning explained the difference between an ordinance which is a local law and a resolution which shows support. All would be supportive of a resolution. The commissioners took this under advisement and will discuss this at their next meeting.

## **AUDITOR**

Auditor Jodi Harr reported the annual county financial report has been completed and submitted to the State Board of Accounts through the Gateway system.

## **CENSUS 2020**

The 2020 US Census is underway. Commissioner Wilkinson encourage all to participate as it does effect the dollars available to Rush County.

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