

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION February 6, 2024

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Steve Huggins, Brian Lambert, Brandon Harnish and Deputy Auditor Lisa Eichler.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024, meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the Additional Appropriation request for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Library Updates: Sarah MacNeill and Dustin Brown presented an update of statistics for the Wells County Library. 372 children have completed 1000 books before kindergarten program. A Friends of the Library Mini golf event was held. The Library now has memory kits and puzzles for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients. There was an increase of 951 new library cards, 6.7%. Circulation of physical material was up 14%, eMaterial was up 19%, eAudiobooks was up by 35%, eBooks by 32% and eMagazines by 245%. Public computer use held steady with a 2% increase and wireless connections increased by 20%. Meeting room use was up 15%, study room use was up 15%, supervised visits was the only decrease with 3%. Reference questions increased by 8%, programming attendance increased by 38%, book-a-librarian increased by 44%, notary services increased by 12% and the patron count increased by 8%. New programs include overnight pick-up lockers at Bluffton and Ossian branches and Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School, which allows patrons to pick up materials outside operating hours. 354 patrons were assisted during tax season, and Sprunger and Sprunger hosted a pro bono day.

Engineer Interlocal Agreement: Because the terms of the Adam's County Interlocal that was adopted by Wells County Commissioners, Adams County Council and Adams County Commissioners are different than the Wells County Council adopted version, a new engineer interlocal agreement was presented to Wells County Council. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish to rescind the Engineer Interlocal Agreement that was previously approved by Wells County Council on January 9, 2024. Motion carried 7-0. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brandon Harnish for the adoption of the Interlocal for Engineering Services (Misc. 2024-02) as executed by Adams County Council and Commissioners, and the Wells County Commissioners. Motion carried 6-1. Todd Mahnensmith voted no.

ADA Coordinator Stipend: Commissioner Jeff Stringer addressed the County Council on supplying ADA Coordinator Bobbie Studebaker with a \$3,000 annual stipend to assume the ADA Coordinator duties. A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve a \$3,000 annual stipend for the ADA Coordinator duties. Motion carried 7-0.

Health Department Job Description: A job description was presented to the County Council for the Health Department Administrator. A copy of the current job description and the proposed job description were provided to Council members. Council member Brandon Harnish drafted the proposed job description. The role is identified as a Deputy Administrator in the salary ordinance, but in the matrix, it is identified as the Health Administrator. The matrix documents identify different offices with

administrator positions, such as Circuit Court, Superior Court, and the Health department. Council member Scott Elzey questioned why the Health Department or Health Department board was not in charge of the job description change. The subject was tabled and will be revisited at the March 5th meeting.

Ossian Economic Development Commission: The Town of Ossian requested nominations for the Ossian Department of Economic Development Board. Nominations will be received, and the Ossian Council President shall appoint a nominee to the Commission at the regular meeting of the Ossian Town Council on February 12, 2024. A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to nominate Scott Elzey to the Ossian Department of Economic Development. Motion carried 7-0. Auditor McCormick will submit a letter of nomination to the Ossian Economic Development Commission for their meeting on February 12, 2024.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM. The motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews. Motion carried 7-0.

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President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor