

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS May 8, 2023

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 8, 2023, with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman and Kenny Aulbach 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 April 24, 2023, were presented. Kenny Aulbach made the motion to approve the minutes. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for May 8, 2023, in the amount of \$130,180.61 were presented. Ron Jarman made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for May 12, 2023, in the amount of \$217,196.99 was presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

- Director Ashley Stevens asked the Commissioners to approve and sign a professional service contract between Rush County Court Services and Brittnee Hillebrand. Ron Jarman moved to approve and sign the contract. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

- Angela Caveletto of the Senior Citizen Center requested approval from the Commissioners for the first quarter reimbursement of 2023 for the Ride Rush Public Transportation Grant. Ron Jarman moved to sign the first quarter reimbursement request. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AREA PLANNING

- Director Mike Holzback advised the Commissioners that the Area Plan Commission recommends amending the Rush County Zoning Ordinance to rezone 3.5 acres to A-1R for Jackman Animal Clinic and John R. Abrams. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the Rush County Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer updated the Commissioners that the Governors Public Health Commission did pass. The Commissioners have until September 1, 2023, to decide to accept or deny the Governors Public Health Commission.

- Dixie Meyer asked the Commissioners permission to apply for a Supplemental Immunization Funding Grant in the amount of \$20,133.11 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide vaccinations for the children of Rush County. Ron Jarman moved to approve applying for the Supplemental Immunization Funding Grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Tony Personett advised the Commissioners that he is in the process of updating the Title VI plan.

CLERK

- Clerk Angie Buckley asked the Commissioners permission to publish and hire for two (2) open positions within her office. Kenny Aulbach moved to publish and hire for the two (2) open positions. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with copies of the updated Emergency Operations Plan, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Annexes to both plans.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with the Highway Departments April cash report.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton advised the Commissioners that the ADA Transition Plan had been updated and a public hearing will need to be held, so the plan can be sent to the state by June 20, 2023. Ron Jarman motioned to have an ADA public hearing on June 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners the update on the Spillman server has begun and will take several days to complete.
- Sheriff Allan Rice asked the Commissioners permission to apply for a local grant offered by Beacon Credit Union in the amount of \$15,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to purchase and assist with the costs of an additional K-9 unit for the agency. Ron Jarman moved to approve applying for the Beacon Credit Union Grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice asked approval of the Commissioners to increase part time wages within his department at the approval of the County Council. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve increasing part time wages within the Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners that this years Indiana Sheriff's Association (ISA) scholarship was awarded to Grace Jarman.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Commissioners that BOKF who serves as the trustee on the bonds for the Rush County Jail Building Corporation is moving to a new account platform and has discontinued our current sweep investment which is the Federated Hermes Treasury Obligation Fund. There are three (3) different funds the county will need to choose from. The Commissioners have taken this under advisement with direction from the County Council and will make a motion at their next scheduled meeting.
- Auditor Tammy Justice asked the Commissioners how to proceed on the \$4,456.52 in back taxes due on parcel number 70-14-13-131-001.000-001 that the Commissioners took deed to. Commissioner Ron Jarman motioned to pay the \$4,456.52 in back taxes due. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOLAR

- Curt Naylor asked Commissioner Aulbach if he knew when the last time 125 acres of farm ground sold for under \$15,000. Commissioner Aulbach stated that until the previous week, acreage was going for between \$15,000 and \$17,000. Naylor then stated 125 acres with a solar contract brought roughly \$12,800 an acre.
- Curt Naylor asked for clarification on the forty million decommission bond.
- Andrew Hinckley manager of Hoosier Solar project gave clarification on the decommissioning bond.
- Curt Naylor asked about price adjustments on the bond. Attorney Leigh Morning advised that every five (5) years it is adjusted.
- Curt Naylor advised that CBS is reporting 90% of solar panels are going to landfills. Andrew Hinckley advised that solar panels have a 30-year life span but that he would do more research for Naylor's concerns.
- Curt Naylor inquired if the Commissioners have been to any decommissioned solar farms. Commissioner Jarman indicated they have not been to any decommissioned solar farms.
- Curt Naylor inquired as to who will hold solar companies liable for damaged tiles in fields. Hinckley advised the County Surveyor's office has the drainage plan and the solar company does not want to damage any tiles. They use radar to find tiles and will fix any damage that may arise.
- Curt Naylor asked the Commissioners who sit on the County Drainage Board, what qualifications must be met to hold that position. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised that it is state law that the Commissioners and County Surveyor sit on County Drainage Board.
- Curt Naylor expressed concern that solar panels come from China. Hinckley advised that the panels no longer come from China but do come from the Asian market.
- Commissioner Jarman advised that the Commissioners are working on a moratorium within the county for solar farms.
- Curt Naylor is concerned that other solar companies are going around the county trying to sign up other landowners for solar farms.
- Andrew Hinckley advised that it is the developer's responsibility to take care of the area outside the fence. That area will be planted with pollinating plants and possible sheep herding for grass control.

- Commissioner Bacon asked how many solar panels were needed in Rush County to get to the grid. Hinckley was unsure but will get that number to Commissioner Bacon.
- Hinckley stated there is a public outreach meeting on May 31, 2023, at Rushville Consolidated High School. Residents can also utilize Hoosiersolar.com for any other questions.
- Commissioner Jarman asked Hinckley why other farm areas in the county did not get picked for solar projects. Hinckley responded that those areas did not have enough capacity.
- Other concerned citizens that spoke were Brian McMahan, Bill Kuhn and Mark Osborn.

MISC.

- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Commissioners regarding a meeting the State is holding on May 16, 2023, to discuss solar grant processes. There is eight hundred million plus in funds for the State of Indiana.

Kenny Aulbach made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ron Jarman. 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