

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION January 5, 2021

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Seth Whicker, Todd Mahnensmith, Chuck King, Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Deputy Auditors Julie Eicher and Tina Herring. Council Member Jim Oswalt was in attendance virtually.

Re-organization of Board: Councilmember Steve Huggins asked for nominations for President of County Council for 2021. Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to appoint Steve Huggins as Council President. Motion carried 7-0. Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to appoint Seth Whicker as Council Vice-President. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 Executive Session and December 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried 6-0, Scott Elzey abstained.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 66 inmates, 21 pretrial Superior, 17 pretrial Circuit, 10 DOC and 16 F6 DOC. Sheriff Holliday also provided his monthly and annual reports including report of Officer Activity for December 2020 and the Commissary Fund report.

Library Update: Library board members Kim Gentis and Dustin Brown were on hand to present Council with an update on library activity. Dustin stated that the Library renovation was substantially complete. Election of officers brought in the new year; Dustin Brown was elected Library Board President. SBOA audit was completed for period 2017-2019 with no issues. Reduced hours and capacity restrictions were implemented for COVID. Curbside pickup service and virtual programs were implemented as well. Online usage is up over 100%. Kim Gentis added that curbside service will continue after COVID restrictions are ceased.

Baker Tilly: Brian Colton with Baker Tilly was on hand to discuss revenue sources and bonding scenarios for funding of the construction of a new highway garage and renovations at the Wells County Jail. Discussed was using property tax or income tax revenues for the projects. The funding can range from \$10.5 million to \$16 million. Cost figures for the jail expansion are not available currently. Colton supplied possible impact for taxpayers for each possible funding source.

Elevatus: Representatives from Elevatus were on hand to update Council on a proposed jail expansion. No costs were discussed at this time, Wygant Construction will be consulted on cost estimates. Options presented were a 50, 75 and 100 bed expansions. Elevatus will update further when cost estimates are available.

2021 Solid Waste Salary Contract: Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the Solid Waste Salary contract for 2021 (Misc. 2021-02). Motion carried 7-0.

Board Appointments: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to re-appoint Seth Whicker to the Bluffton NOW board, Vicki Andrews to the Chamber of Commerce Board, Steve Huggins to the Economic Development Board, Todd Mahnensmith to the EMA Advisory Board and the EMS Board, Chuck King to the Solid Waste Board, Vicki Andrews to the Wells County Trails Board, to

reappoint Tony Garton to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Jerome Markley to the Area Plan Commission, Daryl Shrock to the Huntington City/Town Public Library and Judy Affolder to the Property Tax Board of Appeals. Motion carried 7-0.

Encumbrance: An Encumbrance summary was presented to Council for their acknowledgement.

Adjourned: 8:13 PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor