

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL SESSION January 9, 2024

The Wells County Council met in special session Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Physically present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert, and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Council member Steve Huggins participated in the meeting by electronic means of communication, Zoom, which allowed Huggins to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting. All votes taken during the meeting were taken by roll call vote.

Re-organization of Board: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish keep the current board organization with Seth Whicker as Council President and Vicki Andrews as Council Vice-President for 2024. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2023, Regular Session. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve the additional appropriations for LIT-Dedicated to PSAP fund, LIT-Dedicated to EMS fund, the Supp Adult Probation Service fund, Supp Juvenile Probation Service fund, and the 2019 Court Interpreter Grant fund. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 71 inmates, 16 pretrial Superior, 30 pretrial Circuit, 4 F6 DOC and 18 DOC. Sheriff Holliday provided his monthly and annual reports including the report of Officer Activity for December 2023, the Commissary Fund report, the 2023 Annual Jail report, and the K-9 2023 Activity Statistics Report. Holliday informed Council that out of the three cars that were ordered in 2023 only one was received. He will order three cars for 2024 but might need to come back for funds if the three cars from 2024 and the two cars for 2023 are received this year. Kurt Powell has been hired as the full-time security officer. Holliday feels he will be a good fit for the position. The current custodial maintenance employee at the jail will be retiring in March. Holliday asked to be allowed to hire prior to the current employee leaving. A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the hiring of a custodial maintenance employee as soon as possible for training. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

EMS Annual Report: Trent Bucher and Rick Piepenbrink presented the EMS annual update. Bucher stated that the EMS averages 8.3 runs per day of which 2/3 are chargeable. Medicare and Medicaid patients have significant discounts that are mandated. EMS collects 34% of what is charged. Three locations are maintained to provide timely responses to all areas of the county. The average response time is 7:39 per run. EMS wages have increased due to the labor market. The foundation balance is decreasing, increased County assistance will help defer total depletion.

Purdue Extension Contracted Employee Agreement: The annual Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Wells County was presented to Council. The contracted amount of \$123,785, in the agreement, has been approved by Council in the Extension budget for 2024. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Extension contractual services agreement between Purdue University and the Government of Wells County, Indiana for 2024. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Engineer Interlocal Agreement: An interlocal agreement was presented for review between Adams County and Wells County regarding part-time engineering services for Wells County. Adams County employes Engineer Nate Rumschlag as a full-time engineer. The Interlocal Agreement would allow Rumschlag to perform part-time engineering services for Wells County at a rate of \$1,500 per day as a reimbursement to Adams County. The term of the agreement is from January 16, 2024, and will continue for ninety days. The agreement may be automatically renewed for additional ninety-day periods. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Adams County and Wells County allowing Engineer Nate Rumschlag to perform engineering services for Wells County on a part-time basis. Motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote, Todd Mahnensmith voted no.

2024 Solid Waste Salary Contract: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the Solid Waste Salary contract for 2024 (Misc. 2024-01). Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Contract Disclosure Policy: Council members signed the Annual Certification of Elected Officials on Compliance with County Contract Disclosure Policy.

Encumbrance: An Encumbrance summary was presented to Council for review. The General fund had \$551,946.38 in unexpended funds for 2023, which was approximately 4.5% of the approved General fund budget. A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve, and sign the Encumbrance summary. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Transfers: Transfers within a major classification in a department may be made without County Council action by the Auditor's office if that action is approved by County Council. Transfer paperwork will still be emailed to them listing the inter department transfers. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to authorize the Auditor to transfer funds within the same major classification for 2024. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Commissary Funds: Council member Brandon Harnish spoke to the board about Commissary funds being used to purchase flock cameras. Harnish believed a purchase of this sort should have been brought before the board for comment and consideration. Council President Seth Whicker stated that the board will be informed when it comes through the budget process in future years.

Adjourned: 7:59 PM motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

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President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor