

## WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION May 4, 2022

The Wells County Council met in regular session Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Todd Mahnensmith, Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfers:** Motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfer within the General Fund for Area Plan and the Highway Maintenance & Repair fund. Motion carried 7-0.

**Additional Appropriations:** Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the Additional Appropriation request for LIT Public Safety and 93.074 APP & PHEP Aligned Coop. Motion carried 7-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 87 inmates, 44 pretrial Superior, 20 pretrial Circuit, 8 F6 Doc and 7 DOC. The monthly activity report for April was presented to Council Members. Roofing materials are arriving for the Jail renovation. End date for construction is estimated by October.

**Purdue Extension:** William Horan, County Extension Director, was on hand to present the 2021 Wells County Extension Annual report. Horan introduced the newly hired Youth Development Educator, Hannah Bridegam. The annual report included current and future events in Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Health and Human Services, Nutrition Education programs and Community Engagement. The Wells County 4-H fair is scheduled for July 16-21, 2022.

**Highway Garage Update:** Conor Jackson provided updates regarding the Highway Garage. There have been updates since the last report to Council. The estimated total is \$9,411,025, \$850,000 lower than the last update. The current document is a 50% budget set, which means that they are 50% through the design set and still massaging some of the elements of the project. Conor discussed cuts that have been made and other possible ways to reduce the estimated total. Those possible reductions include removing the unfaced bat insulation in the roof of the main building, not painting structural steel elements, make the cold storage a 3-sided structure or have it unsprinkled, reduce configuration of wash bays, reduce trench drain and reduce large overhead doors to 16x16. Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar stated that he is not in favor of reducing the unfaced bat insulation in the roof of the main building or making the cold storage building a 3-sided structure. Jackson discussed the traffic pattern around and through the building. A cement drive will be poured for the truck entry into the building to reduce stone in the building and drains. Council member Chuck King asked about the life span of the building. Jackson expressed a life expectancy of 50 – 70 years. Conor thought he would be able to report a for construction set at the next meeting.

**2023 Budget Meeting Dates:** Budget meeting dates for departments will be August 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am-1pm. Additional meeting dates are scheduled for August 11, 16, and 18 at 6pm. The Public Hearing for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The Adoption for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Adjourned:** 7:34PM Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

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President, Steve Huggins

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Vice President, Seth Whicker

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Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor