

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION November 2, 2021

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 7PM 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.

Minutes: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the minutes from October 5, 2021, meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Election Board and Circuit Court, also Community Corrections Project Income, Local Health Maintenance, LIT Public Safety, and Community Corrections Grant I. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for the Cumulative Bridge Fund, Highway-Maintenance & Repairs, and Urinalysis Fees Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 62 inmates of those 20 are pretrial Superior, 20 are pretrial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 3 DOC. Video court is helping to keep the jail numbers lower. Sheriff Holliday also provided monthly reports. Construction began today for the jail renovation. Roofing will be started in April due to a shortage of materials. Consolidation of the 911 Dispatch Center is ongoing. The Commissioners hired Ritter Strategic Services to assist in strategic planning, coordination, and implementation of services between the City of Bluffton and Wells County.

Regional Sewer District: Representing the Regional Sewer District, Mike Mossburg, Nate Rumschlag, and RSD Attorney Mark Burry were on hand to request funding for Sewer Project 2 for Craigville. The Regional Sewer District has been awarded \$5,000,000 in stormwater infrastructure grant funding. The grant is matching based on the \$2,000,000 ARPA funds that have been pledged from Wells County to the RSD. Wells County Council granted a line of credit of \$500,000 on June 3, 2020, to the RSD for Project 1. The RSD has been billed for repayment; Nate Rumschlag stated that \$473,506 of those funds should be repaid within the next week. Mark Burry requested using those repaid funds for an ongoing line of credit for Project 2. A resolution was presented to Council that would extend the line of credit and the loan of funds to the Regional Sewer District. Council members requested that County Attorney Roy Johnson look over the Resolution prior to Council approval. The RSD representatives will return for the December 7th meeting for further discussion.

Highway Garage: Steve Huggins briefly discussed the Highway garage project. He stated that the maximum we could spend on the project was \$15,000,000, of which he was hopeful the amount would stay well below that number. Construction Managers are being vetted and a decision should be made at the next Commissioner meeting.

Adjourned: 8:06PM Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor