

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL May 10, 2023

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Carl Harcourt and Charlie Smith present. Auditor Tammy Justice, and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present. Councilmen Kyle Gardner and Scott Barnes were not present.

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

Minutes of the April 12, 2023, Regular Session meeting were presented. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Roll call for the Commissioners was called at 9:03am with Mark Bacon and Kenny Aulbach present.

PROSECUTOR

- Deputy Prosecutor David Thompson requested approval from the Council to apply for the CY 2024 Prosecutor's Felony Diversion Program Grant in the amount of \$26,025.00 with no county match. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for the Prosecutor's Felony Diversion, which serves to divert qualified defendants, facing felony charges, from incarceration and probation while still holding them accountable for their behavior. The funding provides for a portion of the salary for deputy prosecutor managing the program as well as for a portion of the services provided to the diversion participants. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the Prosecutor's Felony Diversion Program Grant. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Deputy Prosecutor David Thompson advised the Council that fund 9110 Prosecutor Felony Diversion is now required by the state to use alternating fund numbers every year. At the end of 2022 there was a balance of \$4,456.22 remaining in the 9110 fund. For 2023 the new fund number of 9121 was established. Thompson is asking the Council to transfer the balance of \$4,456.22 to fund 9121 due to those funds being factored into the 2023 budget. Amy Grocox moved to approve the transfer of \$4,456.22 to fund 9121 from fund 9110. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer updated the Council that the Governors Public Health Commission did pass. The Commissioners have until September 1, 2023, to decide to accept or deny the Governors Public Health Commission. There will be a meeting with the Indiana Department of Health on May 11, 2023, regarding the Governors Public Health Commission.

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council to apply for a Supplemental Immunization Funding Grant in the amount of \$20,133.11 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide vaccinations for the children of Rush County. Janet Kile moved to approve applying for the Supplemental Immunization Funding Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORONER

- Coroner Brenda McMahan advised the Council the number of autopsies done for 2023 have increased from previous years and she does not have enough in the budget for the remainder of 2023. Autopsies are a line item that by law must be covered, and McMahan does not have funds anywhere else within her budget to transfer from. Amy Grocox moved to transfer \$3,000.00 from Council use only line to the coroner's budget for autopsies. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$350,000.00 in fund 1135 Cum Bridge. This will be for Bridge 155 that is letting in July 2023. Denny Corn moved to approve advertising for the additional appropriation of \$350,000.00 for fund 1135 Cum Bridge. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$450,000.00 in fund 1169 Road & Street. This will be for Bridge 1 that is letting in July 2023. Denny Corn moved to approve advertising for the additional appropriation of \$450,000.00 in fund 1169 Road & Street. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an updated 2023 Salary Ordinance which reflects the \$2.00 rate increase to full time employees. Denny Corn moved to approve the updated 2023 Salary Ordinance. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that BOKF who serves as the trustee on the bonds for the Rush County Jail Building Corporation, is moving to a new account platform and has discontinued our current sweep investment which is the Federated Hermes Treasury Obligation Fund. There are three (3) different funds the county will need to choose from, and the Commissioners have asked for the Council's input before deciding. Discussion was held regarding risk factors associated with the three (3) different funds and how each of the funds are rated along with how much is invested. The Auditor was instructed to contact BOKF and FSG, the county's financial advisor, to get answers to those questions before the Council makes a recommendation to the Commissioners.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Council to apply for a local grant offered by Beacon Credit Union in the amount of \$15,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to purchase and assist with the costs of an additional K-9 unit for the agency. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the Beacon Credit Union Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice asked for approval from the Council to increase part-time wages within his department based on the \$2.00 rate increase the full-time employees received. Discussion was held regarding part-time wages being increased a year ago. The question was posed to the Commissioners who were present, why their motion didn't include all part-time employees to receive the increase. Discussion was held regarding the Sheriff Departments part-time jobs being harder to fill compared to the courthouse. However, it was noted that the \$2.00 rate increase for part-time employees should be done across the board. Carl Harcourt moved to increase the part-time wage scale by \$2.00. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that due to a new salary ordinance not being signed by the June 9, 2023, payroll, all part-time employees would receive retro pay for the period of May 13, 2023, to May 26, 2023, to be paid out on June 23, 2023.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Tony Personett advised the Council that health insurance open enrollment forms will be going out in June so new deductions can start in August.
- Director Tony Personett thanked the Council for the wage increase for the part-time employees.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker presented the Council with copies of the updated Emergency Operations Plan, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Annexes to both plans.

MISC

- Councilman Denny Corn inquired where the Commissioners are on the clean-up process in Arlington. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the order signed by Judge Hill stated the defendant was ordered to remove all material from the property but did not give a timeframe.
- Councilwoman Amy Grocox inquired as to the status of the jail roof. County Attorney Leigh Morning stated letters had been sent out regarding the issues, but no responses have been received.
- Councilman Denny Corn inquired about the property in Moscow the County was ordered to tear down. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised that requests for proposals have been sent and are due at the Commissioner meeting on May 22, 2023.
- Councilman Charlie Smith inquired on if the contract for the ambulance was up in 2023. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised that she believes it is.

- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach asked Mason Gordon about the status of the drainage plan for the solar project. Mason stated the plan is housed in the surveyor's office, but he would supply the county with one to place on the website.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Grocox. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. 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