

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET SESSION August 10, 2021

The Wells County Council met in budget session Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 8:00AM 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.

The first budget meeting for the 2022 Budget Year started today with Council Members meeting with all Elected Officials and Department Head to review their 2022 budget requests.

Commissioners: Commissioner President Blake Gerber presented a budget request of \$3,503,817 for the Commissioner's general fund budget and a request of \$1,200,940 for the LIT Economic Development Fund.

Solid Waste District: District President Blake Gerber and Controller Lisa McCormick presented a budget request of \$106,566. This amount is reimbursed to the county 100%.

Highway and LR&S: Shawn Bonar presented a total Highway budget request of \$4,231,569 and a LR&S Budget Request of \$675,100.

Cum Bridge: Nate Rumschlag presented a budget request of \$630,200 for the Cum Bridge Fund.

Surveyor: Jarrod Hahn presented the Surveyor's budget request of \$95,831, the Drainage Board's request of \$18,308, and the Corner Perpetuation request of \$32,000.

Health: Marlene Hoag presented a Health Department budget request of \$315,962, and Local Health Maintenance budget request of \$33,139, and a Local Health Dept. Trust Budget of \$18,865.

Assessor: Kelly Herman presented the Assessor's general fund budget request of \$126,165, the Reassessment Fund's budget request of \$294,811, and the Sales Disclosure Fee request of \$4,920.

Recorder: Carolyn Bertsch presented the Recorders general fund budget request of \$85,468 and the Identification Security Protection request of \$13,000.

Treasurer: Kathy Peeper presented a budget request of \$136,481.

Court House: Bobbie Studebaker presented a budget request of \$317,506.

IT Department: Roger Richardson submitted a budget request of \$192,452.

Coroner: Hilarie Gaskill presented a budget request of \$77,333.

Veteran: Dewey Randall submitted a budget request of \$39,416.

EMA: Rick Velasquez presented a budget request of \$97,666 for his general fund budget and \$8,800 for the LEPC Fund budget.

Extension Office: Bill Horan presented a budget request of \$240,880.

Area Plan & GIS: Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. presented his Plan Commission budget request of \$185,249 and his GIS budget request of \$36,238.

Clerk: Beth Davis presented her Clerk's office budget request of \$321,463, her Election Board requested budget of \$80,540 and her Perpetuation Fund budget request of \$32,000.

Statewide 911: Statewide 911 budget request was \$524,000.

Soil & Water: Jarrod Kunkel presented the budget request of \$39,335.

Prosecuting Attorney: Andrew Carnall presented his general fund budget request of \$529,562, his Pre-Trial Deferral fund budget request of \$16,971, and his Pre-Trial Diversion Budget request of \$1,125.

Circuit Court: Judge Kent Kiracofe presented his general fund budget request of \$723,524, the Supp Public Defender Fund budget request of \$15,000, Jury Pay Fund budget request of \$3,000. Adult Probation Fund budget of \$132,357, Juvenile Probation fund budget of \$6,124, the Urinalysis fund budget of \$5,000, and the Substance/Indigent Fund budget request of \$1,300.

Community Corrections: Community Corrections presented a general fund budget request of \$135,916, a Project Income budget request of \$211,820, a Community Corrections Grant I budget request of \$232,657 and the Misdemeanor Fund budget request of \$18,711.

Auditor: Lisa McCormick presented her general fund budget request of \$228,200, Auditor's Ineligible Deduction fund budget request of \$8,000, her Plat Book Fund budget request of \$16,895, and the County Elected Official Training Fund budget request of \$4,500.

Sheriff: Sheriff Scott Holliday, and Jail Commander Karen Thompson presented their general fund Sheriff's Office budget request of \$1,956,941, the Jail budget request of \$1,651,936 and LIT Public Safety budget request of \$554,863.

Superior Court: Judge Andrew Antrim presented his budget request of \$159,925.

County Council: Council members present a budget request of \$175,366; Rainy Day will not be budgeted for 2022.

The main requested increases to budgets were for employee salaries. The Sheriff budget included one additional Deputy. The Jail budget included three additional jailers. Highway and Area Plan would like to share an additional full-time employee, each budget had \$20,475 for Site Inspector/GIS Assistant. Judge Antrim requested a Court Administrator to be added to his staff. Custodian Studebaker listed expenses that would be required at the Annex and Courthouse. Cement work at the Annex and new flooring for the 4th floor of the Courthouse. Not in the budget for the Courthouse is clocktower repairs that will need to be addressed. The clocktower would be an expense of \$28,000 to \$30,000. EMS funding for \$125,000 has been added to the County Council budget for 2022.

LIT Discussion: Council discussed funding the Jail reconfiguration project with LIT revenues. Wells County has .3 of the total LIT revenue distributed back as property tax credits. The discussion centered around releasing a maximum of .1 of those credits to redirect revenue into the Corrections Facility expenditure fund. ARPA funding was also discussed, the total project has eligible ARPA expenditures of \$2.7 million. The discussion suggested using \$2.3 million to reduce the project funding below 5.5 million. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to advertise a notice to taxpayers for a public hearing on proposed Local Income Tax Ordinance for September 7, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

The next scheduled budget meeting will be on Thursday, August 12th, 2021, at 6:00PM followed by the meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 6:00PM and Thursday, August 19th at 6:00PM meeting only if needed.

Adjourned: 1:18PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to recess until the Thursday, August 12th meeting.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

