

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 20, 2014

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 20, 2014 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Ken Masters, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

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

CLAIMS

Commission Masters questioned the increase in the claim for Sheriff's gasoline. Chief Deputy Terry Drake stated that he would need to check into the matter. Mark Bacon moved to approve claims. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PAYROLL

Payroll claims for the period ending October 24th were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and a second from Ken Masters.

-Minutes of the October 6th meeting were approved on a motion by Ken Masters with a second by Mark Bacon.

-Minutes of the Public Hearing for the Library Issue on October 6th were approved with Mark Bacon offering the motion and Ken Masters seconding the motion.

-Minutes of the October 10th meeting to sign a grant application for the EMA director were also approved. Commissioner Masters made the motion and Commissioner Bacon offered a second.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey noted that the 2014 Tax Sale was conducted on October 16th. Forty-four properties were offered for sale and fourteen sold. Humphrey presented the list of unsold properties. The auditor's office will present the Commissioners with the tax sale certificates for said properties.

Jim Cote' representing Masters Touch a company that will print and mail tax bills and also provide e-billing and accept e-checks at a cost of \$8,344.11. Mark Bacon moved to sign the contact and Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Humphrey also presented the Treasurer's monthly report.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker reported on the Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$18,499 for VHF Repeaters for Posey and Manilla fire departments. The Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$8,485.29 is to put a Bi-Directional Amplifier in the high school. The school system will pay the amount not covered by the grant. Applications for grants to purchase a Gator have been submitted to Rush/Shelby Energy and Rush County Community Foundation. Kemker acquired 150 Weather Radios, 50 CERT backpacks and 8 Preparedness backpacks. FEMA has also donated 50 CERT manuals.

The employees of Copeland will be receiving CERT training and Kemker has formed an Emergency Management Storm Spotter Team.

ECDC

Economic Development Director John McCane announced that there will be a public hearing conducted on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:00p.m. at Center Christian Church for NextEra Energy to share information regarding the proposed wind farm in Rush, Henry and Fayette counties.

TAX SALE PROPERTIES

Attorney Leigh Morning was asked to provide information on the procedure the Commissioners must take after receiving the Tax Sale Certificates. Morning explained the many options that were available under Indiana Statute. Mark Bacon moved to take these options under advisement. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported that estimates to re-build Bridge 94, the first covered bridge would range from \$700,000 to \$800,000. To build a by-pass bridge on the south side of the current bridge would cost between 2 and 3 million dollars. The current repairs to Bridge 94 should be complete and the bridge reopened by the end of the week but the weight limit has been reduced to 3 ton. Sitton asked the Commissioners to seriously consider lowering the weight limit to 3 ton on all the covered bridges. Ken Masters made the motion to take the issue under advisement. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Chief Deputy Terry Drake stated that the increase in gasoline claims was due to extra transports and officer training last month. Drake reported 37 inmates currently incarcerated at the Rush County Jail. Video cameras are being installed in the jail to provide the courts the opportunity to perform video conferences for initial hearings.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The Commissioners approved a list of annual appointments for advertisement presented by Auditor Beard. The appointments will be determined at the meeting on December 1st.

EMS

Emergency Medical Service run reports were submitted by Anderson Township Fire, Carthage Fire Department, Raleigh Fire Department and Rush Memorial Hospital.

APEX WIND FARMS

APEX Wind Energy, the company that has acquired Nordex Wind contracts has agreed to pay the unpaid legal cost incurred by Nordex and any future legal fees incurred in negotiating the four agreements that are necessary to complete the Flat Rock Wind project.

LIBRARY

Rushville Public Library Board President, Lou Starkey was allowed to address those in attendance with information on the current city library. Starkey shared that the Rushville City Library needs to become a county library stating that 88 of the 92 counties have county libraries. The library has lost \$74,000 due to tax caps and funds are needed to repair the deteriorating building. Comments were received by many in attendance. Commissioner Levi stated the he is hesitant to put the burden on property tax payers but would like to find other methods of funding. Commissioner Bacon says he supports the current library but he is not in favor of a county library. Mayor Pavey's solution is to take the time and research the matter, allowing both sides to gather information and to avoid a rushed decision. Commissioner Masters stated that the subject needs to be studied, working with the library board and the city. Mark Bacon moved to take the library issue under advisement. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Ken Masters offered a second. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor