

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS April 10, 2023

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 10, 2023, with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman and Kenny Aulbach present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Leigh Morning were 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 March 27, 2023, were presented. Kenny Aulbach made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bacon seconded. Ron Jarman abstained due to being absent at previous meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for April 10, 2023, in the amount of \$225,540.61 were presented. Ron Jarman made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for April 14, 2023, in the amount of \$214,218.74 was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. The following three funds will receive grant dollars. Fund 9104 Grant Fund, Fund 9114 DC Grant Fund and Fund 9125 Pretrial Services Grant. The requested 2024 budget amount has not been finalized yet, but there will be no county match. Ron Jarman moved to approve applying for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

- Sande Land presented the Commissioners with the de-obligation of Federal and State Transit Funds in the amount of \$6,415.00 for the grant period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. Ron Jarman made the motion to sign the letter of de-obligation of Federal and State Transit Funds. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sande Land requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the 2024 INDOT Section 5311 Public Transit Federal Grant in the amount of \$172,444.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide public transportation to the citizens of Rush County. Ron Jarman made the motion to apply for the INDOT Section 5311 Public Transit Federal Grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

- HR Director Tony Personett updated the Commissioners on the COVID-19 coverages by UMR after the May 12th cut-off.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested the Commissioners approval of the appointment of Alisa Winters to the Rush County Health Board. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve appointing Alisa Winters to the Health Board. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JAIL

- Matron Megan Tate questioned the Commissioners on the status of the preventative maintenance agreements. Commissioners advised they are still working on them.
- Matron Megan Tate advised the Commissioners the condenser on the freezer has been fixed. Tate asked if the Commissioners had a hard copy of the warranty paperwork on the condenser. Commissioner Jarman instructed her that all warranty papers were to be kept in the filing cabinets at the jail.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the jail roof is slated to be fixed.

AREA PLAN

- Director Mike Holzback requested approval from the Commissioners to amend the official zoning maps of Rush County. The petition consists of 5 parcels in Posey Township, one of which is Arlington East Hill Cemetery. The cemetery is zoned as manufacturing and needs to be zoned as A-3. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve amending the zoning maps of Rush County. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SURVEYOR

- Surveyor Marvin Rees requested approval from the Commissioners on a lease agreement for a new copier in his office. Ron Jarman motioned to approve and sign the lease agreement for the new copier. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Commissioners for a resolution authorizing financing for six (6) tandem axel dump trucks. The amount of the lease-purchase shall not exceed \$1,117,381.79 with an interest rate of 4.622% to be paid out of the Highway budget annually for seven years. Superintendent Sitton advised that the 6 old tandem trucks will be sold at public auction and not traded in on the new ones. Ron Jarman motioned to sign Resolution 2023-2 authorizing financing for six (6) tandem axel dump trucks. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with the application for the seven (7) year equipment lease for the six (6) tandem axel dump trucks. Ron Jarman made the motion to sign the application for the

seven (7) year lease at \$1,117,381.79. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOLAR

- Commissioner Mark Bacon opened the floor for discussion on solar farms.
- Curt Naylor questioned the Commissioners regarding allotment of total acres, what company handled the environmental studies, tax abatements, watershed issues and the devaluation of property. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised Naylor that the solar company completed their own environmental study, to which Naylor asked if the County would do their own study. Morning advised the county does not have the funds to conduct their own study. Regarding the watershed issues, Morning advised Naylor that if the solar company does not fix watershed issues, the County can go back on the solar company's bond to correct any issues.
- Collin Kelly, with Hoosier Solar, addressed some of the concerns made by Curt Naylor. He advised that they enter into "good neighbor" agreements with landowners and surrounding landowners, and assured Naylor that any damage would be fixed. Kelly also advised that environmental studies are regulated by state and federal guidelines.
- Jim Naylor addressed the Commissioners, stating his property lies along Orange Pike. He has concerns on traffic and blocked roads during the project as well as runoff and surface water concerns. Naylor questioned where the cable will go if landowners do not allow access to their property. Naylor stated in other counties, the solar company has gone down the center of the roadway to install the cables if access was not granted. Naylor asked the Commissioners to please look deeper into solar companies and do their own due diligence.
- Ryan Miller addressed the Commissioners stating he feels like his back is against the wall and pleaded with the Commissioners to do their due diligence and look further into solar companies.
- Collin Kelly spoke again stating he will gladly speak with the Naylor's and Ryan Miller regarding their questions and concerns.
- Commissioner Mark Bacon asked Collin Kelly if the cable would go down the center of the roadway to which Kelly answered yes that does happen.
- Jim Naylor questioned why he is not allowed to speak with the BZA and APC board members regarding solar issues. Commissioner Mark Bacon advised Naylor that he can be put on the APC agenda and can speak to the board members in a public hearing.
- Curt Naylor again questioned the Commissioners on who researched Hoosier Solar and asked where the money was coming from. County Attorney Leigh Morning stated Baker Tilly was hired by Rush County and there are investment firms that fund solar projects.
- Jim Naylor questioned where the solar panels are being built to which Collin Kelly stated they are currently being built all over the world.
- Curt Naylor questioned decommissioning of solar farms and who would be responsible for it. Attorney Leigh Morning stated the County could decommission if the solar company doesn't do it.

MISC.

- County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Commissioners with an agreement for Accelerate Rural Indiana Regional Development Authority appointing Virgil Bremer as the board member for Rush County. Ron Jarman motioned to approve appointing Virgil Bremer as the board member. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with a Tax Sale Services Support Addendum from SRI, who conducts Rush County's tax sale. SRI's fees are increasing from \$100.00 per parcel to \$125.00 per parcel which is billed to the property owner on tax sale. Ron Jarman moved to sign the Tax Sale Services Support Addendum. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

/Mark Bacon/
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Kenny Aulbach/
Kenny Aulbach

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor