

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET SESSION August 11, 2020

The Wells County Council met in budget session Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 8:00AM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Mike Mossburg, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

The first budget meeting for the 2021 Budget Year started today with Council Members meeting with all Elected Officials and Department Head to review their 2021 budget requests.

Commissioners: Commissioner President Blake Gerber presented a budget request of \$3,408,352 for the Commissioner's general fund budget and a request of \$1,035,985 for the LIT Economic Development Fund.

Solid Waste District: District President Blake Gerber and Controller Lisa McCormick presented a budget request of \$99,885. This amount is reimbursed to the county 100%

Highway and LR&S: Josh Cotton presented a total Highway budget request of \$3,411,309 and a LR&S Budget Request of \$499,500.

Cum Bridge: Nate Rumschlag presented a budget request of \$333,470 for the Cum Bridge Fund.

Surveyor: Jarrod Hahn presented the Surveyor's budget request of \$91,890, the Drainage Board's request of \$ 18,308, and the Corner Perpetuation request of \$33,500

Health: Marlene Hoag presented a Health Department budget request of \$305,551, 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 \$121,672, the Reassessment Fund's budget request of \$355,322, and the Sales Disclosure Fee request of \$4,920.

Recorder: Carolyn Bertsch presented the Recorders general fund budget request of \$83,500 and the Identification Security Protection request of \$16,000.

Treasurer: Kathy Peeper presented a budget request of \$131,992.

Court House: Bobbie Studebaker presented a budget request of \$295,145.

IT Department: Roger Richardson submitted a budget request of \$184,048.

Coroner: Hilarie Gaskill presented a budget request of \$ 66,238

Veteran: Claude McMillan submitted a budget request of \$38,752.

EMA: Rick Velasquez presented a budget request of \$93,727 for his general fund budget and \$8,650 for the LEPC Fund budget.

Extension Office: Roger Sherer presented a budget request of \$233,271.

Area Plan & GIS: Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. presented his Plan Commission budget request of \$150,855 and his GIS budget request of \$27,910.

Clerk: Beth Davis presented her Clerk's office budget request of \$311,791 her Election Board requested budget of \$30,000 and her Perpetuation Fund budget request of \$16,850.

Statewide 911: Statewide 911 budget request was \$504,000.

Soil & Water: Leeann Nash presented the budget request of \$38,320.

Prosecuting Attorney: Andrew Carnall presented his general fund budget request of \$514,687, 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 \$714,534 his Supp Public Defender Fund budget request of \$15,000 and his Jury Pay Fund budget request of \$4,000.

Community Corrections: Community Corrections presented a general fund budget request of \$171,558, a Project Income budget request of \$169,571, a Community Corrections Grant II budget request of \$232,657 and the Misdemeanant Fund budget request of \$18,711.

Probation: Probation General fund budget is combined with Circuit Court this budget cycle, Adult Probation Fund budget request of \$129,322, Juvenile Probation fund budget request of \$6,153, Urinalysis fund budget request of \$8,000, and Substance/Indigent Fund budget request of \$ 1,300.

Auditor: Lisa McCormick presented her general fund budget request of \$230,178, Auditor's Ineligible Deduction fund budget request of \$8,000, her Plat Book Fund budget request of \$10,000, and the County Elected Official Training Fund budget request of \$4,500.

Sheriff: Sheriff Scott Holliday, Karen Thompson and Krista Markley presented their general fund Sheriff's Office budget request of \$1,804,092 and the Jail budget request of \$1,499,000 and LIT Public Safety budget request of \$572,846.

Superior Court: Judge Andrew Antrim presented his budget request of \$118,213.

County Council: Council members present a budget request of \$173,938 and a Rainy-Day Fund budget request of \$100,000.

The majority of the 2021 Budget requests were similar the 2020 adopted budgets. The most requested increases to budgets were for employee salary increases. The Highway department decreased their budget over all departments \$732,228. Commissioner Blake Gerber stated that it is his wish to reevaluate some budgeted lines within the Commissioners budget and adjust in future budgets. Discussed at length were log jams and removal. Area Plan would like to move his Rural Town cleanup funds into the Wells County Solid Waste budget. That program supplies a dumpster for rural communities to allow citizens to dispose of waste for cleanup of those areas. The Council budget included a line for EMS funding. Discussion included whether to supply additional funding through the County budget, pursue contracted ambulance service or impose a property tax to provide funding.

The next scheduled budget meeting will be on Thursday, August 13th, 2019 at 6:00PM followed by the meeting on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:00PM and Thursday, August 20th at 6:00PM meeting only if needed.

Adjourned: 1:12PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to recess until the Thursday, August 13th meeting.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor