

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 29, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon and 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 June 15th regular meeting were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 23rd were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson. Motion carried.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker requested a contract with Schneider/Beacon Mapping for a layer on the GIS map for natural disasters. The software can be purchased for \$4,500 annually with no additional event fee or \$3,000 annual fee with an additional event fee. Mark Bacon moved to table the request until the next meeting. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend reported that the Tox-Away Day scheduled for Saturday, July 4th has been rescheduled for July 11th due to the holiday.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Director Sandy Fussner reported that there will be tours of the Princess Theater on July 3th at 5:00p.m. with a movie to be shown at 7:00p.m. The 4th of July Parade will begin at 11:00a.m.

BZA APPOINTMENT

A request was received from the BZA to temporarily replace Lois Hatfield for the BZA hearings for White Water Wind. Steve Cain was named as the replacement on a motion by Mark Bacon and a second by Paul Wilkinson.

WIND FARMS

The assembly room was full of residents in opposition of the proposed Apex Wind Farm project. Those offering their comments included Tierney Hall, Stu Linville, Donna Hurst, Tom Gates, Hank & Vicky Campbell, Linda Fudge, Joe & Dawn Moran Trent, Gary Hoeing, Sherry Owen, Ann Reddick, Jim Wainwright, Michelle Sprinkle, Ralph & Renee Adams, Dallas Harris, and Carolyn Cleland. Each person was given time to express their concerns.

Commissioner Levi thanked those present. Levi expressed that the Commissioners must be mindful of the economic development of the County while protecting the citizens of Rush County. Levi encouraged those in attendance to stay involved, that it is important to hear from taxpayers in all county matters.

Attorney Leigh Morning responded to questions and shared that there are 25 windmills proposed by NextEra and 66 planned by APEX.

ECDC

ECDC Director John McCane requested that additional funding for the ECDC be considered in the 2016 budget. McCane reported that his office is promoting the “Live in Rush County” campaign. Mr. McCane stated that the Industrial Park is nearly completed and there is concentration on expanding existing businesses.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported that the Highway Department has an \$8,000 credit owed from an audit of workmen’s compensation. Sitton said many attempts have been made to Neace Lukins to receive the refund to no avail. Attorney Morning was asked to contact the agency on behalf of the Highway Department.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported 39 inmates in the jail; 28 are male, 11 female and 1 DOC prisoner. Cowan stated that there are 14 sheriff’s cars in his fleet. Pick-up trucks are being replaced with SUV’s because they are a pursuit rated vehicle and they experience less maintenance. The two new Dodge Chargers with 2,752 miles have been in the repair shop for a total of eleven weeks.

AUDITOR

- Budgets are due in the Auditor’s Office on June 30th.
- An EMS run report was received from Anderson Township.

The Auditor asked that a claim submitted by the IT department be paid from Cum Cap since it was for building repairs. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the change in appropriation number and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Paul Wilkinson moved to approve claims. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll claims were approved on a motion made by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

- Commissioner Levi requested that Commissioner Wilkinson accept the oversight of the Courthouse Annex and work with the tenants on new leases.
- Bruce Levi stated the need for an annual roof inspection contract.

- Two appraisals are needed for the proposed purchase of the Pavey Building. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the appraisals pending funding from the County Council. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Mark Bacon 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