

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL

AUGUST 23, 2017

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 23, 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 special meeting of July 3, 2017 were approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

Minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2017 were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Steve McCorkle. Motion carried.

Minutes of the special meeting of July 24, 2017 were approved on a motion by Janet Kile and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

2018 COUNTY BUDGET

At 9 a.m. Gerald Mohr opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2018 County Budgets and asked for public comments/questions. With no comments, Steve McCorkle made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

2018 RUSH COUNTY SOLID WASTE BUDGET

Chairman Mohr then opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2018 Rush County Solid Waste District Budget and asked for public comments/questions. With no comments, Steve McCorkle made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

2018 SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The council did recognize and appreciated the 2018 salary and budget recommendations received from the Rush County Commissioners. The recommendation is as follows:

INSERT DOCUMENT

NON-BINDING REVIEW

Auditor Jodi Harr provided to the council with the 2018 Tax Cap Estimates and 2018 Maximum Levy Calculations for all Rush County taxing units as provided by the DLGF. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to make no recommendation for the 2018 information. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Angie Buckley, Rush County Clerk, requested \$975.00 be transferred from her county general clerk budget account 20030 forms into her county general election budget account 30046 lodging/meals. The funds are needed to pay for a state board of accounts called election board meeting. Warren Norris made the motion to allow the transfer. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Ashley Stevens, Director of Rush County Community Corrections, requested a transfer in the amount of \$5,000 in the RCCC User Fee Fund 2505 from account 30193 equipment leasing into account 40027 data processing. Her local corrections board and the state has approved the transfer request. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Cowan, Rush County Sheriff, requested a transfer in the amount of \$8,000 in the county general sheriff budget from account 20040 gas/oil tubes into account 30024 vehicle maintenance. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer request. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Sheriff Cowan requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,000 in fund 7109 K-9 Contribution Fund. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the advertising of the request. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Rush County Health Department requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$14,714 in Fund 8105 CFDA 93.074 PHER Grant. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the advertising of the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Carole Yeend, Rush County Solid Waste District Director, requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$11,500 in the Rush County Solid Waste District Fund. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the request. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

These three request will be reviewed by the council at their September 12 meeting.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Phil Caviness, Rush County Prosecutor, requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$73,418 in Fund 8118 CFDA 16.588 STOP Grant. These funds would be used to hire an additional Deputy Prosecutor. This is a reimbursement grant with the county share of twenty five percent (25%) being paid from Pre-Trial Diversion Fund 2502 and Infraction Deferral Fund 2503. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the additional appropriation as long as the federal grant agreement is received and the understanding that if the grant goes away, the position is eliminated. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Caviness also requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$9,418 in Fund 2502 Pretrial Diversion. This will be part of the county match for the STOP Grant. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the request. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

To cover the remaining amount of the county match for the STOP Grant, Caviness requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$9,000 in Fund 2503 Infraction Deferral. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the request. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Judge Brian Hill applied for and received a grant for Court Interpreter Reimbursement. He is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of the grant award which is \$1,350. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff Jim Cowan requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$186,944 in the E911 fund 1222. This is the amount to purchase the new county communication systems, radios for the sheriff department and radios for the EMA office. Councilman Marvin Hedrick asked EMA Director Chuck Kemker what the twelve radios for the EMA office will be used for. Kemker responded those radios will be used at the Mobile Command Center during an emergency situation. The radios will only be assigned to those individuals who do not have a radio and will be used on a channel that is not already in use at the time of the incident. It was noted that the three repeaters will be placed in Milroy, one at the sheriff department and the third one at the 450 N WIFE tower. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the request. Much discussion was held prior to Chairman Gerald Mohr asking for a second to the motion.

Councilman Charles Smith commented that when this was first proposed several months ago the plan was to help fire departments pay for the equipment. Now the plan only includes the sheriff department and EMA. Nick White noted the original plan did include providing assistance to all fire departments. It was determined that the county did not have the money to do that. This newly proposed system allows departments to purchase equipment as they have the funding. ECS assured the council members that every department will get the same discounted price. Smith would like that to be in writing.

Verlin Custer requested permission to speak as a tax payer of Rush County. He requested the council give the sheriff to use the \$60,000 system which was approved in December 2016. There is no urgency in purchasing a new system. The county should see if that system will work prior to spending \$180,000 on another system. He believes if the NextEdge System is put in, Raleigh and Carthage Fire Departments will not be able to speak to other systems. Kemker commented the county has been working on this for four and a half years. The proposed system will be able to adapt 800 MHz equipment to the Kenwood radios. The analog system will eventually be gone. He also noted the Motorola digital system has crashed in some places across the country and that Kenwood radios can talk to Motorola radios. Mike Dyer from ECS reminded everyone that the current sheriff site is a single site but the system proposed by ECS and approved by the commissioners is a three site system which will allow mobile coverage that has a higher transmit coverage and power. Councilman Hedrick noted the tower at the county highway garage is not as high as the one at the sheriff department and they get coverage on hand held radios all over the county. He suggest trying the \$60,000 system approved in December 2016.

Nick White commented that Motorola is either digital or analog. It cannot do both. Custer disagrees. Dyer does not agree that you can talk to everyone on digital and analog with a Kenwood radio and a Motorola system. Hedrick understands the point of view of ECS; however, our highway department is doing it.

Councilman McCorkle stated that law enforcement lives are most important. With that, he withdrew his previous motion.

Councilman Scott Barnes would like to see this tabled and to talk to the commissioners. The commissioners have already approved this system. He feels like the departments and the commissioners want the ECS system. The council's responsibility is to decide if the council wants to fund it.

Hedrick made a motion to apportion \$60,000 for the quote that was approved in December to see if that system will work. McCorkle questioned that the council is going to ignore the recommendation made to them by the experts.

Barnes asked to hear what Sheriff Cowan thinks. Sheriff Cowan responded that the first part of his request is on behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association and the county E911 board. This was approved by the County Commissioners. Secondly, as sheriff, the county does not currently have a reliable source of communication with hand held radios. If we continue to use one system, the portable coverage will not be improved. What we currently have has been tested and there are still areas with no coverage on portable radios.

Kemker commented to the council that they do not hesitate to purchase vehicles, weapons, etc. but the radios are the one piece of equipment that every first responder relies on.

City Chief of Police Craig Tucker was asked for his input. Tucker noted that Rushville City has waited on the county for three years to make a decision on communication equipment. The city police and city fire have gone to Kenwood digital radios. He believes that other agencies will come to the county asking for equipment funding.

Commissioner Paul Wilkinson stands by the decision made by the county commissioners in approving the ECS three site system.

Norris seconded the motion made by Hedrick to apportion \$60,000 for the quote that was approved in December. Marvin Hedrick and Warren Norris voted Aye. Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Scott Barnes and Steve McCorkle voted Nay. Motion did not carry.

Steve McCorkle made a motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$186,944 in the E911 fund to purchase the communications system and radios for the Sheriff Department and EMA from ECS. Scott Barnes seconded. Steve McCorkle, Scott Barnes, Marvin Hedrick and Charles Smith voted Aye. Warren Norris and Janet Kile voted nay. Motion carried.

Sheriff Cowan then requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$109,960 in Fund 1170 Public Safety Fund. \$9,960 will be used to for the portion of the communications system for the sheriff department and the EMA department that cannot be paid in the E911 fund. \$100,000 will be used purchase vehicle replacements at the sheriff department. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ashley Stevens requested the salary ordinance be changed to reflect the annual increase of salary for their Field Supervisor. The change will be effective on his anniversary date. Charles Smith made the motion to amend the 2017 Salary Ordinance #2016-3. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Carley Holland with the Extension Office notified the council that Audrey Neuman has been hired to fill one of the open full time positions in their office. Audrey was the summer assistant for three years and is familiar with the office. She will start September 5.

DORMANT FUNDS

Auditor Jodi Harr requested the council to clear two dormant funds. Charles Smith made the motion to transfer \$2,684.47 from fund 1137 Cum Hospital to the county general fund. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Scott Barnes made the motion to transfer \$136.00 from fund 1115 County Child Advocacy Fund to the county general fund. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

APC APPOINTMENT

County Attorney Leigh Morning notified the council of the judicial decision that requires the county council to put Phil Shanahan back on the APC Board to fulfill his original appointment through December 31, 2019. Janet Kile made the motion to remove Kenny Aulbach and reinstate Phil Shanahan per the judicial order. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried. Morning will notify Aulbach and Shanahan.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave statistical reporting for the sheriff and jail departments. There are currently sixty six (66) inmates housed at the jail. The new inmate transport van has arrived. It was discovered that there is no air conditioning in the back of the van. He is working with Hubler Auto Center to get that resolved before the check for the van is released.

Cowan notified the council of another unfunded mandate issued by the state of Indiana. HB1189 requires local law enforcement agencies to provide criminal justice data to the Indiana State Police through the National Incident Based Reporting System semi-annually instead of bi-annually. He has contacted Spilman and it will cost approximately \$15,000 to do the update. He is getting a written quote from them. Currently officers are having to enter data five different times for reporting purposes. He is hoping to implement a change in this at the same time the Spilman update is done. Cowan will report back to the council at their next meeting.

Duke Energy was to install the power to the fiber hut on August 9. It has not been done as of yet. Ron Jarman is working with Duke to get this done. The next design meeting for the jail will be August 30 at 3 p.m.

Cowan reported continuing problems with Carthage Fire Department not responding to calls. Raleigh is not being compensated for their dual response. He and Raleigh Chief Cain are trying to schedule a meeting with the Carthage Chief to work this out.

Councilman McCorkle mentioned that Milroy Fire Department has experienced an unfortunate situation but they are back to having two people on station.

FAYETTE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Councilman Mohr informed the council that Fayette Regional Hospital has been awarded a ten million dollar grant for an all-inclusive 4.0 detoxification unit and programs with special

attention to those diagnosed with HIV. It is hoped this will help with the opioid epidemic in Fayette and surrounding counties.

Warren Norris moved to adjourn. Steve McCorkle 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