

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****MARCH 15, 2019**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Steve McCorkle and Ralph Adams, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Councilman Scott Barnes arrived at 9:45 a.m.

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 13, 2019 were presented for approval. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit Court Judge David Northam was present to request permission for the auditor to advertise an additional appropriation in fund 2504 Jury Fee Fund in the amount of \$20,000.00. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried. Judge noted that with there being more jury trials, the judges may not be able to continue to share the circuit court room as they are currently doing. If this happens, work will need to be done to the court rooms. Commissioner Mark Bacon asked if the Jury Fee fund can be used to pay for the additional salaries needed to pay the sheriff and jail employees who have to be here for the trials. County Attorney Leigh Morning stated this fund can only be used for jurors.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Phil Caviness was present to update the council on the new prosecutor position. The new position has allowed them to attend more preliminary hearings. So far in 2019, thirty three cases have been resolved at preliminary hearings. As the new prosecutors obtain experience, he believes more cases will be resolved earlier. The jury trials being held this year are from cases as old as 2016.

Caviness also requested a transfer in fund 2503 Infraction Deferral in the amount of \$717.96 from account 20081 law enforcement to account 40002 office equipment. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the transfer. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple requested a transfer in fund 1168 Local health Maintenance in the amount of \$500.00 from account 20010 supplies to account 40033 misc. equipment. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

SALARY ORDINANCE

Salary Ordinance 2018-4 for 2019 salaries was requested to be amended for the salary of the Administrative Assistant in RC Community Corrections. Her pay was not increased on January 1, 2019 when the other courthouse deputies were increased. The request is for her hourly rate to be increased to \$18.45. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the request to change the salary ordinance. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

WILLKIE BIKE RIDE

David Willkie was present to provide information for the Annual Willkie Five in 50 Bike Ride. The date will be September 21, 2019. He requested the council to appropriate funds in 2020 for the county to pay for the event insurance. The cost will be approximately \$500.00. The council advised him to request the commissioners put it in their 2020 budget. The 2019 event is being presented by the Rush County Community Foundation. Lily Endowment has a two to one grant opportunity for any funds raised. The goal is to raise \$50,000.00 this year. Marvin Hedrick suggested that if the county does some kind of financial support, we do it as a donation not as purchasing insurance.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice updated the council on happenings at the sheriff and jail departments. He noted that he has to staff at least two employees at the courthouse for each jury trial. For the trial scheduled for April 16, he will need five staff members per day present at the courthouse. Reserve officers can help if any of them do not have full time jobs during the day. The Reserves did help at the New Salem Lions Club sale.

Sheriff Rice has met with Motorola about replacing twenty mobile and twenty portable 800 MHz radios. The estimated cost is \$248,000.00. These radios would be integrated with the Spilman system currently used. Motorola and Spilman are willing to give the county a package discount. On March 20, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the EMA office, a video webinar on the proposed system will be held. Kenwood radios are not compatible with the Spilman system. Marvin Hedrick asked if the Prosecutor would be able to access the system for his investigation purposes. Rice believes he would be able to. Rice explained that these radios are different radios than the Kenwood radios discussed at earlier meetings which are digital radios and used for different situations. This is a totally separate issue.

The jail department is working on a contract with a new service to process credit card payments. PayGov will be used to process payments for bonds, gun permits and record checks. The current system confirms the process but does not confirm the payments. The new system will send the payment to the county clerk as soon as the charge is approved. Leigh Morning is working on the contract to be presented to the commissioners.

Marvin Hedrick updated on current proposed legislation that would increase the daily reimbursement from the state to the county of Level six felons from \$35.00 per day to \$55.00 per day. Rice noted that still is not enough to cover the costs considering the county pays the

