

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL October 10, 2023

The Rush County Council met for the Regular Rush County Council meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Scott Barnes, Carl Harcourt and Charlie Smith present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present. Kyle Gardner arrived at the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

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

Minutes of the September 26, 2023, Regular Session were presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for Federal Aid Bridge 181 Replacement Grant, for replacement of bridge 181 over N Branch of Clifty Creek on CR 250 E, in the amount of \$1,839,500.00 with a county match of \$367,900.00. Denny Corn moved to apply for the Federal Aid Bridge 181 Replacement Grant. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for Federal Aid Bridge 164 Replacement Grant, for replacement of bridge 164 over Little Flatrock River on CR 300 S, in the amount of \$2,343,000.00 with a county match of \$468,600.00. Carl Harcourt moved to apply for the Federal Aid Bridge 164 Replacement Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for Federal Aid Bridge 125 Replacement Grant, for replacement of bridge 125 over Beaver Meadow Creek on CR 875 W, in the amount of \$1,142,800.00 with a county match of \$228,560.00. Amy Grocox moved to apply for the Federal Aid Bridge 125 Replacement Grant. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for Federal Aid Bridge 94 Bypass Bridge, for Ewbank Covered Bridge 94 bypass along the south side of existing bridge, in the amount of \$4,738,373.00 with a county match of \$947,674.00. Discussion was held on the benefits of a new bypass bridge. Scott Barnes moved to apply for Federal Aid Bridge 94 Bypass Bridge. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant, for salary reimbursement, in the amount of \$21,645.00 with no county match. Amy Grocox moved to apply for the 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORONER

- Coroner Brenda McMahan requested approval from the Council to transfer \$20.28 from 1000.30000.00000.0007 Postage to 1000.40000.00000.0007 Equipment. Carl Harcourt moved to allow transfer. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in 1159.20010.00000.0000 Supplies in the amount of \$1,000.00. These funds are from a workforce survey that was completed in 2022. Kyle Gardner moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in 8130.20010.00000.0000 Supplies in the amount of \$3,422.63 and in 8130.40000.00000.0000 Equipment in the amount of \$16,710.48. Janet Kile moved to approve the additional appropriation in those two lines. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested the Council approve updated Salary Ordinance 2022-11 for probation officer. Amy Grocox moved to approve Salary Ordinance 2022-11. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with a corrected legal description for Resolution No. 2023-6 that was approved at the September meeting. No motion is needed, just signatures.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for the Sheriff to apply for Local Coordinating Council Fall 2023 Grant in the amount of \$7,650.00 which will allow the Sheriff Department to purchase a Bosch CDR pro tool kit with software to extract data from a vehicles black box after accidents. The Council had questions regarding the grant that the Auditor could not answer. It was decided to wait for further information from the Sheriff.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with Ordinance 2023-10 Permitting the Rush County Recorder to Expend Monies in the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Kyle Gardner moved to approve Ordinance 2023-10. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER

- Treasurer Jodi Harr advised the Council that the 2023 Rush County Tax Sale was held on October 5, 2023. In July Treasurer Harr had certified 67 parcels eligible for tax sale, 30 parcels were paid before the sale, 21 parcels were sold at the sale, leaving 16 parcels that did not sell. Treasurer Harr advised she would send that listing to each of the Council along with the Commissioners and recommended having a Commissioner Sale on the 16 parcels left.

MISC

- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach updated the Council regarding the Arlington, Moscow, and Milroy properties.
- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach instructed the Council the concrete work around the courthouse would need to be bid out.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning updated the Council regarding the jail roof.
- Councilman Kyle Gardner updated the Council on the READI meeting and asked Commissioner Kenny Aulbach what the Commissioners intentions were regarding a commitment letter for \$15,000.00 for the READI Grant.

2024 BUDGET HEARING

- The first hearing of the 2024 Rush County Budget was held at 9:35 a.m. Discussion was held regarding the County General Election budget and the \$126,000.00 amount requested for Voting Systems. Discussion was held regarding adopting a Cum Voting Fund to help offset the cost of the voting systems. The Auditor was instructed to get clarification from FSG regarding the Cum Voting Fund. Amy Grocox moved to cut the County General Election budget for Voting Systems from \$126,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Seconded by Denny Corn. After further discussion, Amy Grocox moved to withdraw her previous motion. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the Ambulance Contract that ends December 31, 2023.
- Discussion was held regarding the benefits of having a budget workshop 30 days prior to the budget hearings and the benefits of having a financial advisor. The Council instructed the Auditor to have next year’s calendar reflect their regular scheduled meeting in August along with a budget workshop.

Councilman Charles Smith recessed the 2024 Budget Hearing until Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Kyle Gardner/
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor