

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL September 02, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, September 02, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Grant Reeves were also present.

Commissioner roll call at 9:00 a.m. with Jeff Wilson and Kenny Aulbach present.

PUBLIC HEARING POSEY TOWNSHIP BUDGET 2027

- Chairman Charlie Smith called to order the public hearing for the Posey Township 2027 budget at 9:00 a.m. Hearing no comment from the public, Carl Harcourt moved to close the public hearing. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING RUSH COUNTY SOLID WASTE 2027

- Chairman Charlie Smith called to order the public hearing for the Rush County Solid Waste District 2027 budget at 9:01 a.m. Hearing no comment from the public, Amy Grocox made the motion to close the public hearing. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING RUSH COUNTY BUDGET 2027

- At 9:02 a.m. Chairman Charlie Smith called to order the Public Hearing for the Rush County 2027 budget. Hearing no comments from the public, Amy Grocox made the motion to close the public hearing. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of August 12, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SURVEYOR

- Surveyor Ryan Miller requested approval from the Council to transfer \$1,641.46 from County General 1000.30024.00000.0006 Vehicle Maintenance to 1000.20010.00000.0006 Supplies. Scott Barnes moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the Council approve and sign the Community Crossing Matching Fund-Financial Commitment Letter County of Rush for the 2027 CCMG applications. Kyle Gardner moved to sign the commitment letter. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Charlie Smith inquired about damage from recent flooding. Superintendent Jerry Sitton advised there was minor damage from the flooding, however there is no advantage to the county to apply for FEMA money.

POSEY TOWNSHIP BUDGET 2027

- Due to the Posey Township Advisory Board having Posey Township volunteer firefighters on their board, I.C. 36-1-23-2 states the fiscal body of Rush County must review and adopt their budget. Monty McMahan was present to answer any questions the council had and requested approval of Resolution 2026-10. Amy Grocox moved to approve the Posey Township Budget for 2027 and sign Resolution 2026-10. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$3,000.00 in County General 1000.10018.00000.0002 Part-Time to 1000.20010.00000.0002 Supplies. Amy Grocox moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to amend the 2026 Salary Ordinance. This amendment adds the \$2,500.00 stipend for the public defender that was approved at the August meeting. Amy Grocox moved to approve the amended salary ordinance. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that the LIT information for the volunteer fire departments had been uploaded to Gateway.

COMMISSIONERS

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,973.64 in fund 4801 Courthouse Renovation. Kyle Gardner moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$600,000.00 in fund 4943 Rush County Solar Farm. Scott Barnes moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- Debbie O'Neil, newly hired director for the Senior Citizens Center introduced herself to the Council.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- Commissioner Jeff Wilson advised the Council the 2nd floor courthouse offices would be moving to the old John Deere Building on September 16th, 17th and 18th.
- Commissioner Jeff Wilson advised the Council that Solid Waste had sold their pole barn.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice presented the Council with the Supplemental CAR-1's for Commissary and Inmate Trust for the first two quarters of 2026. Rice advised that the financial system had crashed and the data had to be rebuilt using bank statements for the commissary account. Rice stated that the state board of accounts does not have time to do an audit of the commissary account but that he could have an independent audit done if the council recommends. Both the Council and Commissioners feel it is necessary to

have the independent audit done to ensure its correctness before Rice goes out of office so that the new sheriff knows where it stands.

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council he is looking into a new tablet program for the inmates that would have no cost to the county.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council on the repairs to the sally port doors at the jail.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that one (1) Durango had water damage to the motor during the recent flooding and that it was a total loss.

2027 BUDGETS

- The first reading of the Rush County Solid Waste 2027 Budget was held with the following totals: General Fund budget estimate \$428,692.00 maximum estimated funds to be raised \$166,122.00 with a current tax levy of \$166,122.00. Debt Service budget estimate \$315,152.00 maximum estimated funds to be raised \$362,425.00. Amy Grocox moved to approve the first reading of the Rush County Solid Waste 2027 Budget. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- The first reading of the Rush County 2027 Budget was held with the following totals: County General \$10,424,899.00, Sheriff's Accident \$8,500.00, Edit Capital Projects \$790,262.00, LIT Special Purpose \$3,719,090.00, Clerk Record Perpetuation \$18,700.00, Community Correction Work \$222,429.00, RCCC CTO \$18,000.00, Sales Disclosure Training \$6,000.00, Covered Bridge \$8,000.00, Cumulative Bridge \$349,000.00, Cum Cap Development \$733,694.00, GIS Electronic Map \$3,525.00, LEPC/HAZ MAT \$14,200.00, Firearms Training \$15,000.00, Health \$405,405.00, County ID Security \$5,000.00, Local Public Health Services \$174,447.00, Health Maint. Tobacco \$23,000.00, Local RD & ST \$1,379,600.00, LIT Public Safety Co Share \$251,500.00, Co Medical Care Inmate \$6,000.00, Misdemeanor Fund \$18,500.00, Highway \$4,446,186.00, Plat Book \$7,700.00, Rainy Day \$50,000.00, Recorder Records \$107,995.00, Riverboat \$105,000.00, Supplemental Public Defender \$23,000.00, Surveyors Cornerstone \$15,000.00, IN Local Health Department Trust \$20,135.00, CO Elected Officials Training \$2,500.00, Rush County 911 Fund \$1,084,776.00, Reassessment \$181,681.00, Opioid Restricted Fund \$302,283.00, Opioid Unrestricted Fund \$122,967.00, Adult Probation User Fee \$27,000.00, Juvenile Probation User Fee \$3,500.00, Pre Trial Diversion \$49,274.00, Jury Fee Fund \$25,400.00, TIF-Milroy Industrial \$7,700.00, Debt Payment \$239,376.00, LCC Alcohol & Drugs \$30,000.00, Law Enforcement Forfeiture \$6,000.00, K-9 Contribution Fund \$12,000.00, Law Enforcement Cont. Education \$7,500.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Co \$8,900.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Pros \$14,620.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Clerk \$5,000.00, RCCC Grant Fund \$166,702.00, RCCC Drug Court Grant \$86,546.00, Bond #2 \$1,200,000.00, Infraction Deferral \$8,200.00, Lane Mile Direct Distribution \$433,651.00, Building and Construction Related \$25,000.00, Rush Co Indiana Solar Farm Fund \$479,000.00. For a 2027 grand total of \$27,899,343.00. Amy Grocox moved to approve the first reading of the 2027 Rush County Budget. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- Chris Calloway with McCready and Keene presented the Council with the sheriff's retirement plan report. Calloway also spoke on the investment part of the plan.

- Charlie Smith advised the Council that Virgil Bremer, who is their appointment to the APC Board, had submitted his resignation letter. Letters of interest will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 2026, and the council will make the appointment at their October 14th meeting. County Attorney Grant Reeves advised the Council that during this appointment process, they need to make sure they protect their interest to the APC Board and be certain they are not appointing someone who has an agenda.
- Janet Kile inquired if Purdue had reached out. Charlie Smith wanted Amy Grocox and Denny Corn to clarify their motion that was made in the August meeting. The motion that was made is as follows, Amy Grocox moved to offer the Extension office an additional \$21,250.00 in the Contract line making that a total of \$74,750.00 instead of \$96,000.00. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Smith stated that Purdue advised if the contract was signed Rush County is agreeing to a \$96,000.00 contract in 2028. Smith stated if the commissioners sign the contract they will need to find the extra funds within their budget.

MUST

- Kyle Gardner stated the MUST meeting went well. Scott Barnes requested an update. Charlie Smith stated that currently most everyone will be made whole, however, some townships will be losing money. Smith stated that amounts will not be put in the MUST report, instead they will be putting concepts in the report. Smith stated that the income tax rate will be increasing but it will not be at the max amount.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Grocox. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at the Rush County Jail in the training room.

/Absent/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Kyle Gardner/
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor