## **WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **BUDGET SESSION August 12, 2021**

The Wells County Council met in budget session Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 6:00PM 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.

Auditor Lisa McCormick informed the Council Members that there was an operating balance of \$53,814 in the General fund requested budget. Council Members agreed to look at salary increases after they reviewed the rest of the budgets.

Council members started reviewing each of the departments requested budgets. No reductions came from the Commissioner's budget, Surveyor's budgets, the Solid Waste budget, the Health Department budgets, the Assessor's budgets, the Recorders budgets, the Treasurer's budget, the Custodian's budget, the IT Department budget, the Coroner's budget, the County Extension budget, the Soil & Water budget, the Prosecutor's budgets, the Circuit Court budgets, the Clerks budgets, the Auditor's budgets, the E911 budget or the Veteran's budget. EMA had some cuts in PPE Supplies - \$3,000, Other Supplies - \$2,000, Repairs & Maintenance - \$3,000, Travel, Lodging & Conf. Fees - \$1,000, Emergency Contingency - \$4,000, Room Rental - \$1,000 and Vehicle - \$5,000. Area Plan and the Highway Department had requested a shared full-time position. This position would be responsible for providing permitting, site inspection, GIS data entry, bookkeeping, sign posting and other miscellaneous duties for the Highway and Area Plan offices. Both the Highway and Area Plan budgeted \$20,475 for their portion of the salary. Council did not agree to fill that position. Superior Court requested a Court Administrator for 2022. Superior Court has two employees currently, with earned days off, their front office is occasionally not manned when court is in session. Council agreed to add a Court Administrator to Superior Court at an annual salary the same as the Circuit Court Administrative Assistant. Community Corrections requested all annual wage increases to come from the General fund budget for all budged funds for their department. County Council cut those increases out of the General fund budget and moved those increases into the Project Income budget. The Sheriff's department requested an additional Deputy. Council agreed to allow the additional Deputy. Reduced in the Sheriff's budget request; council opted to pay \$441,999 for Police Pension as well as offset it by another \$20,000 with fees from a user fee fund set up for police pensions and ammunition was cut from the budget. Courthouse Security was increased to \$18 per hour for 2022. The Jail requested 3 additional jailers, Council agreed to add 1 additional jailer, meals were reduced by \$40,000. Council cut \$25,000 from their budget for EMS services. Council agreed to add \$2,000 to the Commissioner Presidents wage for additional duties undertaken by the President.

Council members discussed salary and increased wages, 3.5% was decided upon for most employees, Commissioners and Council included. Highway employees were given a 6% increase for the Highway Supervisor, the road drivers, the road foremen, and mechanics. The next scheduled meeting will be September 7<sup>th</sup> for the Public Hearing. Auditor Lisa McCormick will put the figures into the system to clarify the final figures.

The 9:20PM motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS	COUNTY COUNCIL
President, Steve Huggins	Vice President, Seth Whicker
Attest: Lisa McCormick Wells County Auditor	