

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS January 29, 2024

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 29, 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 16, 2024, were presented. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve the minutes. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for January 29, 2024, in the amount of \$237,227.84 were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for February 2, 2024, in the amount of \$242,034.18 was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD OF FINANCE

- Jodi Harr presented the minutes of the Board of Finance meeting held on January 16, 2024. Ron Jarman made the motion to approve the minutes. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Kenny Aulbach moved to appoint Treasurer Susan Spaeth as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr asked permission from the Commissioners to advertise for a part-time deputy in the Treasurer's office and a full-time probation officer in Court Services. Ron Jarman moved to advertise for both positions. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners the annual health fair will take place on April 3, 2024.
- Tony Personett thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to be the human resource director for the county over the past five (5) years.

SENIOR CENTER

- Interim Director Jack Harmon presented the Commissioners with the 2023 4th quarter report for approval. Ron Jarman moved to approve the 2023 4th quarter report. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Interim Director Jack Harmon updated the Commissioners regarding a rebates program for fuel. Harmon also advised the Commissioners the center is applying for a grant for a new lift on one of the vehicles.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested permission from the Commissioners to apply for the 2024/2025 PHEP Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is for a part-time position of Emergency Preparedness and Preparedness functions. Ron Jarman moved to apply for the 2024/2025 PHEP Grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Chuck Kemker advised the Commissioners that FEMA is requiring \$2,500.00 to obtain documents needed to move forward with the BRIC Grant. Kemker asked how the Commissioners would like to proceed. Ron Jarman made a motion to move forward obtaining the required documents up to \$2,500.00. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer advised the Commissioners she had hired a public health nurse. Meyer also advised that immunization clinics will start for both children and adults.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Commissioners to sign Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with United Consulting for bridge 94. The only amendments to the 2022 contract are the dates. Ron Jarman moved to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 1. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton updated the Commissioners regarding the closing of the first covered bridge beginning June 3, 2024, and going through November 2024.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Commissioners to hire Todd North as a driver. Ron Jarman moved to hire North. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman inquired from Superintendent Sitton when the bridge in Milroy is scheduled to come down. Sitton advised that he currently cannot get it scheduled and advised that the project may need to be bid out and a contractor hired to remove the structure.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners on the 2023 financial totals for his department.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners there are currently 44 inmates being housed at the jail.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners he had to terminate an employee for violation of rules. He filled this position from the part-time employees that were available.

MISC

- David Willkie gave the Commissioners an overview of the 2023 5 in 50 bike ride and presented the Commissioners with a \$2,000.00 donation for the covered bridge fund. Willkie also asked the Commissioners for permission to hold the 2024 annual 5 in 50 bike ride on September 21, 2024. Ron

Jarman moved to allow the 2024 annual 5 in 50 bike ride. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Representatives from Envoy advised the Commissioners a proposal for the courthouse renovations and information regarding choosing an architect had been sent to Ron Jarman.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Cash Farm Rental Contract for approval and signatures. Ron Jarman moved to approve and sign the contract. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman advised the Commissioners he will be attending a meeting with the Anderson Township Sewer District.
- Ron Jarman started a discussion regarding the need to put together a study group/committee for the 3rd floor renovations that would consist of both judges and prosecutor. Mark Bacon felt like a committee is the proper way to go to get the project started. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to put an exploratory committee together for the 3rd floor consisting of both judges, prosecutor, public defender, one (1) commissioner and two (2) councilmen. Ron Jarman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Melissa Meltzer from the crowd inquired about how reconfiguring the 3rd floor would affect the 2nd floor. Ron Jarman stated they would have to revisit the plans.
- Mark Bacon updated the Commissioners regarding the boilers and heat exchanges in the courthouse. Bacon had obtained a quote for preventative maintenance on the water testing in the courthouse.
- Mark Bacon advised the Commissioners the generator had been reprogrammed and it was suggested that preventative maintenance be done on the generator. Bacon has a quote on a three (3) year contract but will get additional information. Ron Jarman posed the question to County Attorney Leigh Morning if funds from the roof bond could be used to purchase a new generator since it is located outside. Morning will check into this and get back to the Commissioners.

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