

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in a special session Friday, December 20, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. with Commissioners Mark Bacon, Ron Jarman and Kenny Aulbach present. Also in attendance was County Attorney Leigh Morning. Auditor Tammy Justice was present by phone.

Commissioner Mark Bacon called the special session to order and read the IRead card for the public.

The purpose of the special session was to discuss the NineStar contract as well as broadband conduit and the purchase agreement for the Senior Center building located at 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Rushville as well as recouping the appraisal fees for Dr. Sickbert's office located at 620 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Rushville. The meeting was properly advertised.

### **NINESTAR**

- Ron Jarman advised that with the Lilly Gift VIII being awarded it would be beneficial to invest more in broadband and has negotiated twelve (12) additional strands of fiber for twenty (20) years with no monthly fees. After twenty (20) years, those twelve (12) strands would cost the county \$1,000.00 per year. Ron Jarman moved to sign the agreement with NineStar. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CONDUIT**

- Discussion was held regarding the remaining funds in the ARPA fund and the benefit of purchasing more conduit or granting more to the Rush County Community Foundation. Ron Jarman moved to earmark \$87,431.61 to the Rush County Community Foundation as a grant for broadband. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **SENIOR CENTER**

- Kenny Aulbach advised that it would be the county's responsibility to order inspections of the building located at 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Rushville. The Commissioners agreed they would like a structural inspection completed. Ron Jarman moved to pay up to \$200.00 to Dustin Case for the inspection at 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Rushville. Mark Bacon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Commissioners with the purchase agreement for the Senior Center building located at 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Rushville. Ron Jarman moved to sign the purchase agreement in the amount of \$200,000.00 subject to structural inspection by Dustin Case. Seconded by Mark Bacon. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- County Council President Charlie Smith advised the Commissioners he felt it would be prudent of the County to try to obtain the additional ground owned by the railroad company that is adjacent to this property. Ron Jarman advised the process has already started.

### **DR. SICKBERT'S OFFICE**

- Ron Jarman moved to have County Attorney Leigh Morning send a letter to Dr. Sickbert requesting the appraisal fees paid by the County to be returned. Seconded by Mark Bacon. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ron Jarman moved 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:  
/Tammy Justice/  
Tammy Justice, Auditor