WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET SESSION August 13, 2020

The Wells County Council met in budget session Monday, August 13, 2020, at 6:00PM 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.

Auditor Lisa McCormick informed the Council Members that they would need to cut at least \$262,845 from the General fund requested budget to pass a fundable 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 and made cuts in the commissioner's budget for group health insurance of \$100,000, \$2,000 was reduced from Travel, Lodging & Conf. fees from the commissioner's budget. There were no reductions in the Surveyors budget, the Surveyor had asked for an increase for the Surveyor Deputy that was not granted at this time. The Recorder had requested an increase for the Recorder Deputy salary, an increase of \$800 annually as well as the 3% given to all employees was granted for that position. The Veteran Service Officer had requested an increase for his Assistant of \$1.00 per hour, \$12.82 will be the Veteran Assistant's 2021 hourly rate. The EMA's PPE Supplies were cut by \$3,000 as well as the Other Supplies by \$2,000 and Travel, Lodging & Conf Fees by \$1,500. Circuit Court's budget increased due to the merging of Circuit Court and Probation into one budgeted department. Several items were cut or reduced in the Sheriff's budget request; council opted to pay \$364,565 for Police Pension as well as offset it by another \$15,000 with fees from a user fee fund set up for police pensions, courthouse security was reduced by \$5,000, overtime was reduced by \$5,000, ammunition was cut from the budget with opposition from Steve Huggins and Seth Whicker, sheriff supplies were reduced by \$2,500. The jail budget only had a couple reductions; supplies were cut by \$5,000; maintenance supplies were cut by \$5,000 and meals were cut by \$40,000. Council cut \$125,000 from their budget for EMS services. Community Correction requested annual increases, most often taken wholly from the General fund budget, were cut and will have to be budgeted from the Project Income budget. At the end of the night council members had cut approximately \$395,470 from the General Fund requested budgets.

Council members discussed salary and increased wages 3% for all employees, Commissioners and Council included. The next scheduled meeting will be September 8th for the Public Hearing. Auditor Lisa McCormick will put the figures into the system to clarify the final figures.

At 8:30PM Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS (COUNTY COUNCIL
President, Mike Mossburg	Vice President, Steve Huggins
Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor	