

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION August 4, 2020

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Mike Mossburg, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Todd Mahnensmith was absent

Minutes: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers in the General Fund for Election Board and in the Highway, Highway Administration and the Highway Maintenance & Repair Funds. Motion carried 6-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 65 inmates, of those 25 are pretrial Superior, 12 are pretrial Circuit, 8 are DOC and 15 are F6 DOC. Monthly reports were also presented. The Sheriff was not present at the July 7th meeting but emailed his Jail numbers, monthly reports as well as the Commissary report on July 8, 2020 to all members of Council. Sheriff Holliday discussed with Council the possibility of purchasing a whole-body security scanning system. This system is a reimbursable expense through the CARES Act funds. Sheriff Holliday stated that this expenditure would fall under the Special Purchasing Statute. This system is a one of a kind system and it would not be possible to get two more price quotes to compare. A demonstration of the system will be held on August 13th at the Wells County Sheriff's Department.

Review of 2021 Estimated Property Tax Levy Limits and Circuit Breakers: Per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 the County Council at the first meeting in August of each year shall review the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit in the county. Recommendations made by the council shall be distributed to all taxing unit. Council members reviewed the reports that were provided by the Department of Local Government finance and did not see any significant changes in the levy limits; the reports were only showing increases from the growth quotient of 4.2%. Wells County property taxes are still low enough that we are not seeing much of an impact due to the circuit breakers. The largest percentage of the circuit breaker loss in Wells County is due to the over 65 deduction. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Steve Huggins to notify all taxing units within the county that no recommendation is being made on the estimated property tax levy limits or the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers. Motion carried 6-0.

Library: Members of the Library Board were on hand to discuss updates with Council. Library Director, Sarah MacNeill and Library Board President, Kim Gentis talked about the library renovation. Some shipment delays occurred for the project due to COVID-19, but the renovation is still on track for fall completion. Other topics discussed were virtual programs that were developed because of the pandemic, wage schedules for full and part time library employees and budgeting processes. Council members discussed a need for the Council Library Board appointments to give updates at a Council meeting on a semiannual basis, January and July. Budgets and any upcoming capital projects are topics that Council members would like to be kept informed of sooner rather than later.

Library Board Appointment: Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Chuck King to re-appoint Kim Gentis to the Wells County Public Library Board. The term dates are August 15, 2020 through August 15, 2024. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjourned: 7:55PM Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Seth Whicker to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor