

## **REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **June 5, 2023**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 5, 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 May 22, 2023, were presented. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve the minutes. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CLAIMS**

- Accounts Payable claim for the jail bond payment for June 6, 2023, in the amount of \$609,000.00 was presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claim. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Accounts Payable claims for June 5, 2023, in the amount of \$285,956.86 were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **PAYROLL**

- Payroll for June 9, 2023, in the amount of \$229,895.51 was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Director Tony Personett presented the Commissioners with the stop loss agreement with Companion Life for signatures. Ron Jarman moved to sign the agreement with Companion Life. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Tony Personett advised the Commissioners of the resignation of the Sheriff's Department secretary. Director Personett recommended hiring April Hatfield, who is already part time, to work full time at \$20.97 per hour, temporarily until the position could be filled. Ron Jarman moved to allow April Hatfield as temp full-time at \$20.97 per hour. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Tony Personett asked permission from the Commissioners to advertise for the Sheriff Department Secretary position. Ron Jarman motioned to advertise for the position. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Tony Personett advised the Commissioners that the Title VI hearing needed to be advertised 10 business days prior to the meeting, that deadline was not possible as discussed in the previous commissioner meeting. Director Personett advised he plans on filing for an extension with INDOT. Ron Jarman moved to have the Title VI hearing on June 20, 2023, at 9:30 am. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER**

- Treasurer Jodi Harr updated the Commissioners on the May tax collections and the status of distribution of funds to the taxing units.
- Treasurer Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners that citizens were at the state house over the weekend lobbying for deduction increases for property taxes.
- Treasurer Jodi Harr expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for the wage increases, stating she had received a nice selection of applicants for her open part-time position.

## **EMA**

- Director Chuck Kemker advised the Commissioners he had attended a meeting with Verizon Wireless regarding loss of cellular and internet connections during storms. Director Kemker advised there is a cellular box that he can place either in his truck or in the mobile command unit to help with connectivity during emergencies. Since the box is portable, it can also be utilized by the Sheriff Department as well since they have also experienced connection loss in the past. Director Kemker stated he had added a new disaster relief line within his budget, and asked if he could use some of those funds to pay for purchasing the box. Commissioner Ron Jarman asked Kemker to find out if the Verizon Wireless box will connect to more than just Verizon towers before making a decision.

## **HIGHWAY**

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with Bridge 94 title sheet for INDOT for signatures. Ron Jarman made the motion to sign the title sheet for Bridge 94. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with the highway department's May monthly report.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for a Community Crossing grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 which will have a 25% county match that will come out of his summer construction budget line. Kenny Aulbach moved to apply for the \$1,000,000.00 Community Crossing grant. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **CLERK**

- Clerk Angie Buckley expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for the wage increases, stating she had received a nice selection of applicants for her open position.
- Clerk Angie Buckley asked approval from the Commissioners to hire another seasonal employee who will be paid out of the Clerk Perpetuation Fund. Ron Jarman moved to approve hiring another seasonal employee. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **SHERIFF**

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners that the 2022 Durango that sustained damage from a deer was fixed and back on the road.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners on the importance of the license plate readers throughout the county which aided in locating and apprehending a shooting suspect that had ties to Rush and Shelby Counties.

**AUDITOR**

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Court Services Director Ashely Stevens presented a grant proposal to the Commissioners for the Justice Partners Addiction Response Grant in the amount of \$32,000.00 with no county match. Ron Jarman motioned to ratify the Justice Partners Addiction Response Grant in the amount of \$32,000.00. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**MISC.**

- Assessor Mary Ann Bridges advised the Commissioners that she had to replace a member of the PTABOA Board. Kevin Snyder is the new member of the board.
- APC Director Mike Holzback advised the Commissioners that the June and July APC and BZA meetings will be held at the Princess Theater.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning requested from the Commissioners permission to re-advertise for proposals to be submitted by July 3, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. on the Wickey property and Milroy playhouse property. Ron Jarman moved to re-advertise for proposals on both properties. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning inquired if the Commissioners had spoken to Sheriff Allan Rice regarding the new Sheriff Contract. She advised the Commissioners to please speak with the Sheriff regarding his thoughts on the contract so the contract can be addressed at the next commissioner meeting.
- Ron Jarman made a motion to advertise and rebid the county’s comprehensive plan. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Curt Naylor asked for the May 8, 2023, Commissioner minutes to be amended to include Andrew Hinckley stating Hoosier Solar will have 22 full-time employees in Rush County with the solar project. Ron Jarman motioned to amend the May 8, 2023, Commissioner minutes to reflect the 22 full-time jobs. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the new State Health Funding. Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Commissioners to meet with the Rush County Council and Rush County Health Board before making any decisions.

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