

**REGULAR MEETING****RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****MAY 10, 2017**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 10, 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 Leigh Morning attorney in attendance.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Roll Call was taken for Rush County Commissioners in attendance at the meeting. Paul Wilkinson and Mark Bacon were present. Bruce Levi was absent.

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2017 were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

**EMS COMMUNICATIONS**

Nick White representing the County Fire Chiefs Association informed the council that the association met and made the recommendation to the county commissioners to purchase the Kenwood Communications system from ECS. Councilman Hedrick asked if the current consoles purchased last year would stay in place. White replied the equipment already purchased would not need replaced. Councilman Warren Norris followed up with radios would change but the consoles would stay.

Verlin Custer mentioned the quote by ECS for a Kenwood system does not meet the advertised request for quotes. The Kenwood radios will work with the equipment we already have with Motorola. The county just needs to turn on the current fire system. He suggested the council not waste the money.

**EXTENSION OFFICE**

Gracie Marlatt gave a staff update. Christian Gosser will start May 15 as the summer assistant. The Purdue Nutritionist will start June 12, 2017.

**SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**

An additional appropriation request in the amount of \$47,635.00 in the Supplemental Public Defender fund 1200 was approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Charles Smith. All voted yes.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

The Community Corrections Department requested a transfer from their User Fee Fund 2505 to their Grant Fund 9104. The local Community Corrections Board and the State Dept of Corrections Board approved the transfer from fund to fund to cover FICA expenses through the end of the grant year. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$3,293.39. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

## **BUDGETS 2018**

Discussion was held regarding expectations of the upcoming preparation of 2018 county budgets. It was requested that the job descriptions and classifications being done by Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele be reviewed by the council and commissioners prior to giving them to department heads.

Department heads are requested to submit, along with their 2018 proposed budgets, a list of mandatory expenses, an expense report for the last three years and expenses anticipated for the next two years. They also need to explain any additional appropriations that have been requested in the last three years. They are to be turned into the Auditor office by July 1, 2017. The council will meet in July to go through them.

Steve McCorkle recommends changing the number of hours worked by courthouse employees by eliminating the day off every other week. He also recommended the council giving up their pay for the year. The commissioners would have to be the one to make this change. Craig Custer asked if you would increase pay when you eliminate a day off. McCorkle stated no. Commissioner Bacon asked what does it save the county by eliminating days off. You would have to figure the number of additional hours worked and then cut staff based on that number.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave a department staff and statistical update. He advised the commissioners that current jail maintenance issues have arisen and he has already used the allotted jail maintenance budget for the year.

The part time appropriation in the county jail budget and also in the public safety budget will run out approximately mid-June. Discussion was held regarding whose responsibility it is to cut budgets and reduce staff – commissioners, council or department head.

Marvin Hedrick made the motion to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$65,000 for jail part time for the remainder of 2017 in the Rainy Day fund. Steve McCorkle seconded. After further discussion, both withdrew the motion.

Councilman Barnes requested the commissioners participate in this discussion. He feels like operations is the responsibility of the commissioners, not the council. Commissioner Bacon commented until the county comes up with more revenue, there is nothing the commissioners can do.

10:15 recess. 10:25 reconvene

There is currently no money appropriated in the Rainy Day Fund. It will require an additional appropriation to use the money to pay for part time.

Councilman Charles Smith noted it would be helpful if the part time civil processer and part time transport officer were separated from the corrections officer part time in the jail budget. Between the two of them they make approximately \$45,000 per year. Barnes reiterated he does not feel like the council has enough operational recommendations to make financial

cuts. He feels it is the commissioner's responsibility to meet with department heads regarding operating budgets.

Sheriff Cowan was asked some questions that have been heard off of the record. He explained the roles of each of the department's detectives. The department is improving the reserve program to get more road coverage. There are jobs that have to be done during the day at the jail regardless of who the employee is. Each person on days has their own responsibilities. The part time employees during the day are the civil processor and the transport officer.

Commissioner Wilkinson commented the county has less revenue and has not increased the commissioner budgets since he became a commissioner. He believes the best way to determine how much each office should cut is to calculate the percent of the decrease in revenue and each department cut that amount.

Councilman Steve McCorkle made the motion to advertise an additional appropriation from the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to pay for part time jail employees. Warren Norris seconded. Warren Norris, Marvin Hedrick and Steve McCorkle voted yes. Scott Barnes, Charles Smith and Janet Kile voted no. Chairman Gerald Mohr voted yes. Motion carried.

Barnes told the commissioners that he is not finger pointing to the commissioners. The council and commissioners have big decisions to make and they need to make them together.

### **NEW JAIL**

Councilman Scott Barnes commented Judge Hill is actively involved in gathering information for the new jail. Judge has started making changes now within the courts that will be in effect over the next couple of years. This will give us a better idea of the number of inmates expected to be housed at the new jail.

Verlin Custer commented why not set the bed limit to ninety (90) beds at the new jail. This would save money.

County Attorney Leigh Morning informed the council that DLZ and CCI will meeting with the commissioners at 1 p.m. today to talk about redesigning and the budget for the new jail. It is an open meeting.

### **COURTHOUSE STUDY**

County Attorney Leigh Morning received a contract from Preservation Collaborative but it did not include security for the entire courthouse. She has requested a new contract from them and hopes to have it by Monday's commissioner meeting.

Marvin Hedrick moved to adjourn. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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/Gerald Mohr/

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/Warren Norris/

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/absent/

Gerald Mohr, Chairman

Warren Norris

Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/  
Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/  
Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/  
Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/  
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/  
Jodi Harr, Auditor