

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION April 7, 2020

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

Minutes: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from March 3, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the Transfer requests in Project Income, the Community Corrections Grant II and the Health Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation requests in the General Fund – Sheriff, Area Plan and Superior Court; Project Income and Supp Adult Probation Serv fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Scott Holliday reported 61 inmates, of those 27 are pretrial Superior, 11 are pretrial Circuit, 13 are F6 DOC and 5 are DOC. Monthly reports were also presented.

Local Trax Interlocal Cooperation Agreement: County Attorney Roy Johnson presented a Local Trax Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Council approval. INDOT has asked that the City and County have an agreement in place for the Local Trax Grant. This Grant will relocate Hoosier Highway and connect it to Adams Street. The agreement would authorize the County to make design decisions regarding the portion of Adams Street that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Bluffton. INDOT will not enter into multiple agreements for this project. The Interlocal Agreement would grant County Engineer, Nate Rumschlag as the ERC for Wells County, which has signatory authority over design decisions impacting the portion of Adams Street next to the project. The Wells County Commissioners had approved and signed the agreement on Monday, April 6, 2020. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Local Trax Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

COVID-19 Discussion: Seth Whicker inquired about the revenue streams and the effect on Wells County because of COVID-19. The discussion was about Highway revenue being reduced as soon as next month because of reduced fuel usage. Also mentioned was reduced property tax in the spring settlement and reduced Local Income Tax revenue in the coming years. Income Tax is distributed one and a half to two years behind, so the effect will be felt most in approximately 2022. Mike Mossburg expressed regret that the Highway garage will most likely have to be put on hold as well.

Adjourned: 7:15 PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

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President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

