

## **REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUGUST 24, 2015**

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 24, 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.

### **APC PUBLIC MEETING**

A public meeting to consider a re-zone request of 18.928 acres owned by Denver & Wanda Liggett was held at 9:00a.m. Liggett's were asking that the land currently in an Ag zone be rezoned to Commercial for the purpose of building a transfer station. Mark Bacon moved to allow the re-zone. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **AUDITOR**

- Bi-weekly claims were approved with Mark Bacon initiating the motion and Paul Wilkinson offering a second. Motion carried.
- Payroll claims were submitted. Commissioner Levi questioned the Health Department's claim for Teresa Nigh. Nigh was selected to fill the vacancy of the Environmental Specialist and Levi asked if the position required a 90 day probationary period with reduced pay. Attorney Leigh Morning advised that Mrs. Nigh was a transfer from her clerk position and not a new hire. Mark Bacon moved to approve the full salary. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Auditor Beard questioned a payroll claim submitted by the APC director. Beard stated that Rhea Dawn Buckley submits claims with no record of paid time off and that 64 hours worked are always reported. As an exempt employee, Buckley has been informed that her hours are 80 hours per pay. Mark Bacon moved to pay the payroll once the APC director submits a corrected claim. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Levi requested that a meeting of the Personnel Committee be scheduled to review the current personnel policy.

Minutes of the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a motion Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Executive Session of August 10<sup>th</sup> were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

### **FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

Nick White President of the Rush County Fire Chiefs Association submitted a letter of thanks to the Commissioners for the improvements to the communication system at the Rush County jail.

## **TREASURER**

Cindy Humphrey submitted the monthly financial report. Humphrey shared that there are currently 61 properties remaining on the tax sale and 3 mobile homes slated for the on line auction.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported there are 44 inmates incarcerated at the jail. Male & female cell blocks were switched to accommodate the growing jail population. A program template is being designed for the new 800 MHz radios. The Sheriff expressed the need for unified command training in the event of a disaster.

City Police Chief, Craig Tucker & Sheriff Cowan recommended that a unified dispatch center be incorporated into the new jail plans. Chief Tucker explained that in order for his dispatch center to become united with county dispatch would require location of all city resources to the county jail. In return, the Rushville City would allow the County the use of the current police department. Commissioner Wilkinson requested that Chief Tucker list the advantages of a joint department.

## **EMA**

EMA director Chuck Kemker submitted a resolution that would allow a single signature from one of two appointees on Homeland Security grants. Paul Wilkinson made the motion to allow the single signature on Homeland Security grants that would not obligate county funds with Commission Levi and Chuck Kemker as designated signees. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **JAIL CONSTRUCTION**

The following companies were introduced offering their services of construction managers for the Jail project: John Maxwell from Maxwell Construction of Greendale; Dan Zuerner from Garmon Construction Services from Terre Haute; and Jack Krouse president of CCI Construction Control Inc.

Attorney Leigh Morning was asked to research the process of vacating the alley that will be needed for the jail project.

Two appraisals have been received on the Pavey building; one at \$40,000 and the other at \$44,000.

## **COUNTY FARM**

Commissioner Bacon met with a State Forester to determine that possibility of a timber harvest on the Rush County Farm. It was determined that there is no evidence of the Emerald Ash Borer and a timber sale was not needed for a couple of years. It was agreed to revisit the topic next spring.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Marge Amos presented a request to fill the vacant position of front desk clerk due to the reassignment of Terri Nigh to Environmental Specialist. Mark Bacon moved to approve the hiring of the vacant position. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR**

ThyssenKrupp submitted a quote for the mandatory 5 year load test along with contract options for a 5 year or 10 year service agreement. Highway superintendent Jerry Sitton was asked to request quotes on the elevator maintenance for the courthouse.

## **CARTHAGE TOWN BOARD**

John Hancock Carthage Town Board member explained that 5<sup>th</sup> Street has experienced an increased amount of traffic due to the construction project on Carthage Pike. Since 5<sup>th</sup> Street was an official detour Hancock was asking the County Highway to assist with repairs.

## **COURTHOUSE ANNEX**

Frank Denzler presented a request to lease a portion of the Courthouse Annex for an indoor batting and pitching facility. Denzler had information on the required insurance, adult supervision, and cooperation with the high school coaching staff.

## **WIND FARMS**

A number of concerned citizens were present to voice their opinion on the windfarm projects. Kitty Vale spoke of the need for jobs and economic growth which could be accomplished with wind farms. Jim Wainwright asked if the Commissioners would suspend any deals with APEX until the law suit with the BZA is resolved. John Saxon commented that there is a need to know the Commissioners thoughts on the project. Victoria Foley submitted a petition with 16 signatures requesting the removal of Leigh Morning as Rush County attorney. Joe and Dawn Trent questioned the moratorium and why it continues. Hank Campbell asked why they can't have a referendum. Ann Reddick asked that cell phones be shut off and if the board had any information on proposed solar farms. Tierny Hall stated that there must be a business plan to guarantee the future and Stu Linville reiterated the comments of Jim Wainwright asking if the Commissioners could suspend negotiations with APEX.

Commissioner Bruce Levi stated that he has not made a decision on the windfarm project. Commissioner Mark Bacon said that he is in favor of windfarms but continues to study all aspects. Commissioner Paul Wilkinson stated that he has spent numerous hours studying the impact of windfarms and would make every effort to make an educated decision.

Commissioner Levi stated that he would ask the County Council to condense accurate figures from the Umbaugh abatement study and Commissioner Wilkinson responded to an earlier question that the moratorium was to hold off new wind projects and the expansion of existing projects.

A ten minute recess was granted on the action of Mark Bacon with Paul Wilkinson seconding the motion.

Commissioner Levi reconvened the meeting.

**COMMISSIONER ACTION**

- The Commissioners signed an Administrative and Ancillary Service Fee agreement with BAS for the county’s medical insurance plan on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and a second by Mark Bacon.
- Paul Wilkinson moved to replace the leaking heating/cooling unit in the Records office and to replace the circulating pump in the basement at a cost of approximately \$16,000. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The quarterly report for the Ride Rush Grant was submitted. This report no longer requires the commissioner’s signature.
- EMS monthly reports were submitted by Carthage Volunteer and Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department.

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