

## WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION December 7, 2021

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, December 7, 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 was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2021, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfers:** Motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Surveyor, Commissioners and Court House and transfers in LIT Public Safety, Highway, Highway Maintenance & Repair, and Community Corrections Grant I Funds. Motion carried 7-0. Transfers for Area Plan, Superior Court and the CASA grant were continued to the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting so each department could offer explanation on the transfers.

**Additional Appropriations:** Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for 20.205 Bridge #51 on CR 300 W and 2021-01 Community Crossing grants. Motion carried 7-0

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 69 inmates, 22 pretrial Superior, 23 pretrial Circuit, 10 F6 DOC and 7 DOC. Monthly reports were also presented. Sheriff Holliday requested approval of days to be paid out to Sheriff Deputies and Jailers who are working additional hours for due to staffing shortages. Employees are not able to use their accumulated days by the end of the year, carrying those days over would prolong the inevitable. His request was to have Council approval for the payout of those funds in January 2022. Commissioners will approve a policy for the payout. Council members acknowledged support and will vote when the 2022 Salary Ordinance is amended.

**Health Department:** Health Department Administrator Marlene Hoag was requesting a staffing description change for the Local Health Maintenance fund. She currently has a line for a part-time nurse, she would like that changed to a medical assistant classification. The current hourly rate for part-time nurse is \$20-\$25/hour. A discussion of the new hourly rate did not end with a firm number. Hoag stated that this classification change will not take place until January 2022. The 2022 Salary Ordinance will be amended for the classification and rate change. She will return to Council for an hourly rate discussion at the January 4, 2022, meeting. Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to allow the classification change from part-time Nurse to part-time Medical Assistant. Motion carried 7-0.

**EMS Annual Review:** Rick Piepenbrink, EMS CEO, and Trent Bucher presented an annual review for the EMS. An Inception to date activity and longevity study was presented to Council. In this study it is anticipated that the EMS has 38.46 years until the funding source reaches 100% depletion. A funding request was approved by County Council for \$100,000 in the 2022 budget. The EMS averages 8 runs per day, of those 2/3 are chargeable. Significant discounts are mandated for Medicaid patients, 34% of what is charged is collected. There is a paramedic shortage in northeast Indiana, positions are hard to fill. The majority of transports are going to Lutheran Hospital, which takes the truck and personnel out of the county.

**Council Approval of Sale of Wells County Farm:** A resolution approving the sale of the Wells county farm was presented for Council approval. If the appraised fair market value of the County farm exceeds the sum of \$50,000 the Wells County Council must approve the sale of said real estate. Motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Chuck King to approve Resolution 2021-25 approving the sale of the Wells County farm by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells. Motion carried 7-0.

**Regional Sewer District:** A Resolution was presented to County Council requesting an extension of the line of credit to the Regional Sewer District. The current line of credit is \$500,000 which is currently borrowed for Project #1 involving Murray and Liberty Center. The Regional Sewer District would like to have an extension to the line of credit to borrow and pay for plans, engineering, and design for additional service areas in Wells County. Project #2 is Craigville which is planned to go out for bid in early 2022. Upon receipt by the County of funds reimbursed by SRF to pay down loans to the District on Project #1, the district may submit a new promissory note to borrow funds under the line of credit available, not to exceed \$500,000. Motion was made by Jim Oswalt, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve Resolution 2021-26 approving an extension of the line of credit and loan of funds to the Wells County Regional Sewer District. Motion carried 7-0.

**Purdue Extension Contracted Employee Agreement:** Bill Horan presented the annual Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Wells County. The contracted amount of \$113,350, in the agreement, has been approved by Council in the Extension budget for 2022. Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Extension contractual services agreement between Purdue University and the Government of Wells County, Indiana for 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

**Interlocal Engineering Services Agreement:** Wells County and the City of Bluffton are working on an Interlocal Engineering Services Agreement with the current Highway Engineer, Nate Rumschlag. This agreement would allow the Engineer to also provide the City certain engineering services in exchange for reimbursement from the city to Wells County for those services. The agreement is still in draft form and is in the City's hands currently. Once approved by the City and Commissioners, Council will need to amend the 2022 Salary Ordinance to include this agreement.

**Transfers:** Transfers within a major classification in a department may be made without County Council action by the Auditor's office if that action is approved by County Council. Council suggested paperwork be emailed to them listing the transfers, so Council will still be informed. Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to authorize the Auditor to transfer funds within the same major classification. Motion carried 7-0.

**Adjourned:** 8:27 PM Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

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