

The Rush County Council met for their regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 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.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 13, 2020 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Marvin Hedrick. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested an additional appropriation in fund 9107 Community Crossing Grant in the amount of \$871,672.78. These funds will be used for paving between 700 West and 900 North. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK-ELECTION

Rush County Clerk Angela Buckley requested a transfer in the county general election budget to purchase supplies due to COVID-19. The request is for \$1,600 from 1000.30002.000.0104 – Travel to 1000.20106.000.0104 election emergency supplies. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HR

HR Director Tony Personett reported the county commissioners gave approval to amend the county employee personnel policy to extend the use of vacation days earned in 2019 to be used in 2020. The employee will now have through 2021 to use those days.

Employee health insurance open enrollment is coming up. There are no changes to benefits or premiums. Employees have done an excellent job of controlling cost. With that being said the commissioners agreed to give the employees a health insurance rebate by not withholding employee nor employer share of health insurance premiums on the October 26, 2020 and April 26, 2021 pay dates.

ECDC

John McCane requested the council hold an executive session to receive information regarding an economic development opportunity on county owned property. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

McCane also requested to meet with three council members to discuss the county abatement process. Carl Harcourt, Ralph Adams and Janet Kile will meet with him after the council holds their abatement workshop with Nexus.

COVID-19 COURTHOUSE OPEN

Commissioner Mark Bacon commented the commissioners are meeting on June 12 regarding opening the courthouse to the public. The employees are not giving a favorable response to covering the desk on the first floor. Finding the funding to pay for a security person on the first floor is the main issue for opening the courthouse. The question was asked if we can hire someone and be reimbursed with state COVID-19 funds until the end of the year. Marvin Hedrick asked Sheriff Allan Rice if he can provide one of his current employees to cover the

security. Sheriff Rice said he cannot do that because he has to get vacation and other paid time off covered for full time employees by using his part time employees. It is hard to schedule part time because they work other jobs. Discussion was held on why Perry County operates with half of the full time staff that we have. Sheriff Rice explained his policy on security checks, staffing and the fact that he has a bigger facility with the probability of more inmates.

Superior Court Judge Hill presented a proposal to help pay for a full time additional security officer. He suggests giving department heads the discretion to determine if any of their employees could go back to 32 hours a week instead of 35. The employee would not get paid for the loss of those three hours and that money could go toward the salary of an additional security officer. HR Director Tony Personett will talk with other department heads.

Commissioner Bacon reported the roof contractor will be here today to plan for the repairs to the west side of the courthouse caused by storm damage. The cost is \$26,920.00. The insurance is sending the funds to the treasurer this week.

10:05 a.m. Chairman Smith recessed the meeting until 10:15.

10:15 a.m. Chairman Smith resumed the meeting

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS GROUP

Upon request of the council, Greg Guerrettaz and Charlie Joyce with Financial Solutions Group, Inc. presented what services their firm could provide to the county council and county auditor. Discussion was held on lost revenue expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will provide consulting services on budgets, revenue and any other financial advice that is needed. They work by fee for service with an estimated cost of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Janet Kile made the motion to receive an engagement letter from them and present it to the commissioners for approval. The fee up to \$20,000 will be paid from the Riverboat fund. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice requested permission to apply for the latest round of Bullet Proof Vests grant through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. There is a fifty percent match to the grant. The estimated match amount is \$8,000. He will transfer funds for the match in fund 1170 Public Safety County share from vehicle. He would like to start budgeting for this match each year. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the grant application with the match coming from already budgeted funds. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The communication repeater to improve radio communications within the jail is estimated by ECS at \$7,980.00. ECS has proven to Allan that this repeater will fix the problems. He requests that this be paid from the jail construction contingency funds. Scott Barnes made the motion to recommend to the commissioners to allow this to be paid from contingency funds of the jail construction. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Rush County has been awarded the COPS grant. This grant will pay seventy percent of salary and benefits for a new sheriff deputy. The estimated cost to the county will be \$22,000.00. He does have an extra car that can be utilized. Scott Barnes made the motion that the council will fund the \$22,000.00 in the 2021 budget with the understanding that the sheriff will staff two courthouse security officers, the sheriff will find the dollars in the existing budget to pay for the extra expenses of hiring a new deputy in the 2021 budget and the sheriff 2021 total budget is not to exceed the amount of the 2020 budget. Marvin Hedrick seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Rice updated the council on current jail construction issues. He invited and encouraged the council members to schedule a time to sit in dispatch and the control tower to see the operations of the new jail.

JAIL INSPECTION

The annual state jail inspection was completed. We did pass this year.

Scott Barnes made the motion to adjourn. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in agreeance. Motion carried.

/Charles Smith/_____ /Warren Norris/_____ /Ralph Adams/_____

Charles Smith, Chairman

Warren Norris

Ralph Adams

/Janet Kile/_____ /Marvin Hedrick/_____ /Scott Barnes/_____

Janet Kile

Marvin Hedrick

Scott Barnes

/Carl Harcourt/_____

Carl Harcourt

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/_____

Jodi Harr, Auditor