

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
April 28, 2023

Wells County Commissioners held a Special Session on Friday, April 28, 2022, at 9:00AM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Michael Vanover and Blake Gerber, Auditor Lisa McCormick, and Attorney Andrew Heck. Commissioner Jeff Stringer was absent.

The agenda item for discussion was the Walker Hughes Insurance Renewal. Dan Lipp and Danica Dunwiddie were present for Walker Hughes. As discussed in the April 17th Commissioner meeting, the total renewal premium for all policies effective 5/1/2023-5/1/2024 is \$285,529. A motion was made at the April 17th meeting to increase deductibles for property to \$10,000 and have a special session to discuss how the rates will be affected. Walker Hughes presented two different options for a reduction in premium. Option 1 would remove the auto-inflation and increase the deductible to \$10,000. Option 1 would reduce the annual premium to \$281,515, a reduction of \$4,014. Option 2 would increase the deductible to \$10,000 but leave the auto-inflation intact. Option 2 would reduce the annual premium to \$282,971, a reduction of \$2,558. Commissioner Gerber asked what the average deductible for other government entities was. Lipp thought the average deductible was \$2,500 to \$5,000 but was on the upward trend, due to property value and premiums increasing. Lipp wanted to make sure the Commissioners understood that the \$10,000 deductible was applied per occurrence, not per building. The current valuation on Wells County buildings is \$23,100,000, with 4% auto-inflation values would increase to \$24,000,000. Commissioner Gerber stated that values had been updated recently and felt comfortable with those numbers. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to eliminate the 4% auto-inflation, and increase deductibles to \$10,000 for an annual premium of \$281,515. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Vanover would like assurances from Walker Hughes to take the policies to market sooner next year. Vanover would like the Commissioners to be presented any proposals at least 30 days in advance. Lipp commented that he would strive to make that a reality. Danica Dunwiddie stated that the renewal policy would be coming electronically to the Commissioner President. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to allow the President to sign the Walker Hughes renewal document electronically. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:20AM.

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor