

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 13, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Paul Wilkinson was absent.

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

Several members of the County Council were present, therefore roll call was taken with Gerald Mohr, Scott Barnes, Steve McCorkle, Warren Norris, and Charles Smith present.

Minutes of the June 29<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved on a motion Mark Bacon. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Executive Session of June 23<sup>rd</sup> were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **JAIL STUDY COMMITTEE**

The Jail Study Committee represented by Charles Smith, Larry Mull and Sheriff Cowan reported that the committee believes that it is time to receive proposals from architectural firms on plan design for the project. Smith reported that the Rush/Shelby Energy building has been purchased, there is a time line to move overhead electrical wires, and appraisals are being received from two firms for the Pavey building that would allow parking for the project.

The Commissioners opened the floor to two architectural firms. Elevatus and DLZ shared their references of jails constructed throughout the state. Both companies have provided information as to the site chosen for the project and would welcome the opportunity to design the plan for a new jail. The current jail sustains 44 beds while the proposed new jail could range from 120 to 140 beds.

Attorney Leigh Morning emphasized that the Commissioners will select the architect but stated that a construction manager should be hired and they would write the request for proposals. Morning also noted that the County Council will receive a financial report from Umbaugh at their August meeting which will determine the amount the county can raise through income tax for the jail project and courthouse renovation.

Commissioner Levi stated that a new jail is a community project and proposed that questions be addressed to the Jail Committee or the Commissioners.

### **JUDICIARY RENOVATION**

Circuit Court Judge David Northam submitted copies of two official requests to the Commissioners and Council.

1. Take immediate action to remodel the third floor judiciary. Judge Northam has requested \$150,000 in his 2016 budget for an architectural study. Appoint a committee to work with the architect to include the Circuit Court Judge, the Superior Court Judge, a member of the Historical Society, County Commissioners, County Council, and a community member.

2. Cease and desist the plans for the jail expansion.

The Judge continued by saying that his long range plans have been rejected in the past. The hiring of an additional probation officer for the newly proposed drug court and the modification of the courts will eliminate the additional capacity needed for the jail. Judge Northam stressed that additional programs are needed and that just throwing people in jail is no longer the answer.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey submitted the treasurer's report for June. Humphrey noted that there are 74 parcels on the 2015 tax sale list for delinquent Real Estate property, demand notices were sent for delinquent personal property taxes, and there are 19 mobile homes slated for an on-line auction.

### **EMA**

EMA director Chuck Kemker reported the success of an EMA/LEPC weekend exercise. There were 19 agencies and 80 participants with a total cost of less than \$1,000.

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Ashley Stevens Executive Director shared that the mental health position on the advisory board is vacant. Her recommendation was to appoint Katera Huff from Meridian Health Services for the position. Mark Bacon moved to appoint Ms. Huff. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber Director Sandy Fussner thanked everyone in attendance for their support of the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and fireworks.

### **WEBSITE**

Carole Yeend the webmaster for Rush County Government introduced Stu Linville who has created a social media outlet myworld-mytown. Linville would like to design a one-stop site for all social events of the county.

### **CONFINED FEEDING NOTICE**

County resident Doug Briar brought concerns to the Commissioners that he had received a notice from IDEM of a proposed confined feeding operation of Milco Dairy, LLC for 1,400 head of dairy cattle. Commissioner Levi explained that this request would be filed in the Area Plan Office with the APC and the BZA acting on the request.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported 36 inmates in the jail. Cowan submitted the year-to-date activity report. The State Fire Marshall inspection found two violations in training in the event of a fire. Training is scheduled to rectify these violations.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported that an environmental study is required on the 2 feet purchased to construct Bridge 138 on CR 715 W in Homer. The cost of the study is \$6,000. The state would pay for the study if a Section 106 is filed but that may delay the project and the county could lose the federal funding. Sitton requested that the county pay for the study to keep the project on schedule. Mark Bacon moved to allow the expense. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **COURTHOUSE ROOF**

Attorney Leigh Morning presented a draft of a Courthouse Roof Maintenance Agreement with Wellman Brothers. A final agreement will be presented at a later date.

## **AUDITOR**

- An amendment to the medical plan document concerning coverage for elected officials was signed on a motion by Mark Bacon and Bruce Levi seconded the motion.
- The 2015-2016 Medical Stop Loss agreement was signed. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign and Bruce Levi seconded the action.
- Bruce Levi moved to allow the Auditor to electronically sign the Business Associate Agreement with Cigna, our prescription provider. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A GIS data sharing agreement with Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering for the extension of Cherry Street was allowed on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi.
- EMS run reports were received from Anderson Township, RMH, and two from Raleigh.

Mark Bacon moved to pay claims. Bruce Levi offered the second. Motion carried.

Payroll was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Bruce Levi 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