

**WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL SESSION June 12, 2024**

The Wells County Council met in special session Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 5:30PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Steve Huggins, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert, and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Council member Todd Mahnensmith was absent.

**Utility Scale Solar Tax Abatement Prohibition Ordinance:** Council President Seth Whicker explained to County Council that County Attorney Ted Storer asked for more time to further explore the Utility Scale Solar Tax Abatement Prohibition Ordinance details. Storer would like to confer with Attorney Rick Hall, who had assisted with the Economic Development agreement with Paddlefish Solar. The subject was tabled.

**Heartland Broadband CF-1 Compliance:** William Dye, CFO of Heartland REMC, addressed the County Council regarding the late filing of 5 CF-1 compliance documents. The due date for submission to Wells County was May 15<sup>th</sup>. Wells County contacted Heartland on May 20<sup>th</sup>; Heartland submitted 5 CF-1 compliance documents to Wells County on May 28, 2024. Dye stated that he is new to the position and had the submission deadline noted as May 31<sup>st</sup>. Clerical and incorrect scheduling was the explanation for the error. Through 2023 Heartland REMC has installed 6.6M of broadband in Wells County. The 5 CF-1 documents were for Rock Creek, Union, Jefferson, Liberty, and Lancaster Townships. Heartland expects the project to be completed in eighteen months with a 10M investment in broadband. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the 5 CF-1 compliance documents for Heartland REMC. Motion carried 6-0.

**Resolution to Waive Noncompliance for Tax Deduction by Abatement:** A Resolution was presented to the County Council to waive noncompliance for Heartland REMC for their tax deduction abatement. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Resolution 2024-05 waiving noncompliance for tax deduction by abatement for Heartland REMC. Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjourned:** The 5:41 PM motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

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President, Seth Whicker

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Vice President, Vicki Andrews

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Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor