

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION December 3, 2019

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, December 3, 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, Seth Whicker, Mike Mossburg and Deputy Auditor Julie Eicher.

Minutes: Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Clerk, Auditor, Sheriff, Surveyor, Election Board, Commissioner, Jail and EMA. Also, from the LIT Economic Development fund, Health fund, Local Health Maintenance fund and Supp Adult Probation Service fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Mike Mossburg to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the Coroner in the General Fund. Motion carried 7-0.
Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the Wells County Public Library Resolution 2019-14 approving the Wells County Public Library's Additional Appropriation of Bond Proceeds. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 90 inmates, of those 32 are pretrial Superior, 23 are pretrial Circuit, 14 are DOC and 4 are F6 DOC. The Sheriff recapped an energy efficiency feasibility study that had been conducted on the jail and Courthouse. The jail facility is in good shape, the administrative side had some recommendations, roofing and the HVAC system were the main recommendations. Monthly reports were presented also.

Purdue Extension Contractual Agreement: Bill Horan presented the 2020 Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Government of Wells County, Indiana (Misc. 2019-24). The contract is for payment in the amount of \$110,040.00 from Wells County to Purdue, Purdue extension will provide Extension services through the Wells County Extension, including three county educators. The effective period is January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Land Purchase Resolution: County Attorney Roy Johnson and County Commissioner Blake Gerber presented a Resolution to the effect that Wells County is interested in making a purchase of specified land or a structure. The land is located on Meridian Road and is owned by David and Paula Barcus and is zoned industrial. The Resolution must have County Council approval for the Commissioners to move ahead with the land purchase. Vicki Andrews and Jim Oswalt agreed that the highway garage should be constructed using the current highway site. Mike Mossburg suggested selling the County Farm to fund the land purchase. Todd Mahnensmith didn't see a need to increase the highway garage site in size and had concern over soil compaction at the current highway site. Steve Huggins felt a site study for the current location would be beneficial to make a better decision. Seth Whicker discussed a soil/site study for the current site to make a more qualified decision. Chuck King stated that it is very unwise to keep the garage in the city limits. Mike Mossburg reiterated that building on site does not make sense. He voiced concern about employees working through construction. Mike Mossburg mentioned donating land to the Commissioners for the Highway garage to be built. Janet Pence a landowner across Meridian

from the proposed property expressed concern over traffic and drainage. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve Resolution 2019-15 to the effect that Wells County is interested in making a purchase of specified land or a structure. Motion carried 5-2, Vicki Andrews and Jim Oswalt were opposed.

2019 Amended Salary Ordinance: Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2019 -1 Amended Salary Ordinance 2019-23. Motion carried 7-0.

2020 Board Appointments: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Mike Mossburg to reappoint Tony Garton to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Jerome Markley to the Area Plan Commission, Judy Affolder to the Property Tax Board of Appeals, all of which are annual terms, and to reappoint Leon Berning for a four year term to the Regional Sewer District. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourned: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President

Vice President

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor