

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION March 3, 2020

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Mike Mossburg, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Vicki Andrews, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Jim Oswald was absent.

Minutes: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2020 Regular Session and February 27, 2020 Executive Session. Motion carried 6-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers within the Cumulative Bridge Fund and the Auditor's Ineligible Deduction Fund. Motion carried 6-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for County General for Circuit Court, Drug Free Community (CADA), 20.205 County Home Rd-CR450E Grant and 2019 Court Interpreter Grant. Motion carried 6-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 85 inmates, of those 36 are pretrial Superior, 17 are pretrial Circuit, 9 are DOC and 15 are F6 DOC. Monthly reports were also presented.

CADA 2020 Grant Request: Molly Hoag presented the 2020 grant request for Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA). Funds for the grants are collected through the "Drug Free Community Fund"; a total of \$22,082.53 was collected in 2019 for distribution in 2020. The grants are divided within four categories; Administration, Education/Prevention, Treatment/Intervention, and Judicial.

North Corridor Study: Nate Rumschlag and Toby Steffen of Butler, Fairman and Seufert engineering firm presented the North Corridor Study to Wells County Council. The study area originates on SR1 at SR124 and extends to the Wells/Allen County line. The improvements would create a four-lane highway from Bluffton to I-469. The highway would ultimately bypass Ossian, bypass options were included in the study. The outlined projects could be completed in phases. The presenters stated that this was a big ask and could take as long as 20 years for completion. A plan is necessary if funding options are sought through state or federal grants. The North Corridor Study will be posted on the Wells County website and public feedback is encouraged.

Data Pit Stop: Darren Bates with Data Pit Stop was on hand to update Council on funding options that might be available for a new Highway Garage. He first discussed establishing a County Cumulative Capital fund. With the stepped rate, first year maximum rate is .0167, the following years maximum rate is .0333, the County would not be able to capture the amount needed to make the necessary annual payment. Tax Caps would also cut into the amount captured in a Cumulative Capital Fund. Bates also discussed the County's LIT distributions. Currently .3 of the tax rate is going to residential tax credits. Approximately 2 million dollars is going back to taxpayers as credits on tax bills. If Wells County would reduce the tax credits, those credits could be redistributed into Economic Development for additional funding for expenditures such as the Highway Garage.

Adjourned: 8:35PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to adjourn.
Motion carried 6-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor