

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS December 16, 2024

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 16, 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 December 2, 2024, were presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the Special Session held on December 9, 2024, were presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the Special Session held on December 11, 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 December 16, 2024, in the amount of \$612,724.33, were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for December 20, 2024, in the amount of \$249,652.95, was presented. Ron Jarman moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JRAC

- Judge Brian Hill requested permission from the Commissioners to allow up to \$2,500.00 of the Opioid funds for crisis prevention training the first part of 2025. Ron Jarman moved to allow up to \$2,500.00 for the training. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Judge Brian Hill advised the Commissioners that drug court members must complete community service to graduate and that a current graduating member has opted to do a blood drive, and the mobile unit would be parked on the east side of the jail in front of Tweedy's.

SENIOR CENTER

- Director Angela Cavaletto requested permission from the Commissioners to apply for the Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant in the amount of \$211,068.00 with a County match of \$10,000.00. Ron Jarman moved to apply for the Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Angela Cavaletto updated the Commissioners on the option to purchase another vehicle with an 85/15 grant. Cavaletto advised runs had increased with the new wheelchair ramp van.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr requested approval from the Commissioners on a modification to the Rush County Employees Health Plan. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the modification. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Jodi Harr requested the Commissioners approve Ordinance No. 2024-9 An Ordinance Adopting the County of Rush, Indiana Amended Personnel Policies Handbook. Ron Jarman moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-9. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER

- Treasurer Susan Spaeth advised the Commissioners the November 2024 monthly report had been emailed to them.
- Treasurer Susan Spaeth updated the Commissioners regarding the Fall 2024 Settlement.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the Commissioners roll over Rush County Stone's 2024 annual pricing to the 2025 annual bid. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the roll over. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Commissioners on an updated Nicotine policy for the jail. The new policy would include the use of Nicotine pouches for inmates which would be controlled by the correction officers. After a trial period, the pouches would be placed on the commissary list for purchase. Ron Jarman moved to table the approval of the Nicotine policy.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners that Chief Deputy Josh Brinson has stepped down effective 01.01.2025 and Doug Keith would be filling that vacancy. Deputy Shawn Smallwood would be retiring in January 2025 as detective and Clay Ratliff would be replacing him. With these changes, that will leave two (2) Sergeant positions open.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners on damage sustained to the 2024 K9 Durango during a recent storm.
- Sheriff Allan Rice reminded the Commissioners the Seconded Annual Meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus will take place at the jail on December 20, 2024, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton requested the Commissioners approve Ordinance No. 2024-10 An Ordinance Adopting a Capital Improvement Plan for Rush County. Ron Jarman moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-10. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton requested the Commissioners approve a Lease for the Veteran's Service Office. The Lease would be entered into by American Legion Post #150 as Landlord and the Rush County Veteran's Service Officer by and through the Board of Commissioners as Tenant. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the lease for the Veteran's Service Office. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Commissioners with an Agreement Between Rush County, Indiana and NineStar Communications for approval. Ron Jarman moved to table the Agreement to review changes submitted by NineStar.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton requested the Commissioners make a formal motion regarding the BOT process with Envoy. Ron Jarman moved to table until December 30, 2024, to allow newly elected Commissioner Jeff Wilson time to be informed on the process. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ARPA

- Ron Jarman made a motion on the recommendation from the ARPA Committee to move \$21,009.61 from the Hunt Road Project, Community Center and Comprehensive Plan budget lines into the Broadband line for a total of \$1,126,009.61 to be contracted and invoiced. Kenny Aulbach seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Commissioners with the Fifth Amended Ordinance 2021-11 Establishing the Spending Plan for Funds Received from the American Rescue Plan in Fund #8950. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve Ordinance 2021-11. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- Judge Brian Hill requested permission to work with Dustin Case to close off the spiral staircase and put a door up in the Circuit Court area to serve as a sound barrier at a cost of around \$1,200.00. Ron Jarman moved to approve the wall and door being put in. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Josh Estell from McGowan Insurance advised the Commissioners that Bliss McKnight has declined the property insurance quote. Estell advised that Traveler's has an overall premium increase of 9%. The Commissioners requested Estell quote the insurance renewal on both a \$10,000.00 and \$25,000.00 deductible and get back with them. Ron Jarman moved to approve Traveler's insurance renewal with the stipulation of a different deductible. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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