

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Ralph Adams, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

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

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 10, 2020 were reviewed. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the executive session held on January 10, 2020 were reviewed. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

BROADBAND

Mark McCorkle and Carole Yeend presented Resolution 2020-01 A Joint Resolution Between the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rush and The Rush County Council Adopting The Rush County Digital Inclusion Plan 2020-2025. Warren Norris made the motion to sign. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried.

E911

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Rushville and Rush County for Rush County to pay to the City of Rushville the sum of \$102,726.00 from the E911 fund to be applied toward the salaries of the City of Rushville E911 Dispatchers. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the agreement. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

200 N INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

County Attorney Leigh Morning presented an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Rushville and Rush County for County Road 200 North. She confirmed that this has nothing to do with the eminent domain case. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton sees no issue as far as the county highway department is concerned. There is no expense to the county nor will we have anything to do with the project. City of Rushville will be responsible for the upkeep of the road. He said the City of Rushville will have to purchase right of way from the county at some point. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Ashley Stevens requested permission to make the currently budgeted full time Field Supervisor position a part time position. It will pay \$15.00 to \$19.00 per hour depending

on experience. The job description has been updated and submitted to the HR department. The position will work nights and weekends. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve a transfer in the amount of \$39,026.00 from the full time field officer account 10160 to account 10018 part time. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

The county was awarded a federal Opioid Response grant through the State of Indiana. Stevens requested an additional appropriation to spend the funds. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$60,000.00. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kristi Amos and Gerald Mohr with the Rush County Community Foundation requested the council sign a letter of support for a grant submission to seek funding for the development of a community center. This is not a matching grant. Mohr would like for the county commissioners and county council to place some type of funding in the 2021 county budget for this project. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to sign the letter of support. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried. Scott Barnes added he feels like this project has more significance than the current Stellar program that we have supported through the EDIT fund. Once the commitment to Stellar is completed, he would like to see that money committed to a community center. Marvin Hedrick stated he would also like to see more support go to the Boys and Girls Club of Rush County.

HR

HR Director Tony Personnet reported an error had been made on a full time dispatcher salary. He requested the Salary Ordinance 2019-11 be amended to change the pay to \$36,348 for B. Ott. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the amended salary ordinance to cover the E911 salary and the community corrections request to change the field officer from full time to part time. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

LEPC

The LEPC did not turn in a budget in time for 2020. They are requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$12,800.00. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department requested permission to apply for a grant for the county health department to receive Naloxone kits at no cost to the county. It is a State grant through the Indiana Department of Health. The sheriff department already has their kits but Sheriff Rice believes it will be a good thing for the health department to have these to distribute to others. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the grant since there is no cost to the county. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried.

RIVERBOAT

Auditor Harr requested a transfer from Vacation Pay Out account 10231 to Professional Services 30186 in the Riverboat Fund 1191 to pay for the financial services of Baker Tilly. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the transfer. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR PRE TRIAL DIVERSION

An additional appropriation was requested in Fund 2502 Pretrial Diversion. The additional appropriation is required to cover the mandate issued by the Department of Labor for the minimum salary of the exempt position of prosecutor investigator. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the additional \$3,563.00 to cover the increase in salary and social security. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

ENCUMBRANCES

Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the encumbrances from 2019 to 2020 by Auditor Harr. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice gave his department update. He reminded all of the new jail open house to be held on February 26, 2020.

Discussion was held on the Special Purpose Fund 1114. An additional appropriation is now needed to start paying the operation costs for the jail. Rice prepared a proposed budget to advertise and requested two additional correction officers. Jail Commander Chris Plough was present to go over what is needed of corrections officers during the day. Once an officer is put in the control tower of the new jail, it will make them even shorter staffed. Marvin Hedrick commented the council decided at last year's budget to wait until we were moved into the new jail before making that decision. No motion was made to add two additional correctional officers. Auditor Harr asked for clarification as to where the council would like the overtime paid from for the two correctional officers added to the Special Purpose Fund on 1/1/20. Scott Barnes made the motion to advertise the additional appropriation for operation costs plus the overtime for the two current correction officers. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff Rice asked for guidance on what was expected for the department's uniform allowance. There is currently not a written policy. Marvin Hedrick commented he would expect that it would require more dollars for a deputy and correction officer uniform than other department employees. The total budgeted for uniforms would be the same but not necessarily \$800 for every employee. Rice said there is a basic policy that says tactical pants and shirts with the Sheriff department's logo. All agreed that a written policy needs to be completed and specifically address deputies, correction officers, dispatch, etc.

Discussion was then held on the hourly pay for part time jail employees. Sheriff Rice would like it increased. He is three part time people short to handle day to day operations. Marvin Hedrick requested he do some research and report back to the council at their next meeting with a recommendation and when it will be effective. Scott Barnes commented Rush County is not the only ones with this issue. Employees expect more than money from a job.

Sheriff Rice requested permission to apply for a COPS grant. It is a federal grant that will pay seventy five percent of salary and benefits for a new deputy for three years. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve application of the grant. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried. He was reminded to follow the new grant policy.

COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Commissioner Chairman Mark Bacon reminded everyone of the open house on February 26. Parking is being addressed. Rush County Schools is providing a bus for transportation if needed. Janet Kile will drive.

Bacon intends to have a meeting with DLZ prior to accepting the jail regarding change orders.

Commissioner Wilkinson is getting estimates on the roof. He has contacted a couple of vendors.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Scott Barnes advised that he invited Greg Martz with GM Development to attend the March 11 council meeting to discuss other financing options for the courthouse. He has experience with municipal financing. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the commissioners have a very broad estimate from one architect. There is still not a construction manager. These both have to be in place prior to continuing with financing. Barnes noted that GM Development is a design/build firm so you would not have the expense of an architect and construction manager.

Judge David Northam expressed is displeasure with the amount of time this is taking and still not having a definite time table. He believes the county has put two roofs on already and has not done anything with the rest of the project. Chairman Charles Smith said that if we do the entire project at one time, it will have to go to a voter referendum. If that fails, we cannot do anything for at least two years. The council and commissioners want to do what they can as quickly as they can.

FINANCIAL ADISOR

The council requested that Auditor Harr contact Greg Guerrettaz with Financial Solutions Group regarding a possible contract for financial advising to the county. He currently does work in Shelby County with the council and auditor whenever they need him.

Ralph Adams made the motion to adjourn. Scott Barnes seconded. 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

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor