

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS February 10, 2025

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 10, 2025, with Commissioners Ron Jarman, Kenny Aulbach and Jeff Wilson present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Grant Reeves were 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 27, 2025, were presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts Payable claims for February 10, 2025, in the amount of \$215,190.67 were presented. Jeff Wilson made a motion to approve the claims. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for February 14, 2025, in the amount of \$263,033.59, was presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the payroll claims. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT

- Judge Brian Hill advised the Commissioners he had received a letter from Curt Mock requesting reappointment on the Community Corrections Board as an ex-offender. Judge Hill also discussed with the Commissioners their appointment of Victim Advocate, County Council, Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Officer, Educational Administrator and Mental Health Administrator per statute to the board.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested permission from the Commissioners to apply for the BRIC 2024 grant in the amount of \$16,842,500.00 with a match of \$4,210,625.00. The purpose of the grant is for the restoration of Hodges Branch and Stormwater improvement in Rushville. The match amount is to be split 50/50 between Rush County and the City of Rushville over a five (5) year period. Kenny Aulbach moved to apply for the BRIC 2024 grant. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Chuck Kemker presented the Commissioners with a letter of support for the FEMA 2024 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Fiduciary Commitment for approval. Jeff Wilson moved to sign the BRIC grant letter of support. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Chuck Kemker requested permission from the Commissioners to apply for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) grant in the amount of \$28,304.56 with a match of \$9,448.60 of funds or in-kind. The purpose of the grant is for updating the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan which must be done every five (5) years to be eligible for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. Kemker also requested the Commissioners

sign a letter of intent for the MHMP. Kenny Aulbach moved to apply for the MHMP grant and sign the letter of intent. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Commissioners with an invoice from the Rush County Chamber for their membership in the amount of \$1,000.00. Justice advised the Commissioners this is currently not budgeted, and funds will need to be moved if they wish to pay the invoice. Ron Jarman feels this shows the county's support by continuing the membership. Jeff Wilson moved to pay the \$1,000.00 for membership and move the funds to pay the invoice. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer advised the Commissioners the jail nurse is willing to take their old vaccine refrigerator eliminating the need to donate it.
- Dixie Meyer advised the Commissioners an email will be going out regarding programs utilizing the Health First Funds.
- Dixie Meyer discussed with the Commissioners the layout of the building at 504 W. 3rd Street for both the health department and extension office.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr advised the Commissioners the cost of placing a mailer with tax statements for the PHI air ambulance would be \$380.00. Jeff Wilson moved to include the mailer with tax statements. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried. Director Jodi Harr requested the Commissioners pay for the mailer out of their budget.
- Director Jodi Harr requested approval from the Commissioners to hire a part-time jail administrator. Kenny Aulbach moved to hire a part-time jail administrator. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Chief Deputy Doug Keith updated the Commissioners regarding staffing of merit deputies.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton presented the Commissioners with the January Highway Reports.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton updated the Commissioners on the covered bridge progress.

MISC

- ECDC Director John McCane updated the Commissioners on finalization of the Love Community Center and discussed the possibility of the center being a YMCA. McCane also updated the Commissioners on possible READI II projects.
- Chris May with the Rush County Community Foundation for SIRPC requested the Commissioners sign the grant proposal for Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$350,000.00 with the \$125,000.00 match being paid through Lilly Gift VII funds. Commissioners approved applying for the grant at their previous meeting, this is ratifying the county

grant proposal form. Kenny Aulbach moved to sign the grant proposal. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- County Attorney Grant Reeves along with the Commissioners held a conference call with Jimmy Shannahan and Jason Grubbs to discuss Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Dairy in Anderson Township. The purpose of the bond would be for tax break benefits for the dairy. There would be no local obligation for the county. All legal fees will be taken care of by the dairy even if the deal does not close. County Attorney Grant Reeves advised the Commissioners that there is a statutory function of the County to establish an Economic Development Commission which would require the Commissioners to appoint a member to the EDC. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to contingently appoint Jeff Wilson to the Economic Development Commission. Ron Jarman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Aaron Miller with WATCH Communications requested the Commissioners sign a letter of support to help them with their application to build out fiber through the BEAD grant. The Commissioners expressed their concern about why WATCH waited till the last minute to ask for the letter of support.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Commissioners that Comcast and Ninestar have also requested letters of support from the Commissioners on their applications for the BEAD grant. After much discussion, Kenny Aulbach moved to sign the letter of support for WATCH Communications. Seconded by Ron Jarman. All were in favor. Motion carried. Kenny Aulbach moved to sign the letter of support for Ninestar. Seconded by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried. Jeff Wilson moved to sign the letter of support for Comcast. Seconded by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

/Kenny Aulbach/
Kenny Aulbach

/Jeffery Wilson/
Jeffery Wilson

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor