

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****JUNE 14, 2017**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve McCorkle, and Jodi Harr, Auditor. Charles Smith and county attorney Leigh Morning were absent.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of May 10, 2017 were approved on a motion by Steve McCorkle and seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation in the Pre-Trial Fund # 2502. It is needed to pay the remaining 2017 deputy prosecutor salary. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request to advertise. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Caviness also requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation in a newly obtained grant. The Indiana Department of Corrections has awarded an additional \$20,000 to Prosecutor's Diversion as part of the Community Corrections Program. \$5,000 will be used for Drug Testing and the remaining \$15,000 will be used to go toward a probation officer and a deputy prosecutor salary. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the request to advertise and Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer, Cindra Humphrey, requested permission to transfer \$300.00 from her supply line to her processing fees. These funds will be used for a system software update by Thomson Reuters. The update will allow credit card payments to be updated on a daily basis. The total cost is \$1,200. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the transfer. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

She also gave an update to the county financial situation.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections Director, Ashley Stevens, requested approval of additional appropriations in the amount of \$255,564.00 in the RCCC Grant Fund # 9104 and in the amount of \$218,994.00 in the RCCC User Fee Fund # 2505. These funds operate on a fiscal year budget and have been approved by the local Community Corrections Board and the State Department of Corrections. Steve McCorkle made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request in the RCCC Grant Fund. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the additional appropriation request in the RCCC User Fee fund. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

EMS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Nick White appeared to request an additional appropriation from E911 funds in the amount of \$106,978.00 to pay for the emergency communication system which was approved by the county commissioners. Marvin Hedrick commented he would like to see the council wait until they have worked the 2018 budget before they approve it. Auditor Jodi Harr commented that it is the Sheriff's responsibility to request an additional appropriation. Harr has spoken to the sheriff and he will make the request once he has all of the information ready. The council will wait for the Sheriff to make the request.

RUSHVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rushville City Police Chief, Craig Tucker, appeared to request the council approve two Rushville City Dispatchers be paid from E911 funds beginning in 2018. The cost is \$32,288 each for a total of \$64,576. This is their base salary only. Rushville City will pay the overtime and benefits. The council asked Chief Tucker to provide the information to Sheriff Cowan.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Area Plan Director, Gregg Duke, noted he feels the wind of change in Rush County. He believes it is time for the county to look at a comprehensive plan for the county. In doing that he would like for the county council to be informed and a part of the process of developing the plan. Duke provided an example of a basic comprehensive plan, the Indiana Code describing what must be in a comprehensive plan and questions to consider when developing a plan.

Steve McCorkle is in favor of a comprehensive plan. He would like to see a letter from the council to the county commissioners stating the council supports the developing of comprehensive plan. Janet Kile agrees. Scott Barnes noted the county must be careful while developing a plan so that there are no loop holes. He would like to see a professional hired to help with the project.

Janet Kile made a motion to draft a letter to the commissioners expressing the councils desire to move forward with a county comprehensive plan. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carries.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mark Bacon updated the council on the new jail building site. He has met with Creek Run regarding the underground contamination. There are two tanks that need to be removed. Creek Run is getting a report, cost and proposed starting date ready to present to the commissioners at the next commissioner meeting.

There continues to be additional leaks in the roof of the courthouse. He feels like it is a big problem. Wellman Brothers has been contacted and will hopefully be here at beginning of July to work on it. There was a problem in the circuit court room of the ceiling tiles crumbling.

SHERIFF

Chief Deputy Dave Sliger went over department statistical reports. There are currently 55 inmates housed in the jail. He thanked Commissioner Bacon for touring the jail and seeing

the building issues first hand. Sliger invited the council and anyone in the public to stop over and request a tour.

Sheriff Cowan has been meeting with food and medical vendors to find better alternatives for providing these services. Gordon Food Services can do meals for \$1.00 per meal per inmate. This could save the county \$36,398 a year after hiring two additional part time employees. It would include dietician services and meal plans.

The state jail inspection was done in May 2017. It was noted how well the jail staff works with the situation they are in and with the facilities they have.

An additional appropriation in the amount of \$69,671.00 for part time jail and \$5,329.00 for FICA was requested from the Rainy Day Fund # 1186. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request with the understanding that this is the only amount that will be given for the remainder of 2017 for jail correction officers for overtime and part time wages. Janet Kile seconded. Janet Kile, Warren Norris, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes and Gerald Mohr voted yes. Steve McCorkle voted no. Motion carried.

Janet Kile asked how Sheriff Department employees are paid during the Rush County Fair. Is it overtime, part time or voluntary. Dave Sliger commented that the department uses the reserve officers whom are voluntary. If you see a full time deputy up there it is probably their regular shift.

GIS SERVER

Auditor Jodi Harr requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation from the GIS Electronic Map Fund # 1150 in the amount of \$9,125.00. The funds are needed to help purchase a new server for the GIS system and to also purchase an additional ESRI license for the person doing GIS back up in the auditor office. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the request to advertise. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried. Ron Jarman commented that 911 funds should be able to help pay for this expense. Council requested the fees being charged for copies be looked at to see if we should increase them.

COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Rush County Redevelopment Commission met on May 30, 2017 and determined there is no excess assessed value for the Tax Allocation Areas in the Milroy Industrial Corridor Redevelopment Area for 2017 taxes payable in 2018.

2018 BUDGET

Scott Barnes noted the ambulance services study that was requested by Rush Memorial Hospital at last year's budget hearings has not been done. He would like a letter to go to the county commissioners from the council requesting the study to be done. Chuck Kemker commented it is hard to find a capable person to do the study. It was noted the Indiana Hospital Association can assist with the study. All council agreed a letter should go to the commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Local taxpayer Phil Gordon requested permission to comment. In his opinion it is a misconception that if the assessed value in the county increases that the county will collect more taxes. It will not solve property tax income problems. Increased assessed value will result in increases services needed.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/Gerald Mohr/ /absent 7/12/17/ /absent 6/14/17/

Gerald Mohr, Chairman

Warren Norris

Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/ /absent 7/12/17/ /Scott Barnes/

Janet Kile

Marvin Hedrick

Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/

Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/

Jodi Harr, Auditor