

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION April 5, 2022

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Todd Mahnensmith, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Seth Whicker was absent.

Minutes: Motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from March 8, 2022, regular session. Motion carried 6-0.

Transfers: Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Transfer requests in the General Fund for the Coroner. Motion carried 6-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the Additional Appropriation requests in Local Road & Street, County Highway Garage fund, 97.067 Races/Ares Repeater grant fund, Wells County CASA Grant, and the Local Trax Grant 20.205 grant fund. Motion carried 6-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Current jail stats are 87 inmates; 34 pretrial Superior, 25 pretrial Circuit, 8 F6 DOC and 6 DOC. Monthly reports were also presented.

Highway Garage Update: Conor Jackson, Mike Swann, Jeff Wildt from PCI, Commissioner Jeff Stringer, and Commissioner Blake Gerber were on hand to provide Highway Garage updates for County Council. The current plan is fluid and can be updated over time. A preliminary set of plans were distributed which included a floorplan, the site plan, timeline and the preliminary budget and budgeted breakdown. The square footage of the building is set at 50,000 square feet. The cold storage building is set at 10,800 square feet. The pre-engineering metal for those two buildings has been bid out and ordered. The estimated total of the facility currently is \$10,300,000.00. Commissioner Stringer commented about the need to set and decide between Commissioners and Council how best to spend taxpayer money and get a facility that will last for generations. Conor described the structure and discussed each division within the summary. Conor and the Commissioners stated that cuts have been discussed and there were several already being considered. Considerations to reduce cost include reducing the size of the parts mezzanine, modify the salt storage and bulk material storage, use an alternate design for the area above the office area, delete wall insulation, edit wire mesh partitions, remove fuel island canopy, and deleting one wash bay. Commissioner Gerber stated that he would like to reduce the cost to approximately \$7,000,000. The Commissioners would like to work with the City of Bluffton for Utility hookup. County Council members requested monthly updates on the facility. Neil Draper asked questions regarding the highway garage project via email. Questions included when site plans would be available to view, will noise be expected from the site, how will watershed be handled, where would the salt storage and salt melt from trucks be drained? Answers to those questions were site plans should be available within the next month, morning and afternoon truck noise should be all that is heard and trees or shrubbery could be planted to absorb noise, the design team can answer the watershed question in written form, salt drainage from the trucks will go through an oil separator. Estimated project end date is January 1, 2024.

Adjourned: 8:07PM, motion was 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