

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION June 8, 2021

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Todd Mahnensmith, Chuck King, Jim Oswald, Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey, and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Seth Whicker attended remotely.

Minutes: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Jim Oswald to approve the minutes from May 4, 2021, regular session and the May 17, 2021, executive session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve a transfer in Local Road & Street. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for Local Road & Street, Highway, and 2020-02 Community Crossing Grant. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 70 inmates, 24 pretrial Superior, 14 pretrial Circuit, 16 F6 and 10 DOC. Sheriff Holliday also presented his monthly report to council members. Sheriff Holliday informed Council that gun permits are now free for both the 5-year and lifetime permits. Those permits generated approximately \$14,000 in revenue in 2020, which has been used for ammunition and bullet proof vests.

Ameresco: Ameresco representatives, Mark Heirbrandt, Garyne Evans, and Brad Driver presented refined pricing for the proposed jail project. The major projects include the HVAC system, roof, and reconfiguration of the jail intake area. The negotiated price to accomplish the project is \$7.7 million. \$2.7 million of the project can be directly attributed to COVID modifications that will qualify for ARPA funding. Pricing is effective until August 2021. Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Chuck King to approve moving forward with the jail project, pending financial and legal review. Motion carried 7-0.

Bi-County Services: Tim Ramsey presented his annual financial report and request for funding for Bi-County Services to the Board of Commissioners. Tim stated that Bi-County's biggest challenge is staffing. Finding qualified staff is a difficulty that they are constantly working to overcome. Their focus currently is on maximizing program revenue, controlling operating expenses and improving staffing levels. Bi-County is asking for a 5% increase in funding for 2022, \$41,280. Adams County has approved the same contribution amount. Motion made by Jim Oswald, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2022 funding of \$41,280.00 for Bi-County services. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2021-11: Effective April 20, 2021, IC 5-14-1.5-3.5 was amended to prescribe new requirements by which members of the governing body may participate in a meeting by any electronic means of communication. A resolution establishing a policy by which the members of the Wells County Council may participate by electronic means of communication was presented. The resolution allows all participating members of the governing body to simultaneously communicate with each other. This resolution establishes procedures that shall be known as the "Electronic Meetings Policy" of the Wells County Council. Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Resolution 2021-

11, the Policy by which members of the Wells County Council may participate by electronic means of communication. Motion carried 7-0.

E-911 Advisory Board: Steve Huggins announced that Seth Whicker will be the Council appointment to the newly formed E-911 advisory board.

Bondry Management Consultants: Oscar Gutierrez, President of Bondry Management Consultants LLC submitted a proposal for financial advisory services to County Council. The total fee with feasibility report will be \$10,000, turnaround for the report is approximately 3 weeks. He is hopeful he can have that report for the July meeting if approval is granted. Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve potential retention subject to Council review of the proposal with Bondry Management Consultants for financial advisory services for the jail project and county highway garage project. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourn: Wells County Council adjourned at 8:37PM.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor