

WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

Joint Executive Session August 25, 2025

The Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Council met in a joint executive session on Monday, August 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were Commissioner Blake Gerber, Council members Brandon Harnish, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Steve Huggins, Vicki Andrews, and Brian Lambert, County Attorney Ted Storer and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Jeff Stringer, Michael Vanover, and Seth Whicker were absent.

An executive session was held in pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) & (4)

(2) For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following:

- ☐ A. Collective bargaining
- ☐ B. Initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. As used in this clause, "litigation" includes any judicial action or administrative law proceeding under federal or state law
- ☐ C. The implementation of security systems
- ☒ D. A real property transaction including:
 - (i) a purchase;
 - (ii) a lease as lessor;
 - (iii) a lease as lessee;
 - (iv) a transfer;
 - (v) an exchange; or
 - (vi) a sale;by the governing body up to the time a contract or option is executed by the parties. This clause does not affect a political subdivision's duty to comply with any other statute that governs the conduct of the real property transaction, including IC 36-1-10 or IC 36-1-11.

☒ (4) Interviews and negotiations with industrial or commercial prospects or agents of industrial or commercial prospects by:

- (A) the Indiana economic development corporation;
- (B) the office of tourism development (before July 1, 2020) or the Indiana destination development corporation (after June 30, 2020);
- (C) the Indiana finance authority;
- (D) the ports of Indiana;
- (E) an economic development commission
- (F) the Indiana state department of agriculture;
- (G) a local economic development organization that is a nonprofit corporation established under state law whose primary purpose is the promotion of industrial or business development in Indiana, the retention or expansion of Indiana businesses, or the development of entrepreneurial activities in Indiana; or
- (H) a governing body of a political subdivision.

However, this subdivision does not apply to any discussions regarding research that is prohibited under IC 16-34.5-1-2 or under any law

The only discussion during the executive session was pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) & (4). No other subjects were discussed during the executive session.

Wells County Commissioners

Member, Blake Gerber

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

Wells County Council

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor