

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 2-6-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday February 6, 2017 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 Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the minutes from January 17, 2017 regular session and executive session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #3 in the amount of \$222,683.61 and 210 claims totaling \$350,454.68. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 77 inmates, 4 are DOC and 17 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Fisher presented the Security Automation Systems agreement to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. The agreement is for the Jail Security System Upgrade that will be financed with Star Financial Bank. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept the agreement and allow the president of the board to sign (Misc. 2017-04). Motion carried 3-0. Chief Deputy Scott Holliday presented a Video Arraignment Proposal to the board of commissioners for their approval. Deputy Holliday stated that he and Circuit Court Judge Kent Kiracofe have been considering this video courtroom for some time now. In 2016 the sheriff's office traveled more than 28,000 miles to transport 1099 inmates to court with 335 of them coming from out of the county. With this new system the offender may appear before the judge without ever leaving the prison or jail. The total cost for the installation and equipment for both the Circuit Court and the Jail is \$35,944.34. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the proposal from Business Information Systems, Inc. Motion carried 3-0.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on the bridge projects; The guardrail has been installed and we are waiting for asphalt plants to open so we can place the transition wedges and overlay to the new deck, the structure has been completed for Bridge #400 and the roadway is open, bids will be received on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for bridges #2 & #203 and presented to the commissioners at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Nate asked the commissioners about using a digital project management system for bridge projects over \$200,000. This system would record and tract all the paperwork for the projects. The per project cost for the system is typically around \$850.00. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow the program to be use at Nates discretion. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented an unofficial detour request from INDOT for the small structure replacements on US 224 over Dailey Drain and Maple Creek. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the unofficial detour. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented right of way dedications from bridge #66, CR 500W, and CR 700N projects. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve all the right of ways that were presented. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented a proposal from Alt & Witzig Engineering to perform geotechnical Investigation for the five bridge projects under the next CCMG application. The total proposal for all five bridges is \$14,070. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Alt & Witzig proposal and allow the president of the board to sign the agreement (Misc. 2017-05). Motion carried 3-0.

**Council on Aging:** Bonnie Valind presented flow charts for 2016. 2016 was the first year since WOW started back in 2004 that the total trips per year was down from the prior year. Bonnie also presented the fourth quarter contract invoice-voucher to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the fourth quarter claim in the amount of \$62,761.00. Motion carried 3-0.

**County Cemetery Board:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2017-01 "An Ordinance to Create a County Cemetery Commission". Motion carried 3-0. The five board members appointed were: Thomas Liby, Connie Brubaker, Scott Shoup, Chris Pease, and Brian Steffen.

**Joint Appointments to the Huntington City/Township Library:** The prior appointment of Martha Wanous that was made by the Huntington and Wells county commissioners has decided that she did not want to be on the board and Terry Miller whose term ends on 12/31/2017 has resigned from the board. Two new applicants were presented to the commissioners for their consideration. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Jessica Mankey to fill Martha Wanous appointment and James Miller to fill Terry Miller appointment. Motion carried 3-0.

**Community Corrections Appointment:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Susan Campbell to the Community Corrections Advisory Board replacing Sara Beaty. Motion carried 3-0.

**Rescue Runs:** Commissioner Blake Gerber stated that the Bluffton Fire Chief has asked him if the county would pay for the generator repair to the Rescue Truck in the amount of \$7050.85 and this amount to be considered as part of the estimated \$13,000 that the county gives to Bluffton annually for rescue runs. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to pay for the generator repair to be included with this total amount of \$13,000 to the City of Bluffton for 2017. Motion carried 3-0.

**Courthouse Repairs:** The board of commissioners feels that the repair to the courthouse elevator would be sufficient rather than replacing the elevator at this time. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Courthouse elevator repair in the amount of \$7,447.21 and allow the president of the board to sign to proposal (Misc. 2017-06). Motion carried 3-0.

**Bidding on sell of 16.93 Acres:** County Attorney Roy Johnson reviewed and explained the procedures for bidding on the 16.93 acres at the County Home Farm. The minimum bid is \$72,000 and 2 bids were received for that amount. Two bids were received again in the next round of bidding, one for \$72,500 and one for \$80,000. No more bids were received so the highest bidder was Mr. Johannes J. De Groot with Sunshine Dairy LLC in the amount of \$80,000.

**Bidding on lease of 229.54 Tillable Acres:** County Attorney Roy Johnson reviewed and explained the procedures for bidding on the 229.54 tillage acres for the cash farm lease at the County Home Farm. The minimum bid is \$250.00 per acres. Four bids were received in the first round of bidding with the highest bid of \$296.00. One bid was received in the second round of bidding for \$301.00. One bid was received in the third round of bidding for \$306.00. No more bids were received so the highest bidder was Gaiser Farms Inc. in the amount of \$306.00 per acre.

Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take both winning bids under advisement and review. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:59AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Blake Gerber

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President, Kevin Woodward

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Robbins

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor