

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET SESSION August 15, 2019

The Wells County Council met in budget session Monday, August 15, 2019, at 6:00PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Mike Mossburg, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Auditor Lisa McCormick informed the Council Members that they would need to cut at least \$285,000 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 to see if cuts could be made.

Council members started reviewing each of the departments requested budgets and made cuts in the commissioner's budget for group health insurance of \$50,000, care of students was reduced by \$25,000, and burial of soldiers was reduced by \$2,500. General repairs were reduced by \$600 in the Surveyors budget. The longevity pay request was cut from the Assessor's budget as well as capital equipment; board of review cut by \$1,000 and appeal expense was reduced by \$1,000. The Recorder's clerical assistance request was reduced by \$1,000. The Custodian's \$90,000 request for courthouse repairs was cut by \$10,000. The Veterans travel, lodging and conference fees line was cut, equipment and repairs was reduced by \$300. The EMA's repair and maintenance request was reduced by \$1,400 and the misc. charges or services were cut. Area Plan has reductions in the rural town clean up by \$1,000 and furniture by \$1,000; Long term planning and site inspector were cut. Circuit Court's guardian ad litem request was cut by \$10,000. Several items were cut or reduced in the Sheriff's budget request; council opted to pay \$346,384 for Police Pension as well as offset it by another \$25,000 with fees from a user fee fund set up for police pensions, courthouse security was reduced by \$8,000, gas oil and lube was reduced by \$5,000, ammunition was cut from the budget with opposition from Steve Huggins, uniforms were reduced by \$550 and fugitive transports were reduced by \$3,000. The jail budget only had a couple reductions; maintenance supplies were cut by \$4,000 and training & seminars was cut by \$1,000. The Clerk's postage budget was also reduced by \$2000. \$1,000 was cut from the Auditors budget in postage. Council cut \$125,000 from their budget for EMS services. At the end of the night council members had cut approximately \$337,000 from the General Fund requested budgets.

Council members will discuss salary and increased personnel at the August 20th meeting. Auditor Lisa McCormick will bring some figures to the next budget meeting regarding different options for pay increases. McCormick will also make all of the above changes to the budget and bring some updated figures to the next budget meeting.

At 8:05PM Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to continue the budget meeting to August 20th, 2019 at 6PM. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Todd Mahnensmith

Vice President, Mike Mossburg

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

