

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****OCTOBER 10, 2018**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Gerald Mohr, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Warren Norris, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, and Steve McCorkle, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Council Chairman Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the September 11 and 12, 2018 Budget meeting and hearings were approved with a motion from Steve McCorkle and seconded by Charles Smith. All were in favor.

RECORDER

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented Ordinance 2018-3 Permitting the Rush County Recorder to Expend Monies in the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the ordinance. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORONER

Rush County Coroner Ron Jarman requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation to his department budget in the County General Fund. With three months left in the year, he has had to expend all of the dollars allotted for autopsies. He is requesting an additional \$6,000. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the advertising of the additional appropriation, Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

2019 RUSH COUNTY CALENDAR

Auditor Jodi Harr presented the proposed 2019 Rush County Calendar listing county holidays, commissioner meetings, council meetings and claims deadlines. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the calendar. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Rush County Health Department requested a transfer in the amount of \$3,000 from account 10098 Health Officer Salary to account 30186 Professional Services. The transfer is necessary to pay the contract for the interim Health Officer. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$3,000. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

An Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$13,644.00 for the fiscal year 2019 Public Health Preparedness Grant was presented for approval. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR Director Tony Personnet reported the personnel committee had met. He provided a brief presentation on a possible realignment of salaries that would include longevity pay and assigning classifications to county jobs which were recommended in the job classification study done early in the year. It also recommends courthouse employees working a thirty five hour work week. His recommendation is that the 2019 salaries and policies stay at what was approved by the county council last month and make these changes effective January 1, 2020. He is also working on a recommendation of changes to the vacation policy to make it the same for all employees. Employee salaries would be different depending on the skill level of the job. The council would like for Personnet to finalize his proposals and bring the completed plans to the council and commissioners at their November meetings. They would like these policies finalized by March 1, 2019 so that they can be given to department heads prior to them submitting their 2020 budget estimates on July 1, 2019.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported the county has had an inmate which incurred over \$60,000 in medical expenses. His department is working with the healthcare provider to negotiate these charges but he is going to need additional money for the remainder of 2018. The jail budget is going to be short in phones, utilities and medical care. After meeting with the Auditor and looking at all of the departments budgets, Cowan is requesting a transfer in fund 1170 LIT Public Safety in the amount of \$58,631.78 from account number 40012 vehicles into account 30083 medical. He has recently purchased two new patrol vehicles. After speaking with the current chief deputy, they are willing to put off the purchase of two additional non-patrol vehicles until the first of the year. If this transfer is allowed, he will not have to request an additional appropriation in the county general fund. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer in fund 1170 in the amount of \$58,631.78. Steve McCorkle seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Cowan reported fifty nine inmates currently housed at the Rush County Jail. He also reported that the State Department of Health is coming down to administer Hepatitis A vaccines to inmates. They will be working with the Rush County Health Department to get this completed next week. One inmate has tested positive for Hepatitis A so that cell block has already been vaccinated. They have also been in touch with anyone else who was in contact with this inmate. Individuals who are currently in the Community Corrections program will also be offered the vaccination. While the state will vaccinate the inmates, they will not vaccinate the employees who come into contact with the inmates. The Rush County Health Department is working with the Sheriff Department to also get the employees vaccinated.

He is also working with the Rush County Health Department on how to finance for one of the health nurses to provide nursing services at the jail.

Marvin Hedrick requested that council chairman Gerald Mohr speak with the Community Corrections Board as to why sex offenders are being allowed to participate in the community corrections program. He believes their current policy does not allow for this and there are some sex offenders currently in the program.

Sheriff Cowan noted that Sheri Raab has given her written notice of intent to Retire. Her last day will be March 22, 2019. He would like to have things in place for the new sheriff to be involved in the process to hire her replacement immediately following elections on November 6, 2018. This will allow training for the new person to do a month end, payroll, and year end while Raab is still present. Cowan also noted the new sheriff will also be faced with hiring at least one new deputy due to his retirement on January 1, 2019. He would like permission for the Merit Board to start the hiring process immediately in order for the new sheriff to select the new deputy and have them hired to begin on January 1, 2019. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to allow the sheriff to precede with the hiring process for the new sheriff to select applicants immediately following the elections on November 6, 2018. This motion is for the sheriff deputy and secretary positions. Charles Smith seconded. Scott Barnes had left the meeting due to a prior commitment and was not available for the vote. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

Councilman Steve McCorkle asked the council to reconsider their last month's decision regarding the pay of EMA Director Chuck Kemker. He commented Kemker has brought in over \$300,000 to the county since he was first appointed as the EMA Director. McCorkle presented a list of community activities that Kemker participates in. He also presented a list from the State District Coordinator of what Kemker is responsible for. Kemker acts as a "maintenance" man when requested by the county commissioners. He comes in all hours of the day and weekends. He also provided a list of fixed assets purchased for the county through the EMA office. The county emergency plan along with a list of changes that Kemker has made to the original plan were also presented. Kemker also helps other counties meet standards set by the state. McCorkle would like the council to think about this information and reconsider his pay. He suggested the council members stop in and talk to Kemker.

The next county council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Charles Smith moved to adjourn the county council meeting. 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