

**WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
August 4, 2026**

Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Vicki Andrews was absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from July 7, 2026, regular session and July 28, 2026, executive session. Motion carried 6-0

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the additional appropriation in the Jail Bond fund. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the additional appropriation in the Wells County CASA Grant fund. Motion carried 6-0.

Transfers: A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Steve Huggins, to approve the transfer in the General Fund for the Election Board. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfers in the Local Road & Street fund, Highway, and Highway Administration. Motion carried 6-0.

Review of 2027 Estimated Property Tax Levy Limits and Property Tax Credits/Circuit Breakers: Per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 the County Council at the first meeting in August of each year shall review the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to property tax credits/circuit breakers for each taxing unit in the county. Recommendations made by the council shall be distributed to all taxing units. Council members reviewed the reports that were provided by the Department of Local Government Finance and did not see any significant changes in the levy limits; the reports showed increases from the growth quotient of 6%. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish to notify all taxing units within the county that no changes are being recommended on the estimated 2027 property tax levy limits or the 2027 estimated reductions due to property tax credits/circuit breakers. Motion carried 6-0.

Innkeepers Update: Scott Elzey, President of the Tourism board, updated County Council with 2026 revenue by month and year to date totals. 2026 Collections to date total \$44,134.71, 2025 collections totaled \$72,034.38, 2024 totaled \$88,414.84, and 2023 totaled \$95,267.67.

2027 Proposed 911 Budget: E911 Director Mike Miller presented the 2027 911 budget for the City of Bluffton. Following the interlocal agreement the proposed 911 budget has been approved by the budget committee which is also the 911 board. The budget total is \$1,296,862.91 for 2027. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the 2027 911 budget with the City of Bluffton. Motion carried 6-0.

LIT Property Tax Credit Allocations: County Council had a discussion on Local Income Tax allocations. The discussion included removing all allocations from LIT EMS, .11, and redistributing those allocations into LIT Public Safety. Presented to the County Council was a proposed LIT Notice To Taxpayers that

eliminated the .11 allocation in LIT EMS, redirecting the .11 allocation into LIT Public Safety. LIT Public Safety is distributed to Wells County, cities and towns. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Scott Elzey to publish the Notice to Taxpayers for the proposed Local Income Tax Ordinance 2026-11 to eliminate the .11 allocation in LIT EMS, redirecting the .11 allocation into LIT Public Safety with a public hearing to be held on September 8, 2026, at 7PM. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Council adjourned at 7:25 PM. The motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish. Motion carried 6-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor