

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION 2020 BUDGET ADOPTION PUBLIC HEARING October 8, 2019

The Wells County Council met for a regular session, public hearing and for the 2020 Budget Adoption on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 7PM 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.

Minutes: Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Jim Oswalt to approve the minutes from September 3, 2019 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Commissioners, Circuit Court, Election Board, Jail, Sheriff, Superior Court and Surveyor; also transfers in the LIT Economic Development Fund, Community Corrections Project Income and Reassessment. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Mike Mossburg to approve the Additional Appropriation request from Community Corrections Project Income, Drug Free Community (CADA) and Vehicle Inspection. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing: A Public hearing was held on the Declaratory Resolution Designating All Unincorporated Areas of Wells County as an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) for Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement, Resolution No. 2019-09. There were no comments. Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Chuck King to adopt Resolution No. 2019-11 Setting Forth Final Action in Determining that the Qualification for an Economic Revitalization Area have been met and Confirming Resolution No. 2019-09. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 100 inmates, of those 33 are pre-trial Superior, 21 pre-trial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 10 DOC. Sheriff Holliday attended a pre-trial summit in Indianapolis with the Circuit and Superior Court Judges, the Prosecutor and the Chief Probation Officer. They received useful information to adjust to the coming changes regarding jail reduction, Criminal Rule 26. Holliday stated that planning sessions locally have been ongoing in preparation for the new rule for low-risk offenders. Monthly reports were also presented.

Park Center: Park Center CEO Paul Wilson and Chelsea Crago, Clinical Coordinator, came before Council members to provide an update on services that Park Center is providing for Wells County. The Department of Local Government Financial has asked Wells County to budget \$196,995.00 in 2020 for Mental Health services. Mr. Wilson provided a report showing 885 Wells County residents were served by Park Center during the last fiscal year; 818 of the residents received mental health services and 173 received substance abuse services. The total expenses for services in Bluffton were \$1,412,503.

Heartland REMC SB1: Chad Kline and Nick Caley, Heartland REMC, presented an SB-1 for personal property tax abatement for equipment to Council for approval. The \$10 million dollar tax abatement is

for 10 years. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Chuck King to approve Resolution 2019-12 for Heartland REMC SB-1. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 2019-17: An Ordinance was presented to Council to amend Wells County Council Ordinances 85-2 and 2018-10 Establishing Salary Policy for new, full-time and non-elected employees. This ordinance adds Jail staff to the personnel who are excluded from the policy that all new full-time county officers, deputies and other employees who are employed by Wells County in a non-elective position shall be remunerated at a salary rate \$500.00 below the position's base rate as established by the County Council for a period of one year from the date of hire. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Chuck King to adopt Ordinance 2019-17. Motion carried 7-0.

2020 BUDGET ADOPTION

Wells County: Motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Mike Mossburg, to approve the 2020 Wells County Budget in the amount of \$18,638,892.00 "Ordinance No. 2019-14". Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Solid Waste District: Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the 2020 Wells County Solid Waste District Budget in the amount of \$207,086.00 "Ordinance No. 2019-15". Motion carried 7-0.

Rock Creek Conservancy: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2020 Rock Creek Conservancy budget in the amount of \$83,600.00 "Ordinance No. 2019-16". Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourned: 8:25PM Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Mike Mossburg to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Todd Mahnensmith

Vice President, Mike Mossburg

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

