

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS September 12, 2022

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 12, 2022, with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Ron Jarman present. Auditor Tammy Justice 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 Session held on August 29, 2022, were presented. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for September 12, 2022, in the amount of \$111,537.78 were presented. Ron Jarman made a motion to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claims for September 13, 2022, in the amount of \$170,673.60 were presented for the Courthouse Roof. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the claims. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for September 16, 2022, in the amount of \$213,342.17 which included vacation buy-out and holiday pay for Ben Ott in the amount of \$4,209.80 was approved on a motion by Ron Jarman. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

- HR Director Tony Personett presented the Commissioners with UMR's Financial Renewal and Terms Agreement between UMR and Rush County Employee's. Contract No. 76-413019 effective August 1, 2022. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the Financial Renewal and Terms Agreement. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer

- Rush County Treasurer Jodi Harr presented the Commissioners with the August Financial Reports. She also advised the Commissioners that interest on investments have started to increase, and she has started putting interest into the Cum Cap and EDIT funds.
- Treasurer Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners that fall tax collections along with absentee voting will be starting soon. She asked if the Commissioners could have the construction workers park behind Tweedy's so that patrons to the Courthouse could utilize parking in the jail parking lot and around the courthouse.

EMA

- EMA Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Salary Proposal in the amount of \$21,645.00. Purpose of this grant is salary reimbursement for the EMA Director. Ron Jarman moved to approve the EMPG grant proposal. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- EMA Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Competitive Proposal in the amount of \$20,000.00. Purpose of this grant is for EMA Director salary reimbursement. Update monitors and computers in the EOC and replace the EMA desktop computer and backup EOC computer. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Competitive Proposal. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- EMA Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with the 2022 BRIC Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Proposal in the amount of \$1,406,000.00. This is a pre-application to the State of Indiana to see if we qualify for submitting a full FEMA application. The purpose of the grant is to clean Hodges Branch from the river to unnamed drain that ends south of 7th street and the railroad tracks. Ron Jarman moved to approve the 2022 BRIC Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Proposal. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- EMA Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with the letter of support for the 2022 BRIC Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the letter of support. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Area Plan

- Director Mike Holzback requested the Commissioners approve the request to amend the zone maps for Frederick and Christine Vehorn. Lot 7 in Sunny Hills Subdivision on N Carthage Pike from flood plain to residential. Ron Jarman moved to approve the rezone request. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Mike Holzback advised the Commissioners that there are 34 parcels listed on Beacon, in the Carthage area, which fall in the flood plain. He is working on a letter to property owners in this area to rectify permit issues in the future.
- Director Mike Holzback advised the Commissioners that he has had 17 complaints within the past several months, of which 5 complaints have been resolved with certified letters, and three are major issues that are over two years old needing addressed. The issues include a property in Arlington which litigation has started on. An illegal building in Moscow that was court ordered for the Sheriff to remove the house. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Commissioners that the Sheriff was not notified of the court order in a timely manner and that the Sheriff has given the property owners until Friday, September 16, 2022 to vacate the property. After this time the property will be boarded up. Lastly there is a property in Manilla which has become a junk yard.

- Director Mike Holzback advised the Commissioners of another issue with a church building in Milroy that is falling down. Homeowners around the structure have seen juveniles going in and out of the structure. He asked the Commissioners for their help in handling this issue and discussion was held on the best way to rectify the situation.

Sheriff

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners there are currently 65 inmates being housed at the jail.
- Sheriff Rice notified the Commissioners of an incident where a prisoner swallowed a bag of narcotics during apprehension. Prisoner was taken to RMH where he refused a drug screen and RMH released prisoner without administering care. Prisoner was then transported to Major Hospital where treatment is being given. An investigation is ongoing with the RMH incident. Once investigation is complete, the Sheriff will file a formal complaint with RMH.
- Sheriff Rice advised the Commissioners there is an issue with one of the jail cameras. He has obtained a replacement quote for the camera but it is fairly pricey. Commissioner Ron Jarman is going to check to see if he has a camera that can be installed and programmed.

Misc.

- Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton updated the Commissioners with the highways monthly report for August.
- Jessica Roberts introduced herself to the Commissioners. She has taken the role of Ag and Community Development Educator within the Extension office.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning updated the Commissioners on changing all the RMH properties over to Board of Trustees. RMH is wanting a new survey and legal description done and is willing to pay to have this work completed. Discussion was held regarding the need for the hospital to remain a county hospital but if the hospital was to ever be sold to a “for-profit” organization, the Board has to have permission from the County Commissioners along with the County Council for the sale to take place. The Commissioners would like to also see the same take place if it is ever sold to a “non-profit” organization. The Commissioners instructed County Attorney Leigh Morning to work through this issue before moving forward with the new survey and legal description.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the others on a Broadband meeting this week with Meridian Company.

Paul Wilkinson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Paul Wilkinson/
Paul Wilkinson

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor