

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS October 10, 2022

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 10, 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 September 26, 2022, were presented. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for October 10, 2022, in the amount of \$160,118.70, were presented. Ron Jarman made a motion to approve the claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claim for October 11, 2022, in the amount of \$402,027.28 were presented for the Courthouse Roof. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the claim. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for October 14, 2022, in the amount of \$209,950.95 was presented. This includes payout of 3.5 comp hours in the amount of \$66.15, to Circuit Court employee Jennifer Sammons. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve payroll. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

- HR Director Tony Personett asked permission to rehire Ben Ott as a dispatcher effective October 5, 2022. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to rehire Ben Ott. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- HR Director Tony Personett asked permission to hire Rose Marie Rummell as an election worker, effective October 7, 2022. Ron Jarman made the motion to hire Rose Marie Rummell. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- HR Director Tony Personett presented the Commissioners with a recommendation from the insurance committee, to waive the employee portion only of the health insurance premiums for the November 23, 2022 and December 9, 2022 payrolls. Ron Jarman made the motion to accept the insurance committee recommendation. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- HR Director Tony Personett informed the Commissioners that he has received a letter of intent to retire from Sherry McKinney in the health department effective January 6, 2023. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to

accept the letter of intent from Sherry McKinney. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- HR Director Tony Personett informed the Commissioners that Sally Niedenthal in the Records Office, also submitted a letter of intent to retire, effective December 30, 2022. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to accept Sally Niedenthal's letter of intent to retire. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Health

- Dixie Meyer advised the Commissioners of updates they have to the Health Department's staff. The Health Board recommend Dixie Meyer take the administration role in the Health Department, effective September 21, 2022, which will include backpay. This will be a \$7,000.00 yearly stipend, and for 2023 will have a separate budget line. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve Dixie Meyer as administrator. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer advised the Commissioners that the Health Board has recommended the starting salary for the Environmental Health Specialist for the 2023 budget year starting at \$45,000.00. Motion to accept the Health Boards salary recommendation was made by Ron Jarman. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested permission from the Commissioners to move Amy De Jager from part-time to full-time effective October 17, 2022 through January 6, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$15.82. Ron Jarman motioned to move Amy De Jager from part-time to full-time for that period. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer informed the Commissioners that Alisha Hill has been filling in where needed within the Health Department office. She will now resume the nursing position. This requires no change in salary.

EMA

- EMA Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with an amended agreement with Polis Center for the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. The original agreement expired in September and is taking longer to get the plan through IDHS and FEMA review process. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve and sign the extension with Polis Center. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- EMA Director Chuck Kemker updated the Commissioners that the County has been selected to move forward to the next level with the BRIC Grant.
- EMA Chuck Kemker informed the Commissioners that discussion is being held with Rushville City on sending a medic to assist other EMS departments when a dual dispatch occurs.

Highway

- Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with Federal Aid Bridge 125 Replacement Grant Proposal. Amount requested is \$846,000.00, with a County match of \$169,200.00 for the 2028 grant year. Purpose of the grant is to replace bridge 125 over Beaver Meadow Creek on County Road 875 W. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve applying for the grant. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All Were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with Federal Aid Bridge 164 Replacement Grant Proposal. Amount requested is \$1,500,000.00, with a County match of \$300,000.00 for the 2028 grant year. Purpose of the grant is to replace bridge 164 over Little Flatrock River on County Road 300 S. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to approve applying for the grant. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with Federal Aid Bridge 181 Replacement Grant Proposal. Amount requested is \$950,000.00 with a County match of \$190,000.00 for the 2028 grant year. Purpose of the grant is to replace bridge 181 over N Branch of Clifty Creek on County Road 250 E. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve applying for the grant. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton discussed hiring issues with the Commissioners. Current policy states all drivers must have their Class A CDL license. Some of the current applicants only hold a Class B CDL license. Sitton would like to see a policy change stating a percentage of employees can possess a Class B CDL license. Discussion was held regarding pay differentials on the different class of licenses. Motion was made by Paul Wilkinson to approve the Highway Department to staff 5 Class B CDL drivers. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff

- Sheriff Allan Rice informed the Commissioners that newly appointed Detective Doug Keith has requested to go back to road deputy status. Shawn Smallwood has been chosen to take the Detective position vacated by Deputy Keith, effective October 17, 2022. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the changes. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Rice updated the Commissioners that the Lexipol policies have gone out to all of the Sheriff and jail employees. Each employee must read and acknowledge the policies. Sheriff Rice hopes to have all employees signed off by January 1, 2023.
- Sheriff Rice advised the Commissioners that his budget lines for building maintenance have took a hit this year. He is at a point where he will need to start moving funds from different areas within his budget to pay for maintenance issues, pending approval from the County Council.
- Sheriff Rice requested the Commissioners to direct him on a contractor to use to demolish the property in Moscow and what funds are available to cover the demolition costs. Discussion was held on what funds could potentially pay for the demolition process. Ron Jarman made the motion to table discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Misc.

- County Attorney Leigh Morning brought to the Commissioners a proposal from RMH concerning changing the deeds to all RMH properties. The hospital would like to add “Restrictive Covenant” wording to the proposed deeds. Ron Jarman made the motion to table this conversation until the first meeting in November. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with a grant proposal for Coroner Brenda McMahan who could not be present. The proposed grant is the Coroner Opportunity Grant for years 2021 and 2022 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to obtain various equipment items and supplies for the Coroner’s office. These are chosen from the items offered by the Indiana Department of Health. Ron Jarman moved to approve applying for the grant. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with the 2023 calendar for their approval. Discussion was held in regards to keeping Juneteenth versus Columbus Day as a County observed holiday. Motion to keep Juneteenth as a County observed holiday was made by Ron Jarman. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with a GIS Data Sharing Agreement with Congruex. Congruex is being contracted by a broadband provider to give design proposals for a network that would bring highspeed internet to customers in Rush County. In order to give an accurate proposal, Congruex needs the parcel data to get an accurate assessment of the number of customers, their location, and how far apart they are. Ron Jarman made the motion to allow the GIS Data Sharing Agreement with Congruex. Seconded by Paul Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Mark Bacon addressed his concern regarding Tree City’s ability to start on the storage building project. Tree City had originally stated they could start the project in August of 2022, now they are stating the project will not get started until sometime in 2023. All Commissioners agreed they should reach out to Tree City and ask for a definite start date or if the company is still interested in the project. Commissioner Jarman will reach out to Tree City.

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

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Absent/
Paul Wilkinson

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

ATTEST:

/Absent/
Tammy Justice, Auditor