

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL April 12, 2023

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Charlie Smith present. Auditor Tammy Justice, and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present. Councilman Carl Harcourt was not present.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Regular Session to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the March 8, 2023, Regular Session meeting were presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

- Sande Land requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2024 INDOT Section 5311 Public Transit Federal Grant in the amount of \$172,444.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide public transportation to the citizens of Rush County. Amy Grocox made the motion to apply for the INDOT Section 5311 Public Transit Federal Grant. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested permission to advertise for additional appropriation in fund 8129 CFDA 93.354 Co-Op Agreement in the amount of \$50,000.00. Motion to advertise was made by Scott Barnes. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested approval to apply for the state Narcan Grant. This grant will be for 200 doses of Narcan and has no county match. The purpose of the grant is to distribute Narcan to appropriate agencies. Amy Grocox made the motion to apply for the Narcan Grant. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

- Public Defender Bryan Barrett advised the Council that the Public Defender Board approved to host an unpaid extern from IU McKinney Law School from May 1, 2023, through August 1, 2023. The Council agreed to host the extern.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. The following three funds will receive grant dollars. Fund 9104 Grant Fund, Fund 9114 DC Grant Fund and Fund 9125 Pretrial Services Grant. The requested 2024

budget amount has not been finalized yet, but there will be no county match. Kyle Gardner moved to approve applying for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JRAC

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval of additional appropriation for fund 1238 Opioid Unrestricted Misc. in the amount of \$35,553.76. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval of additional appropriation for fund 1237 Opioid Restricted Misc. in the amount of \$83,216.56. Kyle Gardner made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for a resolution authorizing financing for six (6) tandem axel dump trucks. The amount of the lease-purchase shall not exceed \$1,117,381.79 with an interest rate of 4.622% to be paid out of the Highway budget annually for seven years. Superintendent Sitton advised that the six (6) old tandem trucks will be sold at public auction and not traded in on the new ones. Funds from the sale of the old trucks will be used to pay down the lease. Denny Corn motioned to sign Resolution 2023-6 authorizing financing for six (6) tandem axel dump trucks. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to transfer a total of \$7,200.00 from 1176.40023.00000.0530 pickup line and disburse \$2,400.00 to each of the following lines 1176.10143.00000.0530 Superintendent, 1176.10032.00000.0530 Assistant Superintendent and 1176.10148.00000.0530 Clerical to cover the \$2.00 wage increase. Scott Barnes motioned to approve the transfers to all three lines. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer funds in the amount of \$6,500.00 from 4801.40031.00000.0000 Capital Outlays to 4801.30186.00000.0000 Professional Services. This is to finish paying Arsee Engineering for their consulting fees for the courthouse roof project. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the transfer. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in County General fund 1000 in the amount of \$142,847.70 for Professional Services. This is to cover the \$2.00 wage increase. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in Cum Cap Development fund 1138 in the amount of \$5,348.25 for Professional Services. This is to cover the \$2.00 wage increase. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the additional

appropriation. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in LIT fund 1114 in the amount of \$19,966.80 for Professional Services. This is to cover the \$2.00 wage increase. Kyle Gardner made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in Rush County 911 fund 1222 in the amount of \$19,966.80 for Professional Services. This is to cover the \$2.00 wage increase. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council on his department's financials for the year.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that Deputy Amanda Cable would be graduating from the academy on April 21, 2023.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council he is waiting on delivery of the three new Durango's that were ordered.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council of the jail inspection coming up on April 18, 2023.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council the body camera system install, and set-up will be taking place within the next 30 days.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council the mixing valve was replaced in cell blocks D and E and updated everyone on the jail roof.

SOLAR

- Councilman Scott Barnes shared with the council, citizen concerns on potential road closures during solar projects and how the Highway Department notifies citizens of such closures. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton stated that information is relayed to the Sheriff Department and put on the county website. Sitton also stated he has not had any complaints of citizens having issues accessing roads in these project sites. Barnes asked Sitton to keep in touch with other county highway superintendents whose counties are putting in solar farms.
- Councilman Kyle Gardner advised he had been contacted by a citizen regarding the condition of 1200 N from the construction of a solar project. Superintendent Jerry Sitton advised him Henry County has already put a work order in place to grade that road.
- Discussion was held on the need to sell the financial benefits of solar projects to the taxpayers of the county. Mason Gordon with HWC Engineering along with Councilman Kyle Gardner advised they are working to get figures together to help show the financial benefits. The county courthouse needs remodeling and it's beneficial to find alternative sources of revenue rather than raise property taxes to cover the bond.
- Discussion was held regarding the number of tillable acres being used for the solar project. There are approximately 212,000 tillable acres in Rush

County. The solar project is expected to use 1,018 tillable acres inside the fence however, this is subject to change. This is only half of one percent of tillable acres being used and property owners are not being forced into signing up.

- Councilman Charlie Smith updated the Council on a meeting he attended with Hoosier Energy, stating projects are all voluntary and comes down to property rights.

CLERK

- Clerk Angie Buckley discussed with the Council next year's presidential election. She anticipates increased voting and mail in ballots and potentially needing to hire an additional person to travel to polling sites and work on the voting machines if they jam. She also advised the state is mandating placing voter verify paper trails on each voting machine. This will double the size of the cases to carry the machines. She may need to find alternative ways to transport the machines to polling sites.
- Clerk Angie Buckley made the Council aware that in the future there will be a need to update the voting machines. The anticipated cost of this is \$2,800.00 per machine and she will have around 45 machines.
- Clerk Angie Buckley thanked the Council for the \$2.00 raise they passed.

MISC

- Auditor Tammy Justice, for the Prosecutor, requested approval for an additional appropriation for fund 9121, Prosecutor Deferral Grant, total amount of \$4,500.00 broken down as follows. \$2,500.00 into 9121.30005.00000.0000 Misc. Services and \$2,000.00 into 9121.30039.00000.0000 Drug Testing. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice, for EMA Director Chuck Kemker, requested approval from the Council to apply for the School Co-Ag Grant in the amount of \$110,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide additional resources to the local health department to lead the support efforts directly with schools and their actions as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kyle Gardner made the motion to apply for the School Co-Ag Grant. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Councilman Charlie Smith advised the others that they had been named in a tort claim.
- Councilman Denny Corn inquired about the storage building project.

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

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Absent/
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Absent/
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor