WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION June 7, 2022

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

<u>Minutes</u>: Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from May 4, 2022, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

<u>Transfers</u>: Motion was made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve a transfer in Community Corrections Project Income. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation request for Community Corrections Project Income. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 89 inmates, 29 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 19 F6 and 5 DOC. Sheriff Holliday presented the monthly activity and income reports for May. Construction is moving forward and is currently in the kitchen and intake areas, meals are being prepared off site. The roof is to be completed by July. Contracts for the Northern Wells and Southern Wells School Resource Officers (SRO) are up for renewal. Both school boards have approved their two-year contract. Sheriff Holliday updated the salary, health benefit, pension costs in the approved contracts. Sheriff Holliday signs the contracts but asked if Council had any objections. No objections were voiced. The Sheriff will sign and return the SRO contracts to each school district.

Haven Manufacturing and Heartland REMC CF-1 Compliance: Wells County Economic Development Director Chad Kline presented 7 CF-1 Compliance with Statement of Benefit forms for Haven Manufacturing. Two were issued in 2011, one was issued in 2014, one issued in 2018, two issued in 2019, and one issued in 2021. Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve 7 CF-1 Compliance with Statement of Benefit forms for Haven Manufacturing. Motion Carried 7-0. Also presented was 1 CF-1 for Heartland REMC that was issued in 2019 for fiber development. Motion was made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the CF-1 Compliance with Statement of Benefit form for Heartland REMC. Motion carried 7-0.

<u>Highway:</u> Conor Jackson updated County Council on the Highway Garage plans. The plan set is 95% complete. Jackson Construction is currently working on pinning down firm estimates. Jackson thought he would have firm numbers for the total project later in the week. The next construction meeting is in two weeks.

<u>Audience Participation:</u> Several audience members were in attendance regarding the North Corridor Study and 2035 Vision concerning the four-lane expansion of State Road 1 with a bypass around the town of Ossian. One attendee spoke for that group. Concerns were if this was a want and not a need. What is the need or basis for the expansion and bypass? Economic impacts on Ossian businesses are a concern. Other options should be considered if the outcome is a speedier way to 469, were some of the bullet points. The audience members want to be ahead of the project so their objections will be heard. The audience wish is to sit down and have discussions prior to decisions being made. All agreed that

more studies need to be done for more options to see what makes the most sense for Wells County. Two other audience members thought that mailers should be sent to affected property owners for proposed projects. Council instructed the audience that the meetings are sent to the News-Banner, posted at the meeting places, and posted on the Wells County website. Meeting dates for the year are posted online and at the meeting places as well.

<u>Adjourn</u>: Wells County Council adjourned at 7:57PM. Motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor