

**REGULAR MEETING****RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, November 7, 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.

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

Minutes of the October 10, 2018 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Steve McCorkle and seconded by Warren Norris. All were in favor.

**CORONER**

Rush County Coroner Ron Jarman requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,000.00 in the County General fund 1000 coroner budget for account number 30047 autopsies. Charles Smith made the motion to reduce account number 40052 county council use only in fund 1000 County General commissioner department 0068 by the amount of \$6,000.00. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,000.00 to account number 30047 autopsies in department 0007 coroner of fund number 1000 County General. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Rush County Health Department requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$4,000.00 from the Health Fund number 1159 account number 10098 health officer to Health Fund number 1159 account number 30186 professional services. The request is to cover the expense of other counties coming to help with permit inspections. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the requested transfer. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

**JUVENILE PROBATION**

Ashley Stevens requested a transfer in the amount of \$5,000.00 in the Juvenile Probation fund number 2050 account number 40000 equipment to Juvenile Probation fund number 2050 account number 30005 misc. services. The request is to cover expenses relating to programming. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

**SALARY ORDINANCE**

There were two request for changes to the current 2018 Salary Ordinance. HR Director Tony Personett requested the Environmentalist salary in the Health Department be changed

from \$35,000 per year to \$39,000. There is money in the current budget to cover the additional salary. This position has also been retitled to Environmentalist/Office Manger which is adding more responsibility to the position. The request is to approve the salary of \$39,000 for 2018 and 2019. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the salary increase for 2018 and 2019. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

The Health Department also reported the fiscal year 2018/2019 PHER Grant has finally been approved. They requested the 2018 Salary Ordinance be amended to add the salary for the grant coordinator to be paid a total salary of \$2,656.20 for the fiscal year. Warren Norris approved the requested change to the 2018 Salary Ordinance. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

### **PAY FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTRACTS**

At the recent State Board of Accounts meeting of County Auditors, the IRS presented on pay for contract and non-contract employees. Auditor Jodi Harr reported that all board members should be paid through payroll which will result in a W2 being issued at the end of the year rather than through accounts payable with a 1099 being issued at the end of the year. Effective January 1, 2019 she will require members of the Area Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Health Board and Merit Board to be paid through payroll. Personett will take care of getting the proper paper work completed for payroll. The Extension Office contract and the Prosecutor Investigator contract are being reviewed to determine whether they should be paid through payroll or if a contract is acceptable.

### **SALARY STUDY RECOMMENDATION**

HR Director Tony Personett presented a proposal of job classifications and salaries for county employees. The proposal includes hourly rates and built in longevity. This proposal includes courthouse non-exempt employees working 35 hours per week. His concern in the current pay schedule is the closeness in pay and benefits between a full time employee and a part time employee. There are some weeks where a part time person works more hours than a full time employee. He recommends the new policy be effective for new hires effective immediately and for current employees effective January 1, 2020. He also recommends if this policy is approved, the ninety day salary reduction for probationary period be removed since the new salary scale is based on longevity. If approved by the council and commissioners, he will sit down with each employee to go over the salary and benefit changes. Scott Barnes commented Personett has taken the recommendations from several people. The council approved the study and asked Personett to put this proposal together. We need to follow through. Marvin Hedrick clarified that the question to the council is if they are going fund these changes. He recommended that for the ten employees whose pay would reduce, that the council freeze their current pay so that they do not take a cut in their annual salary amount until the salary scale increases enough to allow them pay increases. He does not want any employee to take a cut in annual gross pay. Steve McCorkle made a motion to move to a 35 hour pay schedule for Courthouse employees effective immediately for new employees and effective January 1, 2020 for all other employees. This motion includes freezing the pay of the ten

employees to their 2019 annual salary until the new rates catch up to their pay. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

### **2019 APPOINTMENTS**

Marvin Hedrick made the motion to reappoint 2018 appointees for 2019. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

### **COURTOUSE RENOVATION**

Michael Cunningham, Rural Development Specialist for the USDA, was present to go over a loan opportunity from the USDA for possible courthouse renovations. Prior to application, the loan would require the county to do an environmental study and an architectural study of the courthouse. The county could qualify for a grant in the amount of 35% of the project cost. The loan could be paid back over forty years and would need to be tied to property tax collections. There is no pre-payment penalty. Based on applications already received for 2019, the funds have already been accounted for. The county would need to apply soon for 2020 funds. The council took the information under advisement.

### **EXTENSION OFFICE**

Will Schakel will present the annual Ag Outlook meeting on November 14, 2018. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the Extension Office.

### **TREASURER**

Treasurer Cindra Humphrey reported twenty one parcels were presented to the county commissioners for Certificate Sale on February 14, 2019. These are properties that have been on the annual delinquent property tax sale and have not sold. The minimum bid on the properties will be \$50. Sewer Districts will release their liens on the properties if the property is sold.

### **APPOINTMENTS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

With the retirement of Council Chairman Gerald Mohr effective January 1, 2020, the council will need to make new appointments to the Community Correction Board and to the Personnel Committee. Charles Smith volunteered to be the council representative on the Community Correction Board. Marvin Hedrick volunteered to be the council representative on the Personnel Committee.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported on statistics and happenings within the Sheriff and Jail departments. The construction crews are scheduled to set cells at the jail site today. There has been some lost time due to contractor issues. John Painter with CCI is working with the contractors.

Steve McCorkle asked for the status on the communication and radio issues. Cowan reported the communications building is almost complete. The delay was the fault of the county not ECS.

**EMA SALARY**

Steve McCorkle requested the council revisit increasing the pay for EMA Director Chuck Kemker. He made the motion to reinstate the EMA Director salary to the 2018 original salary plus the additional \$7,000 requested by the commissioners effective January 1, 2019. Scott Barnes seconded. Voting yes were Steve McCorkle and Scott Barnes. Voting no were Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile and Marvin Hedrick. Motion did not pass.

**2019 ENCUMBRANCES**

If a department is going to have a large expense to encumber, it is requested that it be brought to the council at their December meeting. Utility and salary encumbrances are acceptable. The Auditor will bring a list of encumbrances to the January 2019 council meeting for approval of the county council.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

At the last council meeting, questions were asked regarding sex offenders being allowed to participate in the Community Corrections program. Ashley Stevens first clarified that anyone in the Community Corrections program is responsible for their own medical care and finances. If they are incarcerated, the county becomes responsible for their medical expenses. Regarding if a sex offender can be in the program, originally they were not; however, a couple of years ago, the Community Corrections Advisory Board amended the policy to allow them with approval of the Community Corrections staff. She is not in favor of the change but the courts can over-rule her opinion and allow it. Her issue is that her department does not have the capabilities to monitor the offender’s electronic devises and so forth.

The next county council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12 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

\_\_\_\_\_/absent/  
Janet Kile

\_\_\_\_\_/Marvin Hedrick/  
Marvin Hedrick

\_\_\_\_\_/Scott Barnes/  
Scott Barnes

\_\_\_\_\_/Steve McCorkle/  
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

    /Jodi Harr/      
Jodi Harr, Auditor