

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION June 4, 2019

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Todd Mahnensmith, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Mike Mossburg, Steve Huggins, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

President Todd Mahnensmith addressed the crowd prior to the start of the regular session that the Library General Bond resolution portion of the Agenda was going to be tabled and continued in a session on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7PM at the Library. The available seating in the Annex meeting room was not enough to hold all the community that wanted to attend.

Minutes: Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the minutes from May 8, 2019 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Chuck King to approve the transfers in the General Fund for Circuit Court and Community Corrections and a transfer for Community Corrections Project Income Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the Community Corrections Project Income Fund and the request for the Misdemeanor Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 103 inmates, of those 13 are DOC and 11 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Holliday also presented his monthly report to council members.

Haven Manufacturing SB-1: Chad Kline presented an SB-1, Statement of Benefits, for new equipment. The machinery cost is \$114,066 and will be on a 3 year abatement schedule. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve Resolution 2019-08 for SB-1 tax abatement for Haven Manufacturing. Motion carried 7-0.

Bi-County Services: Tim Ramsey informed the Council Members that the Board of Commissioners approved his request of \$39,312.00 for the 2020 Budget year at their June 3rd, 2019 meeting. Tim stated that Bi-County's biggest challenge is staffing. Finding qualified staff is a difficulty that they are constantly working to overcome. Financials are showing an increase in expenses over revenue in the first nine months of this fiscal year. Their focus currently is on maximizing program revenue, controlling operating expenses and improving staffing levels. Adams County has the same contribution amount.

Continue Regular Session: 7:29PM Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Vicki Andrews to continue the meeting at the Wells County Public Library on June 10, 2019 at 7PM.

June 10, 2019 7:00PM Continued Session:

Library General Bond Resolution: Todd Mahnensmith opened the meeting reminding the crowd that this was not a public hearing but a continuation of the Regular Session from June 4, 2019. The library's bond request was for \$3,000,000.00, down from \$4,100,000.00 previously presented to Council in May.

The bond life was shortened which will keep the bond tax rate the same. Sarah MacNeill, library director, presented the project to Council. Quiet –type activities are being moved upstairs where there is currently storage. That will allow the lower areas to be expanded. Storage will be moved from upstairs to downstairs under the stairs. Walls will be removed and collapsible shelves will be added so they can be disassembled for large events. Each Council member spoke to the audience with their view on the project. Todd Mahnensmith was encouraged by the paring down of the budget by the library. Chuck King was a member of the community stakeholder group that was formed by the library for initial public input on the Library master plan and was in support of the project. Mike Mossburg stated that the library is one of the nicest buildings downtown. He felt that there are other county structures that needed attention before the library. He referenced the current problems with agriculture, which adds to the burden for taxpayers. Mossburg also stated that the entire project will total nearly \$4,500,000.00 with interest, which includes the bond, Rainy Day funds and Library Improvement Reserve funds (LRIF). Vicki Andrews main concern was why the library would reduce the lifespan of the bond rather than reducing the tax rate. She was conflicted about wants over needs. Steve Huggins appreciated the lower cost of the project. He believes the library to be a gem, and wants to keep that asset. Jim Oswalt wants to keep the library up to date. Seth Whicker stated that each council member supports the library either way the vote might come out. He was trying to make a prudent decision on behalf of the taxpayers. Whicker asked for a commitment from the library leaders that they would stick with the listed projects even if the bids come in lower than anticipated. Sarah MacNeill nodded her commitment. Every Council member showed great appreciation for the communication from the public both for and against the project. Chuck King motioned to approve the library bond resolution 2019-09, not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, pending Attorney Roy Johnsons approval, Steve Huggins seconded. Motion carried 5-2. Vicki Andrews and Mike Mossburg voted against.

Adjourn: Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Steve Huggins to adjourn at 7:49PM. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Todd Mahnensmith

Vice President, Mike Mossburg

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

