

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Scott Barnes, Janet Kile, Steve McCorkle and Ralph Adams, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Councilman Marvin Hedrick was absent.

Chairman Charles Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton was present to request the following additional appropriations:

- Fund 1169 Local Road and Street in the amount of \$195,113.00. The Auditor failed to advertise this to be approved at the 2019 Budget Hearings. This is for summer construction. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the additional appropriation as requested. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.
- Fund 1176 Highway a reduction in the amount of \$1,150,000.00. This is MVH restricted money that needs to be appropriated to Fund 1173 Restricted MVH. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the reduction in Fund 1176. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.
- Fund 1173 Restricted MVH in the amount of \$1,550,000.00. This amount is the amount from Fund 1176 plus what is expected to be receipted in 2019. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

Sitton also presented the proposed pay scale for Job Classification Code LTC which is the Highway Department workers. It is effective 2-21-19 for new employees and 1-1-20 for current employees. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. Discussion was held and noted that this pay scale will eliminate the ninety day reduction in pay that is currently in place for new hires. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindra Humphrey reported the Commissioner Property Tax Sale will take place on February 14, 2019. She also asked permission to hire to fill an employee vacancy in her office. She would like to hire a person part time to work twenty nine hours per week. The annual cost will be \$18,096.00. She would transfer the money from the full time position that was vacated. She would like to try this position as a part time position through May tax collections to see if part time will be enough help. She asked them understand that she is willing to try this but may need to come back and ask for the position to be full time. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the hiring of a part time person in the Treasurer's office. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH

Environmental Specialist Julia Apple was present to update the council on changes in the health department. Dr. Russell Daugherty has agreed to be the Rush County Health Officer. His pay will be \$20,000 annually. Since this is less than what is appropriated for the Health Officer Salary, \$2,970.00 will be transferred from account 10098 to 10157 for the Office Manager/Environmental Specialists. They do have three new health board members who will be presented and approved at the next County Commissioner meeting.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION

John Painter with Construction Control, Inc. was present to update the council on the progress of the new jail construction. He provided the council with a soft cost status information report as of 12/31/18. He expects the building to be ready for occupancy by the end of December, 2019. At a prior meeting, Marvin Hedrick asked about how the building would be insulated. Painter explained the insulation of the roof and building.

HR

HR Director Tony Personnet reported the employee health fair will be held on March 20, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Employees who wish to receive the discounted health insurance premiums are required to participate. He also reported that he has completed the Title VI training with all departments.

COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Commissioner Chairman Mark Bacon noted that we continue to find new leaks in the courthouse roof. Chuck Kemker and the custodians are emptying buckets of water from the attic. He stated we have got to get the roof fixed. Commissioner Wilkinson is working on getting estimates. Bacon also commented the sump pump line in the basement was torn and had to be repaired. He suggested setting up another joint workshop with the commissioners and council members to discuss the financial arrangements needed. Councilman Scott Barnes agrees that the longer we wait the worse the situation will be. The council agreed for the commissioners to find a cost and they will find the funding. Barnes also reminded Bacon of the aerial view of the courthouse roof that has been provided and is available to be used by contractors in order for them to provide estimates.

Bacon also reported there will be a privacy fence put around the new chiller on the south side of the courthouse.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Steve McCorkle asked what Verlin Custer was asking for in a letter that was sent to the commissioners and council. Commissioner Bacon responded that Custer believes the old system with Motorola is the better system and wants the county to go back to that system. Bacon and Sheriff Rice have met with the current vendor ECS to discuss the issues with the current system. Barnes commented that Steve Cain has expressed concerns to him about the new system. Currently dispatch assigns a channel for scene control. ECS is concerned with the quality of the transmission when speaking in digital mode. Bacon commented the commissioners went with the recommendation of the fire chiefs association which five of the

seven EMS departments approved. Councilman Warren Norris commented Raleigh bought digital radios anticipating when the state would require everyone to use digital mode communications. Nick White from Anderson Township stated they went with Kenwood because they have the capability to talk to Motorola; whereas, Motorola does not have the capability to talk to Kenwood. All departments except Raleigh would have had to buy new radios if the county went with the Motorola system. It is believed that Raleigh does not want to share their frequency in order to communicate with other departments. Councilman Charles Smith reminded everyone the council funded the project that was approved by the commissioners. Any issues with the system should be directed to the commissioners, the sheriff and EMA.

SHERIFF

Jonna McIntire along with Chief Deputy Terry Drake were present to give the department update and statistics for the Sheriff Department. There are currently forty five inmates housed at the jail. Deputy Steve Houston's retirement date will be March 18, 2019. Sheri Raab's retirement date will be February 22, 2019. They have started the process to hire the replacement for Deputy Houston. They hope to hire around March 13. Overtime is high in both the jail and the sheriff departments. This is due to the weather, shortage of trained deputies and jury trials.

Auditor Jodi Harr notified the council that she will be transferring \$3,300.00 from account 10241 Longevity in the commissioner budget to account 10231 vacation pay. With the retirements that have come about, there is extra in the longevity to cover the payout for Deputy Houston.

SALARY ORDINANCE

Amended Salary Ordinance 2018-4 was presented for the council approval. Changes included adding a full time payroll deputy back to the Auditor's Office, changing the Treasurer's office from two full time deputies to one full time and one part time deputy, and change the Health Officer salary to \$20,000.00. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the amended ordinance. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr requested the following reduction and additional appropriation in order to fund the payroll deputy salary in her office:

- Reduction in County General Fund 1000 Account 40052 Council Use Only Location Commissioners in the amount of \$28,980.00. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.
- Additional Appropriation in County General Fund 1000 Account 10246 Payroll/Financial Deputy Location Auditor in the amount of \$28,980.00. Janet Kile made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

ENCUMBRANCES FROM 2018 BUDGET

Auditor Harr presented the list of encumbrances from the 2018 budgets to carry over to the 2019 budgets. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the encumbrances. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Discussion meetings have started regarding bringing updated digital communications to Rush County. The commissioners are forming a committee to address the needs and ways to improve digital communications in all parts of the county.

PROSECUTOR

The question was asked on how the prosecutor’s office is coming along with initial hearings. The council asked the Auditor to contact Prosecutor Phil Caviness and have him appear and report at the next council meeting.

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Per request, the March council meeting will be changed from March 13 to Friday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. Harr will notify the media of the change.

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

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Warren Norris/
Warren Norris

/Ralph Adams/
Ralph Adams

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/absent 2-13-19/
Marvin Hedrick

/late 3-15-19/
Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor

