

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****JANUARY 8, 2020**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, January 08, 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. Roll call was taken for the county commissioners. Paul Wilkinson and Mark Bacon were present. Bruce Levi was absent.

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

Marvin Hedrick made the motion for Charles Smith to be the Chairman and Scott Barnes to be the Vice-Chairman of the Rush County Council. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 11, 2019 regular meeting were reviewed. Ralph Adams made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Marvin Hedrick seconded. Motion carried.

HR

HR Director Tony Personnet notified the council that an error was made for the court administrator. They should be classified as COMOT III. Also, the Circuit Court Reporter hourly rate should be \$16.93 per hour. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve Amended Salary Ordinance 2019-11. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on job descriptions. Personnet has some department heads inquire about changing job descriptions. It is going to cost money every time a job description is changed. He recommends using that money on salaries rather than professional fees. He believes the county has made big strides as far as hours worked and building longevity into employee pay; however, courthouse employees are getting to work more hours for less pay where others are getting more pay for the same hours. He would like permission to review salaries of other counties one last time.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

David Malson was present to speak with the council. In the State vs Evans jury trial the defendant was determined to be indigent by the court during the trial. His attorney agreed to act pro bono. Public Defender told them at that time that the county only had \$10,000 to pay toward the expert witness fee. The expert witness was to continue at no extra charge. They have now received an invoice for \$24,000. Malson has sent the expert witness a Mutual Agreement Release asking them to accept the \$10,000 as payment in full. He is waiting to see if that is accepted.

Public Defender staff job descriptions were the next topic. Last year the office decided to cross train both employees to be paralegals. Both of the employees assist all public defender attorneys. The state is changing how salary reimbursement will be done. He wants to realign the job descriptions and their pay. Marvin Hedrick commented they should follow the procedure accepted by the commissioners and council at last month's meeting. All were in agreement.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested the council approve Ordinance 2020-1 repealing Ordinance 2014-1 which created the Rush County Underground Storage Tank Fund. The underground storage tank has been removed so the funds can be transferred back to the county highway fund 1176 which is where the funds came from. Ralph Adams made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-1 which rescinds Ordinance 2014-1. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Now that the 2020 budget has been approved by the DLGF, the auditor requested permission to advertise the following additional appropriation request.

- Fund 2502 PreTrial Diversion in the amount of \$3,563.00. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the request to advertise. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.
- Fund 8119 CFDA#93.788 IN State Opioid Response Grant in the amount of \$60,000.00. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the request to advertise. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried.
- Fund 1152 LEPC/HazMat in the amount of \$12,800.00. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the request to advertise. Ralph Adams seconded. Motion carried.

END OF YEAR TRANSFERS

Auditor Harr presented the following transfers that needed to be done between the last council meeting and December 31, 2019:

- Commissioner PERF to Commissioner Health Insurance \$4,800.00
- Auditor Part Time to Auditor Contract Service \$96.00
- Auditor Part Time to Auditor Supplies \$101.00
- HR Supplies to HR Contract Service \$198.81
- HR Travel to HR Contract Service \$365.67
- Soil & Water Cons/Edu to Soil & Water Education \$50.00
- Soil & Water Cons/Edu to Soil & Water Mileage \$265.06

The total of the transfers were \$5,876.54. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the transfers. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

It was noted that the Community Mental Health Report for 2019 was received via mail.

HEALTH

Julia Apple gave a department update along with the number of permits issued. The community assessment is complete. Results are posted on the board outside of the health department.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kristi Amos invited everyone to attend a presentation on the results of the community meetings. It will be on January 28, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at the Elks.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice presented his 2019 totals for his department. Corrected commissary financial reports were presented.

He updated them on the progress of the new jail. Inspections will be held on January 13, January 16 and January 31 is the expected project finish date. The new medical team has taken over and is training correction officers this week. Discussion was held on the number of change orders that have been received. They will be meeting with DLZ on January 16.

He is having a problem finding part time correction officers to work. He suggested the council may have to increase the pay to get people to work part time.

The full time courthouse security officer has been hired. He will be in training the week of January 13 and will be at the courthouse starting January 21.

9:41 a.m. Commissioner Bruce Levi arrived.

The council commended Rice for the management of his budget during 2019. He did have money left in his budget and did not request any additional appropriations.

9:50 Chairman Smith recessed the regular council meeting. They will reconvene following the executive session to be held at 10:00 a.m.

12:18 p.m. Chairman Smith reconvened the regular council meeting.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Commissioner Wilkinson reported that he has walked the courthouse with a design engineering firm. He is waiting on their report. They did say that it would be more cost efficient for us to replace the air handlers on the third floor at the same time the roof is being replaced or repaired.

The council discussed funding options given to them by Baker Tilly. They discussed the projects that need to be done. Some of the priority projects would be the roof, sidewalk, handicap entrance and a one door security entrance. Leigh Morning suggested they look at the Hancock County Courthouse entrances. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to proceed with

property tax bonds in the amount of \$4.7 million with a payback period of twenty years. Janet Kile seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Morning will contact Baker Tilly and Barnes & Thornburg.

Ralph Adams made the motion to adjourn. Carl Harcourt 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