

## **REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS November 18, 2024**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 18, 2024, with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman and Kenny Aulbach present. County Attorney Leigh Morning was also present. Auditor Tammy Justice was present by phone.

Mark Bacon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the American Flag and afterwards read the I Speak statement to the public.

### **MINUTES**

- Minutes of the Regular Session held on November 4, 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 November 18, 2024, in the amount of \$188,526.51, were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **PAYROLL**

- Payroll for November 22, 2024, in the amount of \$251,226.23, was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **EXTENSION**

- Carly Holland presented the Commissioners with the Extension Contractual Services Agreement with Purdue University for approval. Holland advised that the agreement would need to be signed before the Ag & Natural Resources and Community Development position could be posted and filled. Ron Jarman inquired if the contract could be written for two (2) salaries and not include the Ag & Natural Resources and Community Development position. Holland advised the agreement could be rewritten. Ron Jarman tabled signing the Contractual Services Agreement with Purdue University. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER**

- Treasurer Susan Spaeth advised the Commissioners the October monthly report had been sent to them.
- Treasurer Susan Spaeth updated the Commissioners on the fall tax collections and settlement.

### **EMA**

- Director Chuck Kemker advised the Commissioners there were measures in place to get power to the first floor of the courthouse for IT in case of power outages.

### **AREA PLAN**

- Director Mike Holzback presented the Commissioners with a recommendation from the Area Plan Commission to extend the current moratorium on commercial solar installations for 12 months or until January 1, 2026. Ron Jarman moved to deny the recommendation for a 12-month

extension and in turn recommended a six (6) month extension good until July 1, 2025, to the Area Plan Commission. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Director Mike Holzback presented the Commissioners with a recommendation from the Area Plan Commission to amend the Rush County Zoning ordinance section 6.3.6 language definition (h) Commercial solar (e) Secondary solar. After discussion it was determined more clarification was needed. Ron Jarman denied the request to change the definition and asked Area Plan Commission for more information. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m. the Commissioners opened the following bids for the Fiber Optics

- Galloway Group
  - Duraline FuturePath 7Way 16/12 MM Ribbed Microduct W/2 Ripcords & #20 AWG Copper Locate Wire, 4000' per reel, 132,000 feet @ \$1.25 per ft. Total \$165,000.00
  - Duraline FuturePath 7Way 12.7/10 MM Ribbed Microduct E/W 2 Ripcords & 1 #20 AWG Locate Wire, 4000' per reel, 132,000 feet @ \$ .98 per ft. Total \$129,360.00
- Terry-Durin Company
  - Item #1, M071OR-H1-RC-T20N 7Way 16/12, 132,000 feet @ \$1.00 per ft. Total with tax \$141,240.00
  - Alternate A, M071OR-N1-RC-T20N 7Way 12/10, 132,000 feet @ \$ .580 per ft. Total with tax \$81,919.20
  - Alternate B, FuturePath 7Way 12.7/10, 132,000 feet @ \$ .850 per ft. Total with tax \$120,054.00
  - Alternate C, FuturePath 7way 16/12, 132,000 feet @ \$1.15 per ft. Total with tax \$162,426.00
- National Conduit Supply
  - Item #1, Microduct 7-Way 49.4 mm ID (50.8 OD) Microduct fiber conduit with locate wire; 6,500' reel, 132,000 feet @ \$.847 per ft. Total \$111,804.00
  - Alt. A To Item #1, Microduct 7-Way 37.4 mm ID (38.8 mm OD) Microduct fiber conduit with locate wire; 5,000' reel, 132,000 feet @ \$.5951 per ft. Total \$78,553.20
  - Alt. B To Item #1, Duraline FuturePath Conduit 7-Way fiber conduit with locate wire 12.7/10 mm Microduct; 6,000' reel, 132,000 feet @ \$1.134 per ft. Total \$149,688.00
  - Alt. C To Item #2, Duraline FuturePath Conduit 7-Way fiber conduit with locate wire 12/16 mm Microduct; 5,000' reel, 132,000 feet @ \$1.5228 per ft. Total \$201,009.60

Ron Jarman moved to table bids. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Commissioner meeting resumed at 9:45 a.m.

## **HIGHWAY**

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested permission from the Commissioners to advertise for the CCMG bids, with bids being opened at 9:30 a.m. on December 30, 2024. Ron Jarman moved to advertise for the CCMG bids and open on December 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **SHERIFF**

- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners on training for the department.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners the newly hired road deputy would be going to the academy on January 6, 2025.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners regarding a breaker/compressor issue at the jail, warranty will cover the replacement.

## **AUDITOR**

- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Commissioners with the Cyber Liability Insurance Renewal Application for approval. Ron Jarman moved to approve and sign the application. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **MISC**

- Councilman Charlie Smith inquired where the Commissioners were planning on paying for the purchase of the building at 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Smith advised it was too late to do an additional appropriation, and they would need to go through the ARPA committee if they wanted to utilize ARPA funds. Smith stated it didn't look like broadband would be meeting the required deadline for the use of ARPA funds. Ron Jarman wanted to clarify that a letter would be going out to four (4) vendors and interviews done to invest in fiber for Rush County. Jarman believes that the December deadline for the ARPA funds can still be met. Ron Jarman asked Councilman Smith if the Council has any thoughts on where to pay for the purchase of the building. Smith advised there were several council members that did not want to purchase that building specifically. Mark Bacon advised there were several reasons why they wanted to purchase that building, one being the Health Department needed a new location and secondly offices would need relocated during the renovation of the courthouse. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised they do not have a signed purchase agreement and that it could be 2025 before payment is needed for the purchase. Discussion was held regarding the 620 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street property. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised she had not heard from Steve Sickbert or the realtor. Kenny Aulbach stated the current occupant was going to exercise their right to the property. Councilman Smith advised we needed to recoup the appraisal fees that were paid out for 620 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Discussion was held regarding using courthouse bond proceeds to pay for the 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street building along with how soon an additional appropriation could be done in 2025.
- Councilman Charlie Smith advised the Commissioners as a councilman and farmer, he is not in favor of filling the Ag & Natural Resources and Community Development position in the Extension Office.
- Mark Bacon advised the Commissioners he had received a quote for \$3,797.46 to repair the courthouse generator. Bacon is going to see if the

damage to the generator was caused by a lightning strike earlier in the year, if so, it will be turned into insurance. Ron Jarman advised that a generator for the whole courthouse is needed, not just for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Mark Bacon also stated that the Health Department would need a generator when they relocate. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve and pay the estimate for the generator. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Ron Jarman requested approval from the Commissioners to send out letters to four (4) vendors regarding Fiber interviews on December 9, 2024. After the interview on December 9<sup>th</sup>, a special session of the commissioners will be called to decide on a vendor. Kenny Aulbach moved to send letters and hold interviews on December 9, 2024. Mark Bacon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman advised the Commissioners he is in agreeance with Councilman Charlie Smith regarding not filling the Ag & Natural Resources and Community Development position in the Extension Office.
- The Commissioners requested an update from Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton on the 1<sup>st</sup> Covered Bridge.

Ron Jarman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/Mark Bacon/  
Mark Bacon, Chairman

/Ron Jarman/  
Ron Jarman

/Kenny Aulbach/  
Kenny Aulbach

ATTEST:

/Heather Carlton/  
Heather Carlton, Auditor Assistant