

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL

AUGUST 21, 2019

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Steve McCorkle, and Scott Barnes, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Ralph Adams was absent.

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

2020 RUSH COUNTY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

At 9:00 a.m. the Public Hearing for the Rush County 2020 Budget was opened for comment. Chairman Smith asked for any comment from those in attendance. Hearing no comments, Steve McCorkle made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chairman Smith than opened the regular meeting of the county council.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 10, 2019 were presented for approval. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

2020 BUDGET

The county council asked that all county department heads be present at this morning's meeting to hear comments from the council. The county is expected to have to cut an estimated \$800,000. Chairman Smith asked that all department heads look at their 2019 and their 2020 budgets to see what they can cut. The information should be turned into the Auditor by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3. He would rather the department make the cuts then for the council to go through and make them. Treasurer Cindy Humphrey asked if she could leave the part time in her budget for 2020. They replied that she can.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton was present to request an additional appropriation in the Motor Vehicle Restricted Fund 1173 in the amount of \$400,000.00 for summer construction. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the request. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Public Defender Board requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in county general 1000.30092.000.0271 to pay supplemental public defender claims.

- Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve a reduction in county general – council use only line 1000.40052.000.0068 in the commissioner's budget in the amount of \$50,000. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Janet Kile made the motion to approve the additional appropriation request in the amount of \$50,000 in county general 1000.30092.000.0271 pauper attorney in the public defender budget. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Julia Apple provided an update on environmental services and the progress being made to update the county website. She reported the health board has found the necessary cuts in their 2019 and 2020 budget to meet the shortfall.

The Public Health Preparedness Grant has been approved by the state. The health board is requesting permission to hire EMA Director Chuck Kemker to be the grant coordinator. The responsibilities for this grant would not interfere with his work as EMA Director. Some of the responsibilities of the two jobs are intertwined. He already has the training necessary to operate this grant. This would save county general approximately \$10,000 in cost in the EMA 2020 budget. The total amount of the grant award is \$25,000. Of that \$15,000 will be Kemker's salary with the remaining \$10,000 paying for PERF, FICA, travel and supplies. This is a five year grant. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to allow this request as long as there are grant funds available to pay him. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Rush County Health Officer Russell Daugherty, MD, requested that the position currently held by Julia Apple be made exempt and the pay increased to \$50,000 effective October 1, 2019. She is doing management responsibilities in addition to her role as environmentalist. When he took the position as Health Officer, it was with a lower salary with the intentions of the additional money going to an office administrator. This saves him time from being in the office so often. The additional funds are currently on the nurse supervisor line and would be transferred. Marvin Hedrick noted he is not seeing nor hearing the public complaints that he was hearing last year. Scott Barnes knew there would be restructuring within the department. As long as it does not cost the county money, he does not see any problem with it. Steve McCorkle has had positive comments made to him from installers on the progress made in this county. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the exempt position with a salary of \$50,000 per year effective October 1, 2019. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES

Discussion was then held regarding all county department heads in the county making 20 to 30 percent more than elected officials. It will be discussed more at the 2020 budget hearings in September.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

County Auditor Jodi Harr and County Attorney Leigh Morning requested the council approve funding for a fee agreement with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors for municipal advisory services for the proposed courthouse maintenance projects. The contract is not to exceed \$15,000. The commissioner's requested the council approve the funding prior to them

approving the contract. Marvin Hedrick would like to get the 2020 budget out of the way before we get involved in another contract. Janet Kile commented we need the expertise to help us find the money and she is not qualified to do that. Warren Norris would like to get through the 2020 budget. He would also like to know the dollar amount of what we need to spend. Commissioner Paul Wilkinson commented it is estimated \$2.5 million just for the roof with additional expenses for other repairs. Marvin Hedrick stated we have other issues such as courthouse security, sidewalks, etc. Leigh Morning stated it would be good to have them help us find the dollars so that we can get all of the repairs done at the same time. Scott Barnes commented he has a concern with paying a consultant and is it worth it but he understands why we need to do it. Steve McCorkle sees no reason to wait on approving the funding. Judge David Northam said in November the USDA was here to give the county loan options. He understands we need to figure out how to pay for it. Commissioner Wilkinson stated Baker Tilly will help us see if revenue can be moved around to help fund the financing of the projects. When we tried for special legislation with the jail funding, he was told the reason the state legislators were not in favor of it is they were not convinced the council and commissioners were all in agreement with it. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve funding for the Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors fee agreement for financial advising if the commissioners approve the contract. Janet Kile seconded. Janet Kile, Scott Barnes, and Steve McCorkle were in favor. Marvin Hedrick and Warren Norris voted no. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kristi Amos with the Rush County Community Foundation presented a list of community meetings to be held throughout the county. The purpose of the meeting is to get feedback on projects for the \$100,000 and \$5 million grant opportunities through the Lilly Endowment program. She invited the council to attend as many of these meeting as they would like. Carole Yeend highly recommended the council take the broadband project to these meetings for grant possibilities.

2020 ESTIMATED TAX CAP AND MAXIMUM LEVY REPORTS

Auditor Jodi Harr presented the 2020 Estimated Tax Cap report and Maximum Levy Reports from the DLGF for the council's recommendation. The information was also emailed to them. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to make no recommendation on either report. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

HR

Tony Personnet reported an open part time position in the IVD child support office. He will be posting the job.

E911 JOINT DISPATCH

Councilman Scott Barnes reported the first meeting has been held and that there will be a second meeting. He would like more information as to why the State of Indiana would cut our funding because our balance is too large. Ron Jarman believes that when the legislatures see a million dollar account balance they start asking questions as to why we are not spending all of

the money they are sending us. Commissioner Wilkinson has also discussed this with Rushville City leaders. He asked why they are concerned that they are not getting enough money from us when we have given them what they have asked for. He believes we are better to resolve it between the county and city rather than letting the state resolve it for us.

Two of the questions being addressed by the committee are where will the employees be stationed and how will both entities be funded fairly. They are in the process of getting call volume reports for both agencies. Barnes asked what is the benefit of having an E911 surplus. County Attorney Leigh Morning responded it is to replace equipment when needed. She also noted the large increase in funds is due to the monthly Public Safety Income Tax that is required to be deposited to E911 funds. Councilman Steve McCorkle commented he does not think the City should have to ask for the money. Councilman Charles Smith noted he does not have a problem paying all of the city dispatch salary and benefits as long as the city and county dispatchers are all paid the same.

Sheriff Allan Rice said if they chose to go to a joint dispatch, another county position would need to be created because dispatchers currently do other things for the county that they would not be able to do if they were centralized.

Councilman Marvin Hedrick knows that other county volunteer fire departments have purchased E911 equipment and has not ask for reimbursement from E911 funds. Jarman suggested that a board be created between the city and county to look at E911 funds. If you address wages the same first, you can than look at location. The next meeting is scheduled for October 29. Decatur and Hancock county representatives will be there to discuss what they do.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice presented his department statistical report. He is working on the radio connection from the new jail to the new communications tower. The county will have to pay for it. He has quotes from Kenwood and Motorola. It is not in the jail construction budget.

- ERS - \$220,816 plus \$79,051 for a five year maintenance agreement.
- ECS - \$109,694.20 with no maintenance agreement

He would like a percentage of the cost for digital radios to be paid with county E911 money. His goal is to come to the county council with one additional appropriation request to cover all of these expenses.

Mobile units are being tested in the cars. He believes they are working well.

The State LifeSaver award was given to seven sheriff department employees for their heroic actions at a fire.

Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy as approached him about providing a Resource Officer at the academy. He is working with Leigh on the legal aspects.

10:30 a.m. Councilman Scott Barnes had to leave.

In other matters, he reported the K9 golf outing is August 31. He has purchased a 2019 Durango from Salem, Indiana. A full time dispatcher and full time correction officer have given their notice to terminate employment. If the positions are filled from within, he will need to hire additional part time staff. One of the deputies at the academy has been injured and is on workman comp. The hope is that he can finish the classroom portion of the class with the physical portion being done by the end of December.

GET TOGETHER

Steve McCorkle is hosting a get together at his house on September 28. This is for all elected officials to come get to know and appreciate each other.

Marvin Hedrick made the motion to adjourn. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

_____/Charles Smith/_____
Charles Smith, Chairman

_____/Warren Norris/_____
Warren Norris

_____/absent 8/21/19/_____
Ralph Adams

_____/Janet Kile/_____
Janet Kile

_____/Marvin Hedrick/_____
Marvin Hedrick

_____/Scott Barnes/_____
Scott Barnes

_____/Steve McCorkle/_____
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

_____/Jodi Harr/_____
Jodi Harr, Auditor