

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 1-17-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday January 17, 2017 at 9:30AM 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 January 3, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #2 in the amount of \$210,817.70 and 181 claims totaling \$313,477.40. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 75 inmates, 9 are DOC and 18 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that he has a tentative agreement with Star Financial regarding a five year municipal lease payment for a new security system upgrade. The total cost for the upgrade is \$236,000.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Sheriff's recommendation to purchase the new security system through Security Automation Systems, Inc. and finance the purchase through Star Financial Bank. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman informed the commissioners that the service truck is scheduled to be done this week. Ed also let the commissioners know that he has already purchased over 142 tons of salt this year due to all the ice.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on the bridge projects; the work on bridge #79 is ahead of schedule, still waiting on the weather to break to start working on bridge #400, and the advertisements to receive bids on bridge #'s 2 and 203 is scheduled to advertise this week. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to sign the signature page for the design plans on bridges 2 and 203. Motion carried 3-0. Nate informed the commissioners that he is working on a plan to update the policy to replace driveway culverts for road and bridge projects. Nate would like to use larger culverts to help eliminate flooding issues on roadways. One right of way document was presented for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve a right of way document. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development: Director Chad Kline present the 2016 Wells County Economic Development Annual Report (Misc. 2017-01). As stated in the report, one of the main projects for 2017 is Workforce Retention & Attraction. Chad also presented the "Agreement for Performance of Economic Development Services" to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the agreement (Misc. 2017-02). Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Repairs: Courthouse Custodian Bobbie Studebaker informed the commissioners that she has contacted three elevator companies for estimates on repairing or upgrading the courthouse elevator and only received proposals back from two of the companies for upgrading and one for repairing the elevator. The quote from Thyssenkrupp to upgrade the elevator was \$88,703 and the quote from Otis was \$75,000. Otis also provided the quote to repair the elevator for \$7,477. Commissioner Woodward stated that he liked the ideal of upgrading the elevator but would like to table a decision until the next

meeting. Bobbie also informed the commissioners that she is getting quotes on repairing or replacing the stair treads at the courthouse and new flooring in the hallway on the fourth floor. The commissioners also asked Bobbie to check why there is no heat in the women's bathroom by the meeting room.

Community Corrections 2017-2018 Grant: Director Blake Poindexter informed the commissioners that Sara Beaty one of the Community Corrections board members is stepping down so there needs to be a replacement. The board appointment will be posted on the county website. Blake also presented the fiscal year 2018 grant application for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the fiscal year 2018 Community Corrections grant. Motion carried 3-0.

Workers Compensation Renewal: Richard Randol presented the renewal for the counties workers compensation insurance policy that expires on February 1st, 2017. The renewal with BITCO is for \$73,648 which is an increase of \$2,129. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the renewal with BITCO. Motion carried 3-0.

Juvenile Public Defender Contract: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the "Contract for Legal Services" between the Wells County Circuit Court and Jill M. Denman (Misc. 2017-03). Motion carried 3-0.

2016 Compensation Report: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2016 Total Compensation report. Motion carried 3-0.

Covered Bridge Certificate: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the CY 2017 Covered Bridge Certification showing Wells County has no covered bridges. Motion carried 3-0.

Cemetery Board: The board of commissioners discussed the six applicants that applied for the five member County Cemetery Board. The commissioners stated they would appoint the first five applicants that applied which were: Brian Steffen, Thomas Liby, Connie Brubaker, Scott Stroup and Chris Pease. Roy Johnson will prepare an ordinance for the appointments at the next commissioners meeting.

Highway Supervisor Position: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to hire an interim to fill the position of the County Highway Supervisor until a new Supervisor can be hired. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA Director Position: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to work on filling the Full time EMA Director's position and request to the council that the assistant EMA position be changed from a part time position to a full time position by requesting an additional appropriation to the County Council at their next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Farm Lease Updates: The agreement for the Farm Lease is available on the county website and the agreement for the part to be sold off is currently being added to the county website for public view.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:09AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor