

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve McCorkle, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County attorney Leigh Morning.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 12 and September 13, 2017 were approved on a motion by Steve McCorkle and seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in Fund 1176 Highway in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the Carthage Pike Project. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the advertising of the additional appropriation request. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

NEW JAIL

Matt Eckerly from Umbaugh updated the council on the financing analysis of the newest proposal for a new jail. The current bond estimate is \$14,965,000. Assuming the bonds are issued in January 2018, the first bond payment in the amount of \$1,140,000 will be due in 2020. This will leave approximately \$820,000 in Local Income Tax collections per year to be used for the operations of the jail.

Jim Gutting from Barnes & Thornburg was present to answer any questions regarding the lease between Rush County and the Rush County, Indiana Jail Building Corporation. The maximum lease payment will be \$1,300,000. The amount will be reduced to the actual amount of the bond payment once the bonds are issued. County Attorney Leigh Morning noted that construction bids are set to be opened on November 9, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. Once the bids are opened we will have a better idea of the amount that will need to be bonded. Bill Herdrich representing the Building Corporation commented the lease is acceptable to the Building Corporation. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the lease agreement. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Smith made the motion to approve Resolution 2017-1 Pledging the County's Income Tax Revenues to the Payment of Lease Rental Under a Lease with The Rush County, Indiana Jail Building Corporation and Approving Materials Related Thereto. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

Matt Eckerly noted this will not affect future bonding request since these bonds are backed with income tax instead of property tax.

SURVEYOR

Marvin Rees requested permission to advertise for a part time office administration assistant. His full time deputy has put her two week notice in. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

Councilman Marvin Hedrick inquired what the cost of a building permit would be for an animal confinement facility. Area Plan Director Gregg Duke replied the cost would be \$0.00 since it is an agriculture building. Hedrick commented that the animals are used for business purposes not personal and that he believes people have been charged for that in the past. Duke replied that his interpretation of the current ordinance is that agricultural buildings are exempt from permit fees. He has asked his legal advisor for his opinion and he agrees. Hedrick noted he does not have a problem with no fee being charged for someone using the facility for personal use but it is being used by someone coming into the county for business purposes only and they should pay a fee. Duke noted that steps can be taken to change the current ordinance but suggests to use caution when making that kind of a change because Rush County is an agricultural community.

EXTENSION

Gracie Marlatt updated the council on staffing in her office. They do have a full time person employed and she is doing a good job. They only received one application for the part time position and that person did not work out. She and Carly are revamping the job description so that it is not so intimidating. She is open to suggestions on other advertising options as well. Marvin Hedrick suggested running an ad in the local newspaper. Marlatt did not budget for that and does not feel like the audience of the paper is the audience she is looking for.

2017 SALARY ORDINANCE

Auditor Jodi Harr presented an amended 2017 Salary Ordinance. The amended ordinance is adding the new deputy prosecutor position being paid in the Prosecutor Deferral Grant fund 9110. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the amended 2017 Salary Ordinance. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

2018 SALARY ORDINANCE

Auditor Jodi Harr presented the 2018 Salary Ordinance. Charles Smith made the motion to approve it. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan noted there are currently 57 inmates housed in the jail and gave a department statistical update.

The new jail transport van is back and air conditioning has been installed at Hubler Auto Center's expense. The old transport van has been kept for future use such as transporting community corrections participants and inmates for community service.

There was a multi-county chase last week. Cowan commended Dispatcher Cory Hill for an outstanding job dispatching and communicating with six agencies during the chase.

The generator at the jail is leaking. They are looking for temporary repairs to try to make it last until the new jail is completed.

There were two jail incidents involving inmates last week. Jail staff handled both matters in a very professional manner.

Sheriff Cowan and Auditor Harr have worked on a new time keeping process in order to be in compliance with Department of Labor regulations. The new time sheets have been implemented for jail and sheriff staff. There have been a few problems but they are being worked out.

FUTURE PLANNING

Councilman Steve McCorkle commented the council needs to start looking at items that are going to need to be addressed in the near future. An example is that our IT department is going to need additional help. McCorkle made the motion that within the next two months council members host a workshop to discuss upcoming items to be addressed by the county leaders. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was determined that once the job descriptions are completed, the workshop be held and the commissioners be invited to participate.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/Gerald Mohr/

Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/Warren Norris/

Warren Norris

/Charles Smith/

Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/

Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/

Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/

Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/

Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/

Jodi Harr, Auditor