

The Rush County Council met for their regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, August 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 present. Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning were in attendance.

The meeting was properly advertised with notice given to the media.

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

Roll call was taken for the Rush County Commissioners. Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson and Bruce Levi were all in attendance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 8, 2020 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Marvin Hedrick. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the July 30, 2020 joint meeting with the Rush County Commissioners were approved with a motion from Janet Kile. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ECDC

Former County Councilman Steve McCorkle was present. After much research, he would like to publically give his support to John McCane as the Director of the ECDC. He would like to see the county work with the City of Rushville and the ECDC.

John McCane invited those in attendance to stop by the Work One offices to visit with U.S. Senator Braun from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. today.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner President Mark Bacon updated the council on the request to build a storage facility for the county. Bacon has asked Councilman Barnes to obtain quotes. Barnes has two contractors preparing quotes for the building. The property located behind Kroger is not in a flood plain. Commissioner Wilkinson has talked to the Mayor about the property.

The new parking lot between the courthouse and the new jail is still under construction. Bacon will check on the status with the construction manager.

Commissioner Bruce Levi reported two local business owners are inquiring about the jail medical contract.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Alicia Winters with the Community Foundation was present to request financial support for the Rush County Community Center project. HWC Consulting provided information on a possible OCRA Grant. The grant application period will not open until 2021 due to COVID-19 delays. There is a ten percent match that would come from Rush County. It can be financial and/or in-kind. ARA will do the grant administration for the county. Winters is also requesting a letter of support from the commissioners and council.

Marvin Hedrick made the motion to apply for the OCRA grant when it opens and to commit \$25,000 in 2020 and \$40,000 in 2021 toward the Rush County Community Center project. Janet Kile seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Winters will get the letter of support drafted and sent to county attorney Leigh Morning.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey requested the following transfers within her budget:

- \$200.00 from 1000.30002.000.0003 travel to 1000.20010.000.0003 supplies
- \$851.22 from 1000.30062.000.0003 processing fees to 1000.20010.000.0003 supplies
- \$11.00 from 1000.30022.000.0003 equipment maintenance to 1000.20010.000.0003 supplies

Ralph Adams made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Ashley Stevens requested permission to apply for the second year of the Justice Partners Addictions Response grant through the Indiana Supreme Court. It is \$60,000 and pays the salary of the Pre-Trial Officer. Warren Norris made the motion to approve. Marvin Hedrick seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RECORDER

Recorder Kevin Spilman requested permission to use CARES Act funds to pay for scanning of books and microfilm in his office. He has one quote from SBS of approximately \$40,000.00. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve as long as IFA has approved the expense. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

Auditor Jodi Harr requested permission to use CARES Act funds to pay for the scanning of transfer books, plat books, commissioner/council minutes and to set up electronic property deductions. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve as long as IFA has approved the expense. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Harr also requested permission to hire a payroll deputy replacement for Tammy Justice. She has money in her budget to transfer to cover the expense through 2020. Justice will become the Auditor on January 1, 2021. This would allow time for the new employee to be trained prior to Justice taking office. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the hiring of a new payroll deputy. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH

Julia Apple and Dixie Meyer were present to give the health department report. They requested permission to apply for two grants.

- Cares Act funding through the Indiana State Department of Health for IT needs. It can be used to digitize county records and other IT needs. The amount is \$75,314.00. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the application. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- COVID-19 testing grant through the ISDH in the amount of \$100,000.00. They will partner with Rush Memorial Hospital to provide the testing. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the application. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The vital records clerk has given notice of her retirement on October 2, 2020.

The council thanked Apple and Meyer for going above and beyond their work schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HR

HR Director Tony Personett updated the council on the personnel policy handbook changes. Commissioner Bruce Levi and Councilwoman Janet Kile have met with department heads and are finalizing the proposed changes to be approved by the commissioners.

RUSH COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Rush County Solid Waste Director Carole Yeend requested an additional appropriation in the County General fund of the Rush County Solid Waste District in the amount of \$29,000.00. The request is due to the increase cost of recycling and the purchase of equipment. She has checked with other vendors for recycling and the cost is about the same. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR STOP GRANT

Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested an additional appropriation in fund 8118 STOP Grant in the amount of \$16,362.00. This is for a three month extension awarded to the grant from the ICJI. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Caviness also requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation in fund 2503 Infraction Deferral in the amount of \$1,500.00. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the request. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Angela Buckley requested a transfer in the Clerk Perpetuation fund 1119 in the amount of \$5,000.00 from 1119.10018.000.0000 part time to 1119.20010.000.0000 supplies. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the transfer. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice reported that two sheriff department vehicles were totaled and three more vehicles were damaged in the same incident. One insurance deductible will be applied to all three vehicles. He is in the process of ordering the scheduled vehicle replacements.

He provided an update on the mechanical issues at the jail.

Sheriff Rice requested a transfer in fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose in the amount of \$13,208.00 from 1114.30046.000.0000 lodging/meals to 1114.10091.000.0000 Correction Officer salary. This position will be used to provide for a new correction officer at the jail due to a second county general correction officer being moved to courthouse security position through December 31, 2020. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer. Janet Kile seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the following transfers from his 1176 Highway non-restricted fund to the 1173 restricted highway fund.

- \$62,816.00 from 1176.10149.000.0531 drivers to 1173.10149.000.0000 drivers
- \$15,740.00 from 1176.10150.000.0531 operators to 1173.10150.000.0000 operators
- \$62,816.00 from 1176.10151.000.0531 laborers to 1173.10151.000.0000 laborers
- \$10,813.00 from 1176.10200.000.0533 social security to 1173.10200.000.0533 social security
- \$32,355.00 from 1176.10201.000.0533 health insurance to 1173.10201.000.0533 health insurance
- \$15,830.00 from 1176.10205.000.0533 retirement to 1173.10205.000.0533 retirement

Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the transfers. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SALARY ORDINANCE

A new salary ordinance was presented adding the auditor payroll position replacement and the new correction officer in fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose for the new correction officer. Janet Kile made the motion to approve. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2021 RUSH COUNTY BUDGETS

Auditor Harr presented the council the 2021 calculation of estimated maximum levy report and the 2021 estimated property tax cap impact report provided by the DLGF. The information was also emailed to them. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to make no recommendation on the reports. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Harr certified assessed values to the DLGF on July 24, 2020. The report was emailed to the county council. It was noted a decrease of 2.65% in assessed value for the total county in 2021.

Discussion was held on the commissioners coming up with a five year plan, department heads not spending anything in 2020 and 2021 unless absolutely necessary, comments from the financial advisor, and making bond payments and expenditures in fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose fund.

The public hearing for the 2021 budgets will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 with the adoption of the budget on October 14, 2020.

Carl Harcourt made the motion to adjourn. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in agreeance. 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