

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS January 27, 2025

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 27, 2025, with Commissioners Ron Jarman, Kenny Aulbach and Jeffery Wilson present. Auditor Tammy Justice was also present.

Ron Jarman 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 January 13, 2025, were presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for January 27, 2025, in the amount of \$779,465.37 were presented, which included payment of \$200,000.00 for the purchase of the Senior Citizens Center located at 504 W. 3rd Street, Rushville. Jeffery Wilson made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for January 31, 2025, in the amount of \$268,946.31, was presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

- Director Angela Cavaletto presented the Commissioners with the 4th quarter reports of 2024 for approval. Jeffery Wilson made a motion to approve the reports. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to recess the Regular Commissioner meeting and open the Board of Finance was made by Jeffery Wilson at 9:14 a.m. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD OF FINANCE

- Treasurer Susan Spaeth presented the Commissioners with the minutes of the Board of Finance meeting held on January 13, 2025, for approval. Jeffery Wilson moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting and reconvene the regular Commissioner meeting at 9:16 a.m. was made by Kenny Aulbach. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with a GIS Data Sharing Agreement with Lochmueller Group Inc. for geodatabase files, if not available then shapefiles for approval. Jeffery Wilson moved to approve the GIS Data Sharing Agreement. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2025 APPOINTMENTS

- Community Correction Board – Letter of interest was received by Heather Carlton and Carole Yeend. Motion was made by Jeffery Wilson to appoint Heather Carlton and reappoint Carole Yeend to the Community Correction Board. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Board – Letter of interest for reappointment was received by Carole Yeend. Kenny Aulbach moved to reappoint Carole Yeend to the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Board. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
Commissioners will reach out to John McCane for his interest in serving on the board. Kenny Aulbach moved to appoint Jeffery Wilson to hold the commissioner spot on the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Board. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Area Plan Commission – Jeffery Wilson moved to leave Kenny Aulbach as commissioner on the APC. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- County Attorney – Two letters of interest were received by Geoff Wesling and Grant Reeves to fill the vacated county attorney position. Jeffery Wilson moved to appoint Grant Reeves as county attorney. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- EMA Advisory Board – Jeffery Wilson volunteered to fill the commissioner spot.
- LEPC Board – Jeffery Wilson volunteered to fill the commissioner spot.
- Rush County Redevelopment Commission – Jeffery Wilson volunteered to fill the commissioner spot.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach advised the Commissioners that the personnel committee had no recommendation regarding the requested snow days from the Sheriff and Highway Departments. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the requested additional days. With a lack of a second, the motion died. Jeffery Wilson stated his disagreement with the request since the personnel policy verbiage states “facility”. Wilson went on to state he does not think each department is the same when it comes to the closing of facilities. Jeffery Wilson moved to leave the current personnel policy the same with the Highway and Sheriff Departments not receiving extra days for closures. Ron Jarman seconded. Kenny Aulbach opposed. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr discussed with the Commissioners their interest in putting an insert regarding the PHI Air Ambulance in with property tax bills letting Rush County residents know about this benefit. Treasurer Susan Spaeth is looking into the cost of doing an insert. Jeffery Wilson advised it would be a good idea to do an insert with tax statements but also put the information out to the county through social media as well in order to reach all residents of Rush County.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners there is a high school student participating in the Community Service class at Rushville Consolidated High School and will be working in the Prosecutor’s office. There is no cost or wages being paid by the county for this.

- Director Jodi Harr updated the Commissioners regarding her first year as HR Director and advised she was in the process of scheduling the annual county health fair for April 2025.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners she was trying to build morale within the courthouse and give back to the community with a “Soup”er Bowl party on February 7, 2025. Proceeds from the entry fees and donations made by employees will be given to the Rush County Animal Shelter. Harr invited the Commissioners to come on February 7th and taste employees’ soups during their lunch hour.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Commissioners he has two new deputies along with a new city deputy in basic training class at the sheriff department.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Commissioners on 2024 stats for the jail.
- Commissioner Jeffery Wilson asked Sheriff Rice for clarification on the total number of inmates compared to what the sheriff app states. Sheriff Rice advised the app does not take into account inmates housed in other facilities.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with his 2024 service record for approval. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve and sign the service record. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Chuck Kemker requested permission from the Commissioners to apply for the 2025-2026 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (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. Jeffery Wilson moved to apply for the 2025-2026 PHEP grant. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with a Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement with INDOT for Community Crossings for approval. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the agreement with INDOT. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with an agreement between Rush County Commissioners and Dave O’Mara Contractor Inc. for approval. Jeffery Wilson moved to approve the agreement with Dave O’Mara Contractor Inc. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton updated the Commissioners on the covered bridge progress.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- Commissioner Jeffery Wilson moved to sign the sales disclosure for the purchase of 504 W. 3rd Street, Rushville. Seconded by Ron Jarman. Kenny Aulbach abstained. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding insurance at 504 W. 3rd Street, Rushville. Auditor Tammy Justice informed the Commissioners they needed to respond

to the email from Josh Estelle with McGowans Ins. with any questions or requests about insuring the property.

MISC

- David Willkie gave the Commissioners an overview of the 2024 5 in 50 bike ride and presented the Commissioners with a \$2,000.00 donation for the covered bridge fund along with an additional \$100.00. Willkie thanked Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton for power sweeping over 60 miles of county roads for the riders. Willkie also asked the Commissioners for permission to hold the 2025 annual 5 in 50 bike ride in the county. Jeffery Wilson moved to allow the 2025 annual 5 in 50 bike ride. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried. Willkie asked the Commissioners what it would take for at least one of them to be present for the start of the ride or be in one of the small towns to see the riders pass through.
- Victoria Bechert with Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) requested permission from the Commissioners to move forward with a grant application for owner occupied rehab of property through OCRA with no match from the county. Jeff Wilson moved to start the grant application process. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried. Auditor Tammy Justice informed Ms. Bechert she would have to follow the Rush County Grant procedures.
- Daniel Vaughn, President of Malcon Indiana, presented the Commissioners with a proposal for monthly IV-D contracting services for the Rush County Clerk and Rush County Prosecutor in the amount of \$650.00, which is a decrease of \$100.00 from the previous agreement. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve and sign the IV-D contracting service agreements. Seconded by Jeffery Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Commissioners they had received a thank you note from Michelle Herbert on her appointment to the Rush Memorial Hospital Board.

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

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

/Kenny Aulbach/
Kenny Aulbach

/Jeffery Wilson/
Jeffery Wilson

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor