

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL SESSION

February 15, 2023

Wells County Council held a Special Session on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:30PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were Council members Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Council members Steve Huggins and Brian Lambert were absent.

The Agenda item for discussion was the Highway Matrix that was approved at the February 7, 2023, meeting. Council President Whicker opened the meeting explaining that this meeting was for a second look at the funding mechanism for the approved Highway Matrix. Whicker stated to the Council board that there were one of three options that could come out of the meeting; uphold the motion approving of the highway matrix, repeal the motion, or amend the motion that was previously made. In the February 7th meeting Council was informed that the increase to the 2023 budget would be \$49,520.99. Auditor McCormick, while updating the approved wages, noticed that the increase in wages for 2023 was \$109,964.92 and notified Council of the discrepancy. Council called the Special Session to discuss the difference in the numbers that were presented. County Engineer Nate Rumschlag and Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar were on hand to further clarify the numbers that were previously presented. Rumschlag explained that the \$49,520.99 that was referenced as the increase for 2023 was the amount of funds that would need to be transferred within their current budget into the salaried lines to fund the proposed increases. Overtime is included in the highway salaried lines; they felt that the overtime amount was excessive and could be reduced to help fund the increase in wages for the remainder of 2023. The transferable funds of \$49,520.99 would come from other non-salaried lines within their current budgets. \$109,964.92 is a correct number of increased wages but that amount is not needed additionally to fund the highway budget. The added annual PERF responsibility for the increased wages is \$12,316.07 and added Social Security responsibility annually is \$8,412.32. Rumschlag and Bonar added that the additional financial responsibility for PERF and Social Security is currently in the budgeted lines. Council was very appreciative of the time and patience shown in getting the issue resolved and upheld the motion from February 7th to approve the highway matrix.

Wells County Council adjourned at 7:08PM. Motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith. Motion carried 5-0.

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor