

## WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION 2023 BUDGET ADOPTION October 4, 2022

The Wells County Council met for a regular session and the 2023 Budget Adoption on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Seth Whicker, Chuck King, Jim Oswalt, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2022, regular session, September 12, 2022, Special Session and September 28, 2022, Joint Executive Session. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfers:** Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Surveyor and County Council; also, a transfer in Plat Book Maintenance. Motion carried 7-0.

**Additional Appropriations:** Motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation request in the Supp Adult Probation Service. Motion carried 7-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 87 inmates, 31 pretrial Superior, 30 pretrial Circuit, 16 F6 DOC and 7 DOC. September monthly reports were presented. Holliday updated County Council on the jail reconstruction status and requested approval for change orders. Ameresco recently discovered that the fire dampers in the old section of the jail need to be replaced to be up to code. Ameresco will absorb the cost for the new construction, but Wells County will be responsible for updating the outdated fire dampers in the old section. Wells County's portion would not exceed \$170,351. Currently, there is a credit of \$125,000 in construction costs. In a prior meeting Holliday requested upgrades in three areas: public lobby new finishes, kitchen vestibule and corridor finishes totaling \$102,413. All proposed expenditures total \$272,764, minus the \$125,000 credit, leaves out of pocket expense of \$147,764. Holliday requested approval to use LIT Public Safety funds for those expenditures. Motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to allow the change orders for the fire dampers, public lobby new finishes, kitchen vestibule and corridor finishes to be funded out of LIT Public Safety. Motion carried 7-0. Holliday said supply chain delays have pushed out the project's original finishing date of October, to possibly December.

## 2023 BUDGET ADOPTION

**Wells County:** 2023 Wells County Budget in the amount of \$21,494,644 "Ordinance No. 2022-21".

**Wells County Solid Waste District:** 2023 Wells County Solid Waste District Budget in the amount of \$237,329 "Ordinance No. 2022-22".

**Rock Creek Conservancy:** 2023 Rock Creek Conservancy budget in the amount of \$85,300 "Ordinance No. 2022-23".

Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Wells County - Ordinance 2022-21, Wells County Solid Waste - Ordinance 2022-22, and Rockcreek Conservancy - Ordinance 2022-23, 2023 Budgets. Motion carried 7-0.

**Highway Update:** Conor Jackson updated County Council on the Highway Garage project. Cold storage pads are complete, they are 3 weeks away from the concrete pour for the highway garage and salt storage building. Jackson will update Council in December on the Highway Garage. Council will then decide on the future timeframe for updates.

**Independent Contractor:** Community Corrections Director, Blake Poindexter came before County Council with a proposal for an Independent Contractor contract for a current part-time employee. This employee would be issued jobs to complete for an average work week of 32 hours. Seth Whicker was concerned that her job duties would not change enough to justify Independent Contractor status with the IRS. Vicki Andrews expressed hesitation with the idea and thought it would create an issue if there were ever an IRS audit. Chuck King thought it would create a slippery slope and was not fond of the idea. Poindexter will draft a job description implementing remote work for this employee and go to Commissioners for approval and/or comments, returning to County Council for approval on the updated job description.

**911 Interlocal Agreement:** An interlocal agreement for the emergency communications department was presented to County Council for approval. The interlocal agreement is between Wells County and the City of Bluffton. The agreement is effective January 1, 2023. This agreement outlines an advisory board which will consist of the fire chief, county sheriff, an EMS representative, an appointed representative from Bluffton's Board of Public Works and Safety, a representative from the Wells County Board of Commissioners, a representative from Wells County Council, a member of Bluffton Common Council, a representative from a volunteer fire department in the county, Bluffton's chief of police, Bluffton's mayor or appointed representative, one representative from each Markle and Ossian. Two committees will be compromised within the board, one for policy and one for budgeting. The 911 Director shall also serve on the Board but not subject to the one-year term limit and not a voting member except to break a deadlocked vote. The county shall be responsible for fifty percent of the final approved budget for operation of the Dispatch Center and likewise the city shall be responsible for fifty percent of the final approved budget for operation of the Dispatch Center. A phase out of the use of PSAP funds paid out by the county to the city for personnel expenses will be implemented beginning in 2024. Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Communications Department (Misc. 2022-13). Motion carried 7-0.

**Part-time Temporary:** Auditor Lisa McCormick came before County Council requesting a part-time temporary employee for training purposes. Her current employee is leaving employment for a more flexible position. This employee had stated that she would come in a few hours a week for training after a new employee is hired. McCormick was requesting a wage of \$20 to be paid out of the Plat Book Maintenance fund. Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Jim Oswalt to allow the part-time temporary position for a maximum of 10 hours per week for \$20/hr. through December 31, 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

**2023 Meeting Dates:** Motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the 2023 meeting dates for County Council, moving the July meeting date to July 11<sup>th</sup> to avoid the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Motion carried 7-0.

**Surveyor Compensation:** In the 2022 Salary Ordinance, compensation for the surveyor states “If the surveyor becomes registered within the current year – the salary for Registered Surveyor will not take effect until the following budget year”. Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Chuck King to modify the wording in the 2023 Salary Ordinance for Registered Surveyor salary to take effect in the first pay period following when proof of Certification is received by the County Auditor. Motion carried 7-0.

**PTABOA Board:** Motion was made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Vicki Andrews to continue PTABOA board pay at \$100 per meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

**Adjourned:** 8:20PM Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

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President, Steve Huggins

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Vice President, Seth Whicker

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Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor