

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION December 8, 2020

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Mike Mossburg, Seth Whicker, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Jim Oswald, Vicki Andrews, and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Auditor, Sheriff, Surveyor, Coroner, Election, Commissioners and Circuit Court and transfers in Community Corrections Project Income, Health Department, Highway Administration and Highway Maintenance & Repair, 93.788 Indiana State Opioid Resp. and Community Corrections Grant Funds. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Jim Oswald to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for the Courthouse and Jail in the General fund and the Highway Administration fund. Motion carried 7-0

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 62 inmates, 21 pretrial Superior, 18 pretrial Circuit, 13 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 COVID coverage. Staffing is limited due to quarantining and COVID related issues. 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, Commissioners would then have to approve a policy for the payout. Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Seth Whicker to allow payment of the requested days upon approval of a policy by the Commissioners. 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. 18 medics, 15 part time employees and 3 office staff make up the EMS personnel. Three staffed EMS locations are in Wells County. Surrounding counties supplement EMS services financially. The biggest issue is reduced reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare. EMS is only reimbursed for what Medicare/Medicaid wants to pay. EMS will require additional funding in future years. A funding request for \$125,000 was proposed in the 2021 budget, that request was cut from the 2021 approved budget.

Ameresco and Elevatus: Representatives from Ameresco and Elevatus were in attendance to update the Commissioners on finalized cost estimates for upgrades to the Wells County Jail. These upgrades included energy needs and structural changes in the makeup of the jail to help with intake and quarantine issues. An updated HVAC system, a new roof, a water control system, and solar panels were the bulk of Ameresco's presentation. Ameresco's cost estimate for all upgrades ranged from \$2.25 to \$2.48 million dollars. Elevatus would revamp three areas of the jail and expand one area. The current Sallyport would be reconfigured and expanded to increase the size of that area which would be used for intake and holding cells. The multipurpose area would be modified into two video arraignment rooms. Medical observation areas would be added also. A video visitation area would be created out of an

existing restroom in the entrance area. Elevatus' cost estimate ranges for all improvements were \$1.65 to \$2.1 million dollars.

2021 Sheriff's Salary Contract: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2021 Sheriff's Salary Contract (Misc. 2020-17). Motion carried 7-0.

2020 Amended Salary Ordinance: Nate Rumschlag came to Council to request an additional full time Highway Employee allowance. Due to coming retirements his request was to allow an employee who was summer help to be hired as an additional highway employee in training. This would move the number of highway road drivers to 15, the allowed amount currently is 14. Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the 2020 Amended Salary Ordinance 2020-23 with the additional highway employee added. Motion carried 7-0.

2021 Salary Ordinance: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve the 2021 Salary Ordinance 2020-24. Motion carried 7-0.

Highway and Jail Funding: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Seth Whicker to pursue a funding path via Baker Tilly for improvements within the Jail as well as funding for a new Wells County Highway Garage. Motion carried 7-0.

Plaque of Appreciation: A plaque of appreciation was presented to outgoing Council President, Mike Mossburg.

Adjourned: 9:05 PM Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

