

## **REGULAR MEETING      RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL    OCTOBER 9, 2019**

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

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

Councilman Steve McCorkle tendered his resignation following the September 11, 2019 regular council meeting. New Councilman Carl Harcourt was sworn in to replace McCorkhill.

Minutes of the September 10 & 11, 2019 Regular meeting were reviewed. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

### **SUPERIOR COURT**

Superior Court Judge Brian Hill was present to discuss the salaries for his two office staff. Under the new classification and job descriptions, his court recorder is a COMOT III and his court administrator is COMOT II which means they are paid differently. He said their duties are similar and he would like the council to consider both of them COMOT III positions. He stated they are court employees and not county employees so they are not under the jurisdiction of the county council, commissioners nor Human Resource Director. He is working on court employee handbook. The council asked for comment from County Attorney Leigh Morning. She believes Judge Hill is referring to case law regarding probation officers being employees of the courts with their salaries being set by the State of Indiana but paid by the county. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to allow both staff members to receive COMOT III pay of \$32,760 per year for 2020. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

- Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested an additional appropriation in fund 2502 Pre Trial Diversion in the amount of \$20,477.00. The money will be used to cover denied expenses in the reimbursement grant 8118 STOP Grant. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice requested an additional appropriation in fund 1222 E911 in the amount of \$303,084.00. The funds will be used to purchase new consoles for the dispatch center and 800 MHz radio updates. He also would like to reimburse county EMS providers for expenses they incur to update to the new radio system. The refunds would be issued upon receipt of the already purchased radios. It would be a percentage of the total cost. Warren Norris and Charles Smith would like to know the total number of radios being purchased. If the refund amount is more than budgeted at this time, it would be paid in 2020.

- \$203,084 is requested for the E911 equipment and radios for the sheriff department. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried
- \$100,000 is requested for the reimbursement to volunteer fire departments. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve reimbursement in the amount of fifty (50) percent. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS**

Line 2 Appropriation Reductions were presented by Auditor Jodi Harr. These reductions to the 2019 budget are necessary in order to fund the 2020 approved budgets.

- Health Fund 1159 totaling \$35,890
  - \$33,637 in Personal Services
  - \$40,000 in Supplies
  - \$1,853 in Other Services & Charges
  - Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.
- Reassessment Fund 1188 totaling \$649
  - \$649 in Personal Services
  - Janet Kile made the motion to approve. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.
- County General Fund 1000 totaling \$307,635
  - \$49,800 in Personal Services
  - \$1,000 in Supplies
  - \$131,200 in Other Services & Charges
  - \$125,635 in Capital Expenses
  - Ralph Adams made the motion to approve. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT EVIDENCE FUND**

Leigh Morning presented Ordinance 2019-8 creating the law enforcement evidence fund 4940. This fund will be used to receipt forfeiture money which will be distributed by a court order. It will not require county council appropriation or commissioner approval of claims since it will be done via a court order. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **2020 COUNTY CALENDAR**

Auditor Harr presented the 2020 County Calendar. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

### **2020 APPOINTMENTS**

Carl Harcourt will replace Steve McCorkhill on the EMA Board. Scott Barnes will contact Daniel Shanahan to see if he wants to be reappointed the Alcoholic Beverage Board. All other appointments will be addressed in 2020.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Scott Barnes asked if the council should be concerned that Judge Hill does not think his employees are under county policies. HR Director Tony Personett replied that this is a statewide issue. Courts are filing suits against counties. He recommended that the council also look at Circuit Court.

The Department of Labor has increased the amount of pay that an exempt employee must be paid starting January 1, 2020. He believes this will only affect one county position. It will require an approximate \$4,000 pay increase. Personett will contact the department head to see how they wish to handle this.

Questions were asked as to whether court employees will be required to work thirty five hours per week like other courthouse employees effective January 1, 2020. Marvin Hedrick and Carl Harcourt will talk to Judge Hill.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Allan Rice gave his department statistical update and personnel update. He is still working on getting someone for courthouse security on a part time basis for the remainder of 2019.

**JAIL CONSTRUCTION**

Commissioner Mark Bacon gave an update on the new jail construction. The roof should be completed within the next three week.

Scott Barnes made the motion to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

/CHARLES SMITH/

Charles Smith, Chairman

/WARREN NORRIS/

Warren Norris

/RALPH ADAMS/

Ralph Adams

/ABSENT 11-13-19/

Janet Kile

/MARVIN HEDRICK/

Marvin Hedrick

/SCOTT BARNES/

Scott Barnes

/CARL HARCOURT/

Carl Harcourt

ATTEST:

/JODI HARR/

Jodi Harr, Auditor

