

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS January 16, 2024

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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 January 2, 2024, 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 January 16, 2024, in the amount of \$890,346.80 were presented. Ron Jarman made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for January 19, 2024, in the amount of \$239,051.91 was presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Tony Personett requested approval from the Commissioners to post for the open deputy assessor position. Ron Jarman moved to post for the Deputy Assessor position. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

- Interim Director Jack Harmon updated the Commissioners on the financial status of the senior center, stating as of December 29, 2023, there are no bills in arrears and their quarterly reimbursement has been received from the state. Harmon stated he has been working on implementing a comprehensive financial policy and once it is completed and approved by his board and the state, copies will be given to the commissioners. Harmon also advised that he has been working with Todd Jennings from INDOT on the quarterly reporting to ensure the correct information is reported to eliminate delays in funding.

At 9:15 am the regular Commissioner meeting was recessed.

BOARD OF FINANCE

- Mark Bacon called the Annual Board of Finance meeting to order at 9:15 am. The first order of business was to elect the 2024 officers. Motion was made by Ron Jarman to appoint Mark Bacon as president and Treasurer Jodi Harr as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. Both Mark Bacon and Jodi Harr accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Treasurer Jodi Harr updated the Commissioners on the Trust Indiana balances and funds.
- Treasurer Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners that tax collections were at 95% and there are over 600 delinquent parcels that her office is sending letters on.
- Treasurer Jodi Harr updated the Commissioners on the interest income earned for 2023.

Motion to adjourn the annual Board of Finance meeting was made by Ron Jarman. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon reconvened the regular Commissioner meeting at 9:20 am.

EXTENSION

- Jessica Roberts requested approval from the Commissioners for the Contractual Services for 2024. The Commissioners inquired as to why the amount of the contract was higher than the original one presented. Roberts stated there was miscommunication from Purdue business office regarding the increase. Ron Jarman moved to sign the Contractual Service Agreement. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Jessica Roberts advised the Commissioners of a workshop on January 18, 2024, that the Clerk and Extension office is putting on for persons interested in running for office.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners the jail population is currently 46 inmates.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners Safety Systems would be finishing the installations on the new Durango's.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners the Carthage Town Board had accepted the resignation of the town marshal.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners that effective March 1, 2024, SRI would take over administering sheriff sales.
- Sheriff Allan Rice informed the Commissioners he would be attending the Sheriff Association Conference February 20th through the 23rd.
- Ron Jarman and Mark Bacon discussed with Sheriff Allan Rice on getting quotes again to start housing federal inmates.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Commissioners to sign a Financial Commitment letter for CCMG. Ron Jarman moved to sign the Financial Commitment letter for CCMG. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Commissioners on the 2024 General Financial Services Contract with FSG. Corp. Ron Jarman moved to approve the 2024 General Financial Services Contract. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Commissioners for multiple public official bonds. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve and sign

the public official bonds. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice reminded the Commissioners PHI is wanting information for a press release to the community regarding time and place of pick up for the cards. Ron Jarman advised he would get Jason to help with this information.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested how the Commissioners would like to proceed with the Values from McGowan Insurance. Ron Jarman had inquired on the cost of increasing the values ten million more for a total cost of \$10,000.00 per year. Kenny Aulbach moved to raise the value of the insurance by ten million. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried. Ron Jarman moved to approve the addendum to the values from McGowan Insurance. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Commissioners that soil samples had been received on the county farm ground.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Commissioners to not sign the County Farm Contract due to it not being the correct copy.
- Ron Jarman discussed with the Commissioners his concern that Henry County uses Travelers Insurance, and they will be without liability insurance for their law enforcement. Jarman stated Josh Estell from McGowan Insurance doesn't believe this will be an issue for us.
- Mark Bacon updated the Commissioners regarding the boilers and heat exchanges in the courthouse. Bacon has been working with QPH to get heat exchanges fixed. Quotes were received by QPH and Choice Mechanical. Suggestions were made by QPH to have a water softener system installed and start testing the water monthly to get the correct chemical balance to eliminate future boiler issues. Mark Bacon recommended setting up a schedule with Chargon for water testing.
- Thomas Barkley of Common Wealth Engineers spoke with the Commissioners regarding the town of Glenwood's water issues. Barkley is seeking a commitment from Rush County to approve a zero percent interest loan up to \$350,000.00 which would require six (6) partners. Melissa Meltzer from the crowd asked for clarification as to why the County Council was asked for \$300,000.00. Barkley stated \$300,000.00 would be five (5) required partners. The Commissioners asked some questions before Mark Bacon stated they would take it under advisement until further information is received.

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