

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 23, 2026

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 23, 2026, with Commissioners Ron Jarman, Jeff Wilson and Kenny Aulbach present. Auditor Tammy Justice was also present. County Attorney Grant Reeves was not present.

Ron Jarman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge to the American Flag.

MINUTES

- Minutes of the Regular Session held on March 9, 2026, were presented. Jeff Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second, by Ron Jarman. Kenny Aulbach abstained. Motion carried.
- Minutes of the Joint Special Session with the Council held on March 12, 2026, were presented. Kenny Aulbach made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- Accounts payable claims for March 23, 2026, in the amount of \$251,534.53 were presented. Jeff Wilson moved to approve the claims. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

- Payroll for March 27, 2026, in the amount of \$270,267.84 was presented. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve the payroll claims. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens provided the Commissioners with the Community Corrections annual report for 2025. Stevens discussed cuts made to grants by the state for 2026 as well as 2027.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested the Commissioners approval of a letter of support that will accompany three (3) of the grants she is applying for. Jeff Wilson moved to approve and sign the letter of support. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants – Community Corrections Grant in the amount of \$266,577.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to increase public safety through recidivism reduction by supporting cost efficient supervision, treatment, and programs as an alternative to incarceration. Jeff Wilson moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants – Drug Court Grant in the amount of \$99,875.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to probation departments, court recidivism reduction programs, prosecutor diversion programs, and jails with mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for those that target moderate and high-risk Level 6 felony offenders and provide

evidence-based programming. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the IOCS Pretrial Grants CY 2027 in the amount of \$113,031.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified pretrial service agencies or those in the planning stages pursuant to IC 35-33-8 and the Pretrial Service Rules. Jeff Wilson moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the IOCS Pretrial Grants CY 2027 in the amount of \$113,031.00 with no county match. The purpose of the is to provide financial assistance to certified pretrial service agencies or those in the planning stages pursuant to IC 35-33-8 and the Pretrial Service Rules. Jeff Wilson moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the 2027 IOCS Problem Solving Courts Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified problem-solving courts established pursuant to IC 33-23-16 and the Indiana Problem-Solving Court Rules and as adopted by the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Major Doug Keith requested approval from the Commissioners to apply for the Local Coordinating Council (LCC) Grant in the amount of \$5,246.95 with no county match. The purpose of the grant will be to provide funding for equipment to be utilized for drug investigations/surveillance with the overall goal of reducing drug use/dealing. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr reminded the Commissioners the county's annual health fair is April 1, 2026.
- Ron Jarman advised he had received several calls from employees that were appreciative of the longevity pay as well as the new life insurance offered to employees. Jarman stated it is nice to hear the good, not only the bad that they often hear.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker advised the Commissioners of issues with weather alerts being sent out by Nixel during severe weather. Kemker stated Nixel cannot fix the issue at this time and recommended switching companies. Ron Jarman asked Kemker how we can be certain changing companies will fix the issue since we have changed companies several times in the past. Jeff Wilson requested Kemker see what vendor surrounding counties are using. Ron Jarman would like Kemker to get quotes from other companies as well. Major Doug Keith will get the current contract with Nixel for Ron Jarman. Jeff Wilson made a motion to allow Ron Jarman the ability to sign

the termination letter with Nixel due to time restraints before the next meeting. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- Cambria Sparks, Veterans Affairs District Service Officer, discussed the County Veterans Service Office Accreditations Standards with the Commissioners. Sparks went over new legislation that set standards for all veteran service officers to stay accredited. Sparks went over the current compliance and non-compliance of Veteran Service Officer Dannon Todd addressing the employment status of Todd being non-compliant. Todd must be an employee of the county to be compliant. Rush County has until June 30, 2026, to be compliant.
- Ron Jarman presented the Commissioners with Resolution 2026-3 a Resolution Adopting Fee Schedule for the Rush County Area Planning Commission and Rush County Board of Zoning Appeals for approval. Kenny Aulbach moved to approve Resolution 2026-3. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman advised the Commissioners that a conflict-of-interest disclosure statement had been submitted by Scott Barnes for S.D Barnes Construction for their approval. Jeff Wilson moved to accept the conflict-of-interest disclosure statement. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman presented the Commissioners with proposals from N & S Cleaning for the 2026 lawn pricing for the Courthouse, Jail and Annex for approval. Jeff Wilson moved to approve the proposals. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman requested approval from the Commissioners to advertise for a public hearing on April 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. concerning the recommendation to award a public-private agreement for the development, construction, operation, and transfer of improvement projects located at the Rush County Health Department Annex Building. Jeff Wilson moved to advertise for an April 6, 2026, Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman gave a fiber update to the Commissioners.
- Ron Jarman inquired about the volunteer fire department radios. EMA Director Chuck Kemker said those radios were part of a grant he had applied for and he had not heard of the status of the grant.
- Jeff Wilson updated the Commissioners on the current blight projects.
- Jeff Wilson advised the Commissioners he had been contacted to attend a meeting in the southern part of the county regarding concerned citizens and data centers.
- Kenny Aulbach advised the Commissioners he would be researching data centers in Virginia and bring that information back.
- Ron Jarman publicly thanked Marvin Rees for his many years of service to Rush County and the citizens of Rush County.

Jeff Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. motion carried.

/Ron Jarman/
Ron Jarman

/Kenny Aulbach/
Kenny Aulbach

/Jeff Wilson/
Jeffery Wilson

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/

Tammy Justice, Auditor