

**REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL June 14, 2023**

The Rush County Council and the Rush County Board of Commissioners met in a joint session Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman and Kenny Aulbach present. County Council Members in attendance were Charles Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Carl Harcourt, and Scott Barnes. Auditor, Tammy Justice, and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also in attendance.

Chairman Charlie Smith called the Regular and Joint Session to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call for the Commissioners was taken with Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman, and Kenny Aulbach present.

The purpose of the joint session was to discuss the Governor's Public Health Commission and how the county match will work.

Dixie Meyer presented the Council and Commissioners with the 2024 and 2025 Local Public Health Funding statistics. Funding will be distributed on a sliding scale dependent upon how many Indiana counties opt-in. For 2024 if Rush County opts-in, the minimum amount of funding will be \$168,750.00 with a potential maximum of \$225,000.00. For 2025 if Rush County opts-in, the minimum amount of funding will be \$337,500.00 with a potential maximum of \$450,000.00. The county match for 2024 is based on an average of years 2021, 2022 and 2023 in the tax levied Health fund 1159. The average of those years for 2024 would be \$373,300.33 that the county would be required to match. For 2025 the county portion would be based on a 20% match which could be a minimum of \$81,666.00 with a maximum of \$108,888.00.

If Rush County chooses to not opt-in, we will continue to receive monies in the tax levied Health 1159 Fund. The LHMF/Trust funds will stay at the amount of \$48,274.00 but could be repealed, so the county would lose those funds.

After discussions on funding and county match the Council made a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners on the Governor's Public Health Commission.

Ron Jarman moved to close the joint session. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the May 10, 2023, Regular Session meeting were presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation of \$50,000.00 in fund 8129 CFDA 93.354 Coop Agreement. This will be a pass-through to Rush Memorial Hospital for Covid-19 testing. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$50,000.00 in fund 8129 CFDA 93.354 Coop Agreement. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **HIGHWAY**

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for the CCMG 2023-2 grant in the amount of \$866,664.00 with a county match of \$216,666.00 out of summer construction. The purpose of the grant will be for grinding and paving over 3 miles on 900 N from bridge 11 to 1000 W. Denny Corn moved to apply for CCMG 2023-2 grant in the amount of \$866,664.00. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation of \$350,000.00 in fund 1135 Cum Bridge. This will be for Bridge 155. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$350,000.00 in fund 1135 Cum Bridge. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation of \$450,000.00 in fund 1169 Local Road & Street. This will be for Bridge 1. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$450,000.00 in fund 1169 Local Road & Street. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation of \$384,580.58 in fund 9126 Community Crossing Grant. This will be for Bridge 17. Janet Kile moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$384,580.58 in fund 9126 Community Crossing Grant. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **COURT SERVICES**

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Justice Partners Addictions Response Grant in the amount of \$32,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant will be to provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions using s Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) approach to enhance collaborative partnerships between the local criminal justice system and behavioral health care providers to address Opioid Use Disorders/Substance Use Disorders. Denny Corn moved to apply for the Justice Partners Addictions Response Grant in the amount of \$32,000.00. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **AUDITOR**

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested from the Council a transfer of \$1,500.00 from 4801.40031.00000.0000 Capital Outlays to 4801.30078.00000.0000 Lawn Care. This is for the repairs to the courthouse lawn from CMR Roofing. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the transfer of \$1,500.00. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested from the Council a transfer of \$3,000.00 from 1000.40052.00000.0068 Council Use Only to 1000.30047.00000.0068 Autopsies. Amy Grocox moved to approve the transfer of \$3,000.00. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council on the response from Mark Hudson from BOKF on the bond investment for the jail. It was indicated that between two (2) accounts Rush County has \$13,170.80 and is eligible for the Reich & Tang Investment Product which is insured fully by the FDIC. Council gave a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners to go with the Reich & Tang Investment Product.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with an updated salary ordinance for approval. Changes to the salary ordinance include the \$2.00 raise for part-time employees, and rank changes within the jail and dispatch. Amy Grocox moved to approve the salary ordinance. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **HOOSIER SOLAR ABATEMENT RESOLUTION**

- Chairman Charlie Smith advised the crowd that even though the council meeting is a public meeting, it was not a public hearing for the crowd to speak. Public comments would be heard at the Public Hearing on July 13, 2023, in the Courthouse Assembly Room.
- Jason Semler, partner at BakerTilly Municipal advisors, presented the Council with five (5) different proposals on the Rush Solar Project, LLC Solar Farm Project. Within the proposals were estimated assessed values from the proposed investment, summary of estimated property taxes from the proposed investment, assuming 3.0% annual increase in tax rate. Proposed Economic Development Payments and footnotes.
- Councilman Scott Barnes asked Semler to clarify tax rates and assessed values within the solar projects.
- Hannah Clendening with Barnes and Thornburg stated if the solar company breaches or is in violation they would not receive the abatement.
- Declaratory Resolution 2023-1 for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Rush Solar Project II, LLC was presented for approval. Scott Barnes motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2023-1. Seconded by Amy Grocox. Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Carl Harcourt No. Motion carried.
- Declaratory Resolution 2023-2 for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Rush Solar Project III, LLC was presented for approval. Amy Grocox motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2023-2. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Carl Harcourt No. Motion carried.

- Declaratory Resolution 2023-3 for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Rush Solar Project IV, LLC was presented for approval. Denny Corn motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2023-3. Seconded by Amy Grocox. Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Carl Harcourt No. Motion carried.
- Declaratory Resolution 2023-4 for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Rush Solar Project V, LLC was presented for approval. Amy Grocox motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2023-4. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Carl Harcourt No. Motion carried.
- Declaratory Resolution 2023-5 for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Rush Solar Project VI, LLC was presented for approval. Amy Grocox motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2023-5. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Carl Harcourt No. Motion carried.
- July 13, 2023, will be the Public Hearing at 9:00 am in the Courthouse Assembly Room to approve or deny the Hoosier Solar Abatement.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Director Tony Personett advised the Council regarding the health insurance open enrollment period.

### **MISC**

- Jill Spaulding, Regional Sales Manager with PHI Air Medical/StatFlight presented the Council with a countywide opportunity to cover all Rush County residents if they are flown by them. Spaulding stated insurance and Medicare does not cover the full cost of air medical, but she presented that if the County partners with PHI Air Medical all Rush County residents would not have to pay out of pocket after insurance for PHI Air Medical/StatFlight services. Cost would be \$7.00 per household for all Rush County residents which is a total of \$46,940.00 per year for the County. Chairman Charles Smith requested Spaulding present this to the Commissioners as well.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Council with a new Sheriff Contract effective July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. The contract increases the sheriff salary, per the State, to fifty percent (50%) of the prosecutor's salary, which would be a salary of up to \$89,084.00. Scott Barnes moved to approve and sign the sheriff's contract effective July 1, 2023. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Barnes. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/Charles Smith/  
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Absent/  
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/  
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/  
Janet Kile

/Kyle Gardner/  
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/  
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/  
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/  
Tammy Justice, Auditor