

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL SESSION

December 6, 2022

Wells County Commissioners held a Special Session on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 6:30PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Blake Gerber and Jeff Stringer, Auditor Lisa McCormick, and County Attorney Colin Andrews. Commissioner Michael Vanover was absent.

The Agenda item for discussion was a Project Paddlefish agreement. Jesse Laniak, Paddlefish Sr. Project Developer, Chad Kline, Economic Development Director, and Rick Hall, Barnes & Thornburg attorney were present at the meeting. The Commissioners were presented a resolution for the Economic Development Agreement that outlines boundaries of an Economic Development Area. This boundary includes portions of Liberty and Chester townships. The agreement states that Paddlefish Solar LLC is contemplating the development and construction of a solar-powered electric generating facility in Wells County. This facility will have a rated capacity of approximately two hundred ninety-five megawatts. Certain incentives, 100% tax abatement over 10 years, will be provided to Paddlefish Solar in exchange for its commitment to complete the project. Paddlefish Solar will make economic development payments to Wells County. Chad Kline stated that this document is giving approval for an EDA, not approval for the project. The proposed agreement precedes permitting, public hearings, and future documents for Commissioner and County Council approval. Commissioner Stringer stated, "it is not about pro-solar or anti-solar, it is about pro-individual rights". Stringer also stated, "I don't believe that we have the right to tell you what you can and can't do on your property". A road use agreement and decommissioning agreement will be attached as exhibits when those agreements are finalized by Wells County and Paddlefish Solar. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Resolution 2022-13 approving an Economic Development Agreement with Paddlefish Solar LLC. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 6:55PM.

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor