

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Steve McCorkle, Scott Barnes and Ralph Adams, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 8, 2019 were presented for approval. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

Mark McCorkle and Carole Yeend were present to provide information on the progress being made by the task force to increase the connectivity of broadband services in Rush County. Joint Resolution 2019-1 between the Rush County Board of Commissioners and the Rush County Council In Support of Increased County-wide Broadband Connectivity was presented for approval. This is support of all broadband providers. Warren Norris made the motion to approve Resolution 2019-1. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR GRANTS

Prosecutor Phil Caviness was present to request permission to advertise for the additional appropriation of the fiscal year STOP grant and Prosecutor Deferral Grant extension once approval of the grants are received. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections Director Ashley Stevens was present to request three additional appropriations for her department. The State is changing her grant dates from the State fiscal year to a calendar year. This will make it easier for her to submit her budgets when the other county budgets are approved. The following additional appropriations are for July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

- Fund 2505 RCCC User Fee Fund in the amount of \$120,170.00. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.
- Fund 9104 RCCC Grant Fund in the amount of \$127,782.00. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

- Fund 1123 RCCC Transition Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in Fund 1173 MVH Restricted fund in the amount of \$400,000.00 for Summer Construction. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Brian Hill requested an additional \$1,850.00 to pay for psychological evaluation for a defendant. He has already expended the amount allotted in the 2019 budget. Since this is a small amount, Auditor Harr requested the council approve a transfer from account 40052 Council Use Only in the County General Commissioner budget to account 30118 Psychiatrist in the County General Commissioner budget. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

SALARY ORDINANCE

Effective July 1, 2019 the Indiana Prosecutor's salary increased. According to the salary contract for Sheriff Allan Rice, he is to make fifty percent of the prosecutor's salary. Amended Salary Ordinance 2018-4 was presented to amend the sheriff salary to \$2,906.48 biweekly. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple was present to give an update on the Health Department. She requested permission to purchase a new copy machine from Tobacco Fund 1168. The cost is \$4,350 and does include a service contract. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the purchase. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

The health department would also like to purchase a new vehicle from Tobacco Fund 1168. It is an allowable expense with tobacco funds and the money is available. The estimated cost is \$22,974.00. They also have the money to pay for the additional insurance. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the purchase. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

The Public Health Preparedness Grant is set to renew July 1, 2019. It is a fiscal year grant. The new requirement is that a new contract or employee be created with \$25,000 being allotted. This would be a part time position. The \$25,000 would include part time salary, FICA and all expenses related to the grant. It is completely funded by the grant and would go away if grant funding was stopped. It is a reimbursement grant. The position will not be posted until the

award letter from the state has been received. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Commissioner Mark Bacon was present to give an update on what the Commissioners are working on. Talks are continuing with contractors to get the roof replaced. They are looking at using the old fence that was used around the chiller at the jail to go around the new chiller at the courthouse. Regarding change orders for jail construction, he still believes some of them should have been caught during the design phase by DLZ. The actual amount of the change orders has been minimal compared to what was expected. Any contingency funds remaining at the end of the project can be used for other jail expenses. Councilman McCorkle ask for clarification that the proceeds from the jail bond money can be used for the operations of the new jail. That is correct. The current handicap ramp coming into the courthouse is not ADA compliant. They are currently getting quotes on the cost of replacing it.

CENTRAL E911 DISPATCH

Marvin Hedrick commented he and Ron Jarman have been talking about combining the county and city E911 dispatch centers. They feel like now is the time to re-address this prior to moving into the new jail. He believes there will be a cost savings to having a centralized dispatch center. Jarman stated the new jail is designed for three dispatch stations. Sheriff Rice said it is only equipped with two but we could move the city equipment to the new facility. Jarman noted the county needs to talk to the Mayor and look at what options are available. He recommends a study board to see exactly what the cost would be. As the state continues to look at the balance in our E911 fund, we need to use it before they decrease our monthly distribution. Rice noted it would need to be determined if the employees are county or city employees. The Council recommendation to the Commissioners is to set up a study committee with Scott Barnes as the Council representative.

RIVERBOAT FUND

Auditor Harr requested guidance on what the county council would like done with the 2020 Riverboat distribution. It has been receipted directly into county general for the last few years to offset the loss in revenue due to declining farm assessed value. Janet Kile made the motion to receipt it into the county general fund for another year. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

10 A.M. COMMISSIONER PAUL WILKINSON ARRIVED TO SIT IN THE AUDIENCE. IT WAS NOTED THAT TWO COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT AS AUDIENCE MEMBERS AT THIS TIME.

AUDITOR PLAT BOOK FEES

Ordinance 2019-2 was presented to repeal amended Ordinance 1998-3. Transfer fees are to be established by the legislative body which is the commissioners. Marvin Hedrick made the

motion to approve Ordinance 2019-2 repealing amended Ordinance 1998-3. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY

Indiana State Legislatures passed new legislation effective July 1, 2019 stating a fee can no longer be charged for filing a Business Personal Property Taxation. Ordinance 2019-3 repealing Ordinance 2015-10 was presented for approval of the council. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve Ordinance 2019-3 repealing Ordinance 2015-10. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

CITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Mike Pavey notified the council that there is no excess AV to be reallocated to adjoining taxing units.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice gave the current department statistical update. He also updated them on the status of the escaped person. He is being told the new jail occupancy will be in January 2020. Discussion was held on the progress of the new Pre-Trial Release program.

State statute says the sheriff shall provide courthouse security during courthouse business hours. He is doing his best to have someone at the courthouse each day. He will provide the council with a copy of the statute.

The Commissary Report is due to the council on July 1. He provided a brief summary but will have the full report at the council meeting on July 10.

2020 SALARIES

It was recommended to keep the longevity separate from the base pay for sheriff and jail employees. HR Director Tony Personett recommends that January 1 be the date for pay increases instead of the hire date.

Discussion was held regarding the county council salaries for 2020. They all agree to leave it the same as 2019 with no longevity.

OLD MILROY SCHOOL

Councilman McCorkhill commented the Robert Jackman approached him about the old Milroy school building. They have met with the current owner to establish expected guidelines such as getting liability insurance. They would like to get this turned into a not-for-profit ownership so they can qualify for grants for rehabilitation.

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

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Warren Norris/
Warren Norris

/Ralph Adams/
Ralph Adams

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/
Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Steve McCorkle/
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor