

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 12-5-2016

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday December 5, 2016 at 9:00AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Robbins. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from November 21, 2016 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #25 in the amount of \$212,404.62 and 176 claims totaling \$235,094.39. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 76 inmates, 4 are DOC and 20 are F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: The Board of Commissioners opened stone bids from, Rock Creek Stone Quarry, Stone-Street Quarries, U.S. Aggregates, and three locations from IMI Stone. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to refer the stone bids to Highway Supervisor Ed Herman for his review and recommendation. Motion carried 3-0. Ed Herman provided updates on what his department is currently working on.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the work on Bridge #79 will begin soon. Materials for Bridge #400 have been delivered and the excavation is schedule for this month. Work on CR 1200S Road Conversion is progressing as scheduled. Letters have been mailed out to property owners requesting additional right of way for Bridge 66, 6 & 18 projects. The commissioners received copies of the signed agreements from USI Consultants regarding the design for bridge #66 (Misc. 2016-23) and from Butler, Fairman, and Seufert regarding the design for bridges #56, 118, and 303 (Misc. 2016-24). Nate provided a quote to purchase ADA Tiles to be used in future ADA projects. The quote is for 32 - 2x3 ADA tiles totaling \$2,592.00 and 32 Radius ADA tiles totaling \$2,912.00. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the purchase of the tiles. Motion carried 3-0. Two right of way documents were presented for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right of way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Repairs: Courthouse custodian Bobbie Studebaker informed the commissioners that she had met with Ziolkowski Construction regarding the Courthouse Steps and they will be providing a quote to repair them. The Vendor also recommended that she contact a structure engineer to look at the steps. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Bobbie contact a structure engineer to look at the steps. Motion carried 3-0. Bobbie informed the commissioners that she has received word back from a third vendor that they do not want to present a quote on the drop ceilings on the first floor of the courthouse. The commissioners asked Bobbie to send them copies of the two quotes she has so they can review them.

Economic Development Director: Chad Kline gave the Board of Commissioners several updates on projects that his office has been working on. Some of the projects include a Food Study, Tourism Study, and a Housing Study that will be done with Adams County. Grant funds will be available to cover the

cost of the housing study. Chad informed the commissioners that the workforce development grant that Wells and Adams County applied for jointly was not awarded to Wells or Adams counties. Chad stated that he was going to contact the grant provider to see why we were not granted the funds. The commissioners had previously committed \$25,000 match for the grant. Chad also informed the commissioners that Wells County is tied for third place for the lowest unemployment rate in Indiana. Field trips have been scheduled with all three Wells County Schools to visit Manufactures in Wells County for those students that are interested in factory or skilled trade jobs. Chad will be presenting a complete annual report at the first of the year.

Farm Lease: The soil test for the county farm has been received and the commissioners will provide a copy to the current tenant for his review. County Attorney Roy Johnson provided a “Notice of Hearing Regarding the Sale of a Portion of the Wells County Farm and the Lease of the Remainder of the Wells County Farm” to the Commissioner to review and sign. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to sign the notice to have a public hearing on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 10:30am. Motion carried 3-0.

Lease Agreement for Sheriff Department: County Attorney Roy Johnson informed the commissioners that he had received a lease contract from the Sheriff’s Department to purchase new jail security equipment. Roy asked the commissioners if they would like him to contact Star Financial since we have used them in the past and they are our current vendor for the Liberty Center Rescue Truck lease. The commissioners asked Roy to contact Star Financial also so we can have a quote from each of them.

County Cemetery Commission: Since the Commissioners are the owners of some cemeteries in Wells County they need to create a County Cemetery Commission. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2016-08 “An Ordinance to Create a County Cemetery Commission”. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners Additional Comments: The commissioners had recently attended the annual Commissioners conference in Indianapolis where they received more information regarding road funding. The commissioners asked Nate Rumschlag and Ed Herman to put together a letter that can be forwarded to our legislators asking them to continue with road funding in the future.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:00AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor