

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****MAY 9, 2018**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Gerald Mohr, Charles Smith, Scott Barnes, Marvin Hedrick, Janet Kile, Warren Norris, and Steve McCorkle, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning.

Council Chairman Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular council meeting of April 11, 2018 were approved on a motion by Steve McCorkle and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING-ABATEMENT

At 9:00 a.m. the public hearing was opened for public comment regarding the request by JM Manufacturing, Inc., dba JM CNC., Inc. for a ten year abatement for real property improvements estimated at \$300,000.00. No public comment was received. Charles Smith made the motion to close the public hearing. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

John McCane spoke on behalf of JM Manufacturing and noted that if JM Manufacturing ever appeals the assessed value, the county council can review the abatement. Gerald Mohr noted the application for abatement meets the requirements set in the county abatement policy established by the county council. Steve McCorkle agrees they are a valuable employer and should receive the ten year abatement. Charles Smith agrees they meet the requirements that the council has set. He does think the council should review the abatement policy and amend it to increase the minimum assessed value requirement. Comments received via email from county tax payer Craig Custer were read. John McCane commented that equipment moved within the state of Indiana cannot be re-abated. The council has to trust the company is being honest. Their salaries are in line with other manufacturing companies in our county.

Janet Kile made the motion to approve Resolution 2018-3 Confirming the Adoption of a Declaratory Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area on the Application of JM Manufacturing, Inc., dba JM CNC. Steve McCorkle seconded. Gerald Mohr, Steve McCorkle, Charles Smith and Janet Kile voted Aye. Warren Norris and Marvin Hedrick voted Nay. Scott Barnes abstained because he has bid on this project as a private contractor.

Charles Smith made the motion to approve the Statement of Benefits for Real Estate Improvements. Steve McCorkle seconded. Gerald Mohr, Steve McCorkle, Charles Smith and Janet Kile voted Aye. Warren Norris and Marvin Hedrick voted Nay. Scott Barnes abstained because he has bid on this project as a private contractor.

Marvin Hedrick requested the council revisit the abatement requirement guidelines. Gerald Mohr feels like we need to look at information from other counties on what they are doing. Scott Barnes commented that during a discussion held at an ECDC meeting the point was made that supporting small corporations could lead to them building a bigger project at a later time.

SOLID WASTE

Director Carole Yeend requested permission to advertise the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$21,000.00 on account 101001431 Building Maintenance. This will be for insulation and roof repairs. The repairs are necessary to protect the EMA and associated critical response equipment being temporarily stored in the old White Felt Building. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request to advertise for an additional appropriation. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

EXTENSION

Gracie Marlatt reported they have advertised for a replacement of their permanent part time person. They are reviewing applications at this time. The summer assistant will start on Monday, May 14, 2018. On June 14 the county extension office will move from the courthouse to the fair grounds. They will return to the courthouse on July 2. She encourages anyone interested to volunteer at the fair office or root building during this year's fair.

SURVEYOR

County Surveyor Marvin Rees requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation in the Surveyors Cornerstone fund 1202 in the amount of \$5,000.00 for account 30008. The purpose is for expenses related to re-establishing section corners that are not in roadways. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the request to advertise for an additional appropriation. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

Ashley Stevens, Director of Court Services, requested an amendment to the Salary Ordinance for the Deputy Director and the Community Supervision Manager. These changes would be effective on their employment anniversary date. These employees are now also considered probation officers which makes their salaries bound by the state mandated probation salaries. The council had questions as to why the community corrections staff are considered probation officers and why the commissioners and council were not notified for their approval of this change. Steve McCorkle made the motion to table the request until the next council meeting with a request to Stevens to attend the next meeting. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

INMATE MEDICAL CARE

Sheriff Jim Cowan requested an additional appropriation in the Co Medical Care for Inmate fund number 1174 in the amount of \$6,000.00. An inmate was life lined and spent the weekend in ICU. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Cowan also requested a transfer in the Co Medical Care for Inmate fund number 1174 from account 40008 medical equipment into account 30083 medical in the amount of \$6,000.00. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the transfer of funds. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Marvin Hedrick commented he thought we had requested a quote on an air ambulance insurance policy to cover inmates. He will check on it. Sheriff Cowan will try to negotiate the costs with St. Vincent Hospital.

HOSPITAL BONDS

Auditor Jodi Harr received a statement from Mainsource Bank showing there are still funds in the bond fund used for Rush Memorial Hospital. County Attorney Leigh Morning is investigating to see how to get the money from Mainsource Bank. The question was asked if the money belongs to the county or to the hospital. She and the Auditor will investigate.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave a department report and statistics. There are currently sixty three inmates housed at the jail. He noted the inmate housing line in the jail budget is almost depleted due to having to house a couple of inmates at other facilities. The jail inspection will be held on Monday, May 14, 2018. Dr. Morrell has increased his monthly retainer fee to \$900 per month beginning May 1, 2018. The cost per inmate receiving care is also increasing. There is currently an inmate who is going to need some extensive medical care which will require pain medicine. Dr. Morrell will not prescribe any narcotics to inmates. Cowan will speak with the judge regarding this situation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Leigh Morning notified they council that she will not be at their regular scheduled June meeting.

EMS

Steve McCorkle commented that 2019 budget time is approaching and asked if anyone knows how much money is being collected by Rush Memorial Hospital outside of the subsidy received by the county. He would like to see an audit of the financial records for RMH. He also believes that county dollars are financing other hospital functions. Scott Barnes noted the EMS study did address that the reporting requirements to the county are lacking. Charles Smith commented he thinks the county should have better reports from all departments on how they are using the subsidy received by the county. Leigh Morning suggested that council members let the commissioners know what they would like to see in the reporting requirements. Commissioner Paul Wilkinson noted the study recommends not to reduce the funding currently being used because we are not over paying for the EMS services that are being provided to county residents. He would also like to see better financial reporting.

Charles Smith asked if anyone knew the nationwide ratio of constituents' vs the number of ambulances in rural areas. Wilkinson commented the county leaders must decide if they want a service reduction or an increase in funding. Scott Barnes asked if the county would be better to have five ambulances in the central part of the county with volunteers as responding only units. The problem would be to get volunteer departments to go to responding only.

Discussion was held regarding why RMH is the only service losing dollars. Wilkinson believes it is because RMH has to pay more staff whereas other departments already have staff

available on a volunteer basis. Also RMH provides ALS coverage twenty four hours a day seven days a week. The commissioners will have to decide if they want to continue to pay for Paramedic services.

McCorkle informed all that there is a state fund available to assist with non-pay transports. He wonders if RMH and volunteer units are aware of this. Wilkinson commented it is the hospital asking for more money, not the volunteer services. He welcomed all to attend the special commissioner meeting this afternoon at 1 p.m. to discuss the EMS issue.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn the county council meeting. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried

/Gerald Mohr/ /Warren Norris/ /Charles Smith/

Gerald Mohr, Chairman

Warren Norris

Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/ /Marvin Hedrick/ /Scott Barnes/

Janet Kile

Marvin Hedrick

Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/

Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/

Jodi Harr, Auditor