

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 27, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the July 13th meeting were approved on a motion Mark Bacon. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JAIL CONSTURCTION

The Architectural/Engineering firm of RQAW represented by Senior Vice President, Joseph Mrak appeared to express their interest in the design for the Rush County Jail. RQAW have performed feasibility studies and design in 42 of Indiana's 92 counties. Mr. Mrak shared that a former jail administrator is on the staff of his company and they are more than aware of the new sentencing laws.

Attorney Leigh Morning noted that a meeting is being scheduled with Rick Hall of Barnes & Thornburg to assist in the procedures and timing of such a project and steps required for a bond issue.

WESTERN RUSH COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT

John Saxon, a resident of Walker Township expressed his dismay that Western Rush County Sewer District was proposing a rate increase of 22%. Saxon stated that the rise in rates are due to the number of non-payments. Many of the customers have moved away and left abandoned dilapidated homes. Liens have been placed on these properties but Saxon noted that no one will purchase these properties at tax sale with the large amount of delinquent taxes and liens. Saxon urged the Commissioners to find a solution to this problem.

Bruce Levi recused himself for his business is located in the sewer district. Paul Wilkinson would like information on the tax sale law regarding the sale to adjoining owners.

WIND FARMS

Once again the Assembly Room was filled with people concerned about the proposed wind farms. Scot Koziar representing APEX Wind Energy explained that APEX has filed a suit for judiciary review of the BZA decision regarding setbacks for wind turbines. The Commissioners continue to wait on the three contracts required for the project. Commissioner Paul Wilkinson stated that APEX was advised by the Commissioners to have the contracts approved before requesting an exception from the BZA and he has a problem doing business with a company that does not work with the Commissioners. Other issues shared by the audience included the possibility of a moratorium, government subsidies, and the environmental study.

COURTHOUSE ROOF

Attorney Leigh Morning presented a roof inspection contract with Wellman Brother, Inc. The roof is to be inspected semi-annually at \$900 per inspection. Repairs with a limit of \$5,000 can be performed at inspection without further approval. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the contract and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

Auditor Mary Ann Beard reported that the request to re-establish the Cumulative Capital Fund was submitted to the Department of Government Finance for approval.

A quote from QPH Plumbing and Heating to replace a leaking unit in the Recorder's office at \$7,940 was tabled.

Carthage EMS submitted their monthly report for review.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent of the Highway, Jerry Sitton requested the Board to sign a release of the truck lease funds. Mark Bacon moved to sign the release. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton also reported that a 1990 skid loader can no longer be repaired. A request to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$21,000 was granted on a motion by Mark Bacon and a second by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

The highway department will perform the chip & seal process on 100 miles of county roads.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported 33 inmates in the jail. Fire training is scheduled for July 29th to rectify the violations found by the State Fire Marshall and Corrections Officer Brandon Colestock will start school on July 31st. There were 459 calls answered by dispatch and the special deputies will be working at the Steam Engine Show.

Cowan was asked his thoughts on a work release program and replied that the Judges should have options and it should be part of the new jail plan.

WIND FARM MORATORIUM

Commissioner Wilkinson asked that the record reflect that he is not opposed to wind farms but more time is needed to gain education. Therefore, Mr. Wilkinson moved that a 1 year moratorium be placed on all new wind farms excluding Flat Rock Wind, LLC and Whitewater Wind, LLC with no new expansion of the current wind farm projects. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson moved to pay claims with the exception of a claim for Richoh USA. Mark Bacon offered the second. Motion carried.

Payroll was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor