

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

### **May 17, 2024**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Friday, May 17, 2024, with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Kenny Aulbach and Ron Jarman present. Auditor Tammy Justice was also present. County Attorney Leigh Morning was not 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 6, 2024, were presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CLAIMS**

- Accounts Payable claims for May 17, 2024, in the amount of \$254,321.24 were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **PAYROLL**

- Payroll for May 24, 2024, in the amount of \$251,955.37 was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners the health insurance committee recommends continuing coverage with Spectrum for the stop loss policy and UMR for the TPA. They also recommend keeping the employee and employer premiums the same for 2025 and to not withhold premiums on November 22, 2024, and December 6, 2024, for both employee and employer. Ron Jarman moved to accept the health insurance committee recommendations. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried. Ron Jarman moved to approve and sign the aggregate coverage. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners the dental rates have not changed in three (3) years, however, for 2025 the rate is going to increase 9.72%.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners 21 of the 30 out of county employees have accepted the PHI air ambulance coverage offered. Harr also advised the Commissioners the national coverage for PHI air ambulance was upgraded for all county residents at no additional charge.

### **TREASURER**

- Treasurer Susan Spaeth advised the Commissioners the April monthly report was emailed to them.
- Treasurer Susan Spaeth advised the Commissioners that 93% of property taxes have been collected.

## **HIGHWAY**

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton recommends the Commissioners accept the Community Crossing Bid from Pavement Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$607,890.95. Sitton advised the Commissioners that the lowest bidder was SC Construction and Materials, however, they were not the most responsive bidder. Under IC 8-23-10-0.5(d) a bidder does not have to be pre-qualified by the State if the project is under \$300,000.00. This project is over that threshold, so the bidders must be pre-qualified. The next lowest bidder was Champaign Asphalt. Under the rules from INDOT, a company must be prequalified, and bid submitted under same name. Champaign Asphalt is not qualified for chip and seal work; however, their sister company is. Therefore, they are not a responsive bidder. Out of the other two (2) bidders, Globe Asphalt Paving and Pavement Solutions, which are both prequalified by INDOT, Pavement Solutions was the lowest bidder. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to accept the bid from Pavement Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$607,890.95. Ron Jarman inquired from Sitton how long it takes a company to get prequalified by the State, stating he would hate to lose over \$100,000.00. After discussing, Ron Jarman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach advised Superintendent Jerry Sitton that he had received an email from Mark English regarding his dissatisfaction on the number of workers and trucks used to patch roads. Sitton advised it does take multiple trucks and eight (8) workers on a crew. Sitton also stated property tax dollars do not fund the Highway department. His funding comes directly from the State.

## **SHERIFF**

- Sheriff Allan Rice gave the Commissioners a vehicle update.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners of heating and air conditioning issues at the jail.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners regarding legislation on DOC inmates and fees associated.

## **AUDITOR**

- Auditor Tammy Justice asked the Commissioners where they would like the \$1,362.00 for the PHI air ambulance for out of county employees paid from. Ron Jarman moved to pay the \$1,362.00 out of the county general insurance line. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **MISC**

- John McCane updated the Commissioners on Diamond Pet Food, Love Community Center and READI. McCane also advised the Commissioners Trane had approached the City Council regarding an abatement.
- Councilman Charlie Smith spoke to the Commissioners regarding the federal overtime mandate on wages. Smith stated the EMA position along with the stipend from the health department will have that position making more than elected officials and most sheriff deputies. Unfortunately, the only way to avoid this would be to make the EMA position part-time. Ron Jarman asked if the Council made any recommendations regarding the EMA position. Smith stated there was no recommendation to make. Smith also stated the Council recommended raising wages for elected officials and the exempt employees at the Highway department by 6%.

- Chris Boone with QPH was present to discuss the chiller issues at the courthouse with the Commissioners. Boone is questioning if the chiller is part of the contract. Boone also stated with all the truck traffic on first street, the coils are getting clogged more frequently and may need to be cleaned three (3) to four (4) times per year. Boone advised the Commissioners that Glycol was being put in and courthouse filter issues were discussed.

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