

**REGULAR MEETING      RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL    NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

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

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

Minutes of the October 9, 2019 Regular meeting were reviewed. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

**PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT**

Rush County Surveyor Marvin Rees and EMA Director Chuck Kemker requested the council commit funding for the twenty five percent match of the FEMA 2019 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for Advanced Assistance. This grant is being applied in co-operation with the City of Rushville. The grant will pay for an engineer study of the drainage issues from County Road 225 W down to where “Hodges Branch” outlets into Big Flatrock River in Section 6, Township 13 N, Range 10 E. The Rush County Drainage Board accepted the bid from Wessler Engineering in the amount of \$89,407.48. The City of Rushville will pay ½ of the match so the county will need to commit \$11,175.00 for the project. It is expected the money will be needed in the fall of 2020. Scott Barnes made the motion to fund the county’s share from the Rainy Day Fund if the grant is approved. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

**RECONSTRUCTION LOAN**

Rush County Surveyor Marvin Rees requested the council approve a loan application for the James S. E. Hillgoss Reconstruction Drain in Walker Township. Prepayments will be requested by the adjoining land owners before the loan is taken out. Those who do not prepay will be required to pay the principle and interest of the loan. The loan shall mature within six years after the day it is obtained. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**PROSECUTOR**

Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested an increase in pay for the prosecutor investigator effective January 1, 2020. The Department of Labor increased the amount that must be paid to exempt employees to \$35,568 effective January 1, 2020. The salary is paid from the Pre Trial Diversion fund 2502. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Auditor Jodi Harr reminded all that an additional appropriation will need to be done once the 2020 budget is approved by the DLG.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Judge Brian Hill was present on behalf of the Community Corrections Board to request the salary of Ashley Stevens be increased to \$68,198.00 and Duane Raab to \$39,338.00. The board had not met prior to the September 2019 budget hearings and the Department of Corrections just recently approved the grant for 2020. Marvin Hedrick asked if Stevens is being paid the minimum amount required by the State of Indiana. Her salary is more than the state minimum for probation officers. Hedrick commented that there are ten county boards that can come back and ask for raises for their employees. The majority of county employees did not receive raises for 2020. Judge Hill noted that Community Corrections is a self-sufficient fund and that if we do not spend the dollars awarded by the grant, it will go back to the state. Scott Barnes commented that historically we have always agreed to the recommendation of the board. He thinks the council needs to decide if they are going to let all boards set expenditures including salaries for funds outside of the tax base. If we let one board, we need to let all of the boards make that decision. Commissioner Mark Bacon agreed that these funds do not have anything to do with local tax dollars. He reminded all that this is a grant. If the grant is no longer funded, these employees no longer have a job or the county will have to fund them. Ralph Adams made a motion to approve the salaries as requested for both Stevens and Raab. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **SUPERIOR COURT**

Council reminded Judge Hill that he will need to do a transfer in January to cover the additional salary the council approved at their October meeting.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Julia Apple updated the council on permits and other happenings within the health department. They bought a 2018 Nissan with Health Maintenance Tobacco Funds. She requested a transfer in the amount of \$23,000.00 in Fund 1168 Health Maintenance Tobacco from account 30008 contractual to account 40012 vehicle purchase. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **RMH APPOINTMENT**

Kip Burkett was present to request he be reappointed by the council to the Rush Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. He reported the hospital is doing well financially. They have more specialists and are doing more surgeries. Barnes asked how the new ambulance structure is working for the hospital. Burkett believes it is working. Transfers were an issue at the beginning but it has been resolved. Scott Barnes made the motion to retain all current appointments including Kip Burkett to the RMH Board of Trustees. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried. All were in favor.

### **TRANSFES**

The following transfers were presented by Auditor Jodi Harr for approval:

- Auditor County General total of budget transfer \$406.22. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfers. Scott Barnes seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. The transfers were as follows:
  - \$363.0 from account 40002 to 20010
  - \$14.44 from account 30070 to 20010
  - \$28.74 from account 30002 to 20010
- Clerk Election County General in the amount of \$377.93 from account 30020 to 20011. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Clerk Election County General in the amount of \$423.51 from account 30020 to 20011. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Clerk Perpetuation Fund in the amount of \$3,000.00 from account 10018 to 20010. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Adult Probation User Fee Fund in the amount of \$3,000.00 from account 40000 to 30005. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- K9 Contribution Fund in the amount of \$1,028.95 from account 20010 to 40000. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Ralph Adams seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Treasurer County General in the amount of \$1,434.66 from account 30062 to 20010. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve. Warren Norris seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Veteran Service Office County General in the amount of \$500.00 from account 30002 to 20010. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **LONGEVITY PAY**

Auditor Harr requested permission to pay the second half of employee longevity pay on Friday, December 13, 2019. All agreed to pay the longevity.

### **JAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Construction Control is still saying construction will be completed by the end of December. Commissioner Mark Bacon does not believe that it will be. The roof is still not completed. The Auditor commented that we have almost depleted the bond proceeds and will need to start spending the special income tax dollars within the next thirty to sixty days.

### **RECORDS STORAGE**

The records storage issue has not been discussed at a commissioner meeting. They do have a quote from Milroy Building Supply for the building.

**E911**

Clarification was requested on how much fire departments would be refunded for new radio equipment. The departments will be reimbursed fifty percent of the cost of newly purchased radios. They must turn in receipt/invoice to the sheriff by December 11, 2019.

**SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

Warren Norris reported the Solid Waste District Board agreed to pay Director Carole Yeend \$1,200.00 for her longevity pay for 2019. There is money within their budget to do this. They also agreed that her 2020 salary will increase to be the same as the Surveyor, Assessor and Recorder salary will be in 2020.

**SHERIFF**

Sherriff Allan Rice gave the department reports. He introduced a cell phone application that would allow anyone to get answers to questions that are most commonly called in to dispatch. There is an estimated start-up fee of \$7,800.00 and an estimated annual cost of \$4,000.00 to the county but it is free to the public. He is still looking at it before making a recommendation on whether to use it.

He noted there is interest in a joint central dispatch center. He has asked for more time before pursuing this so that they can get settled into the new jail.

**JAIL COMMISSARY**

Sheriff Allan Rice presented a letter requesting permission to use \$2,500.00 from the commissary fund to pay for the annual awards banquet for the sheriff and jail employees. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve with the understanding that the council be presented receipts showing the expenses did not go over \$2,500.00. Warren Norris seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Discussion was held on future opportunities for the county to be involved in a parks and recreation properties.

Ralph Adams made the motion to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

/Charles Smith/

/Warren Norris/

/Ralph Adams/

Charles Smith, Chairman

Warren Norris

Ralph Adams

/Absent 11-13-19/

/Marvin Hedrick/

/Scott Barnes/

Janet Kile

Marvin Hedrick

Scott Barnes

/Carl Harcourt/  
Carl Harcourt

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/  
Jodi Harr, Auditor