

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION May 6, 2020

The Wells County Council met in regular session Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Mike Mossburg, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Todd Mahnensmith, Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from April 7, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers and Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfer within the General Fund for the Election Board and the Additional Appropriation requests for Community Corrections Project Income and the Cumulative Bridge Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 55 inmates, 22 pretrial Superior, 11 pretrial Circuit, 10 F6 Doc and 7 DOC. The monthly Officer/Jail report for April was presented to Council Members. Sheriff Holliday proposed creating a position for an additional part time employee for his department. That employee will be responsible for the Sheriff/Jail IT responsibilities. The systems and equipment being used by his department are specialized and that employee will learn the specifics of each system. He requested the pay be consistent with the current IT assistant pay, \$24.72/hr. Sheriff Holliday supplied a detailed listing of job duties as well as a job description for the new position. He stated that this employee will be used approximately 20-25 hours per week. Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Seth Whicker to allow a part time IT assistant position to be created for the Sheriff's Department to be paid \$24.72 hourly. Motion carried 7-0. Sheriff Holliday also requested Hazard Pay for the Sheriff and Jail employees for the COVID-19 hours that were worked. Sheriff and Jail employees are essential during any crisis and those departments cannot close. He did not request an amount but did comment on what other Counties are doing. No action was taken on the Hazard Pay request.

Ordinance 2020-09: County Attorney Roy Johnson presented an Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate for Additional Right of Way - Bridge 99. Bridge 99 is located at Hoosier Highway and Ash Road. The Ordinance allows the County to purchase additional right of way from the property owner to advance with the project. The Commissioners, as the County Executive, make orders concerning the sale and acquisition of county property; however, a conveyance or purchase by a county of land having a value of one thousand dollars or more must be authorized by an ordinance of the county fiscal body. Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Ordinance 2020-09 authorizing the purchase of real estate and fix the terms for the additional right of way. Motion carried 7-0.

2020 Meeting Dates: Primary Election day was moved from May 5th to June 2nd due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to move the next scheduled meeting from Tuesday, June 2nd to Wednesday, June 3rd. Motion carried 6-0-1, Steve Huggins abstained.

Adjourned: 7:56PM Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Steve Huggins to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor