

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 3-20-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday March 20, 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 March 6, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #6 in the amount of \$215,580.07 and 215 claims totaling \$220,627.14. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 80 inmates, 9 are DOC and 21 are F6 DOC.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that he is working on the Dustay quotes and the numbers should be available later this week or the first of next week. The highway department will be offering the dustay application on line this year through the county website and the highway employees will be doing the measuring and placing the flags instead of having the home owners doing it. Josh also informed the commissioners that he is working on all the other needed right-of-way documents for the three road projects scheduled through the community crossing grant. The 2016 Annual Operational Report for Local Roads and Streets was presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2016 annual report. Motion carried 3-0.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on the bridge projects; NIPSCO gas relocation work is planned to start the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> for Bridges 2 & 203 the roads will be closed while the work is being done, the weather has not been suitable to do the paving on Bridge #79 so the road is still closed. Nate asked the commissioners about doing a digital backup on old drawings and archive files in the highway department. The cost for the scanning service would be between \$1.50-\$2.50 per sheet. Since the documents are not a required permanent record the commissioners suggested going through the local commission of public records to transfer them to the county historical society. Five right-of-way documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right-of-way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

**Flood Safety Awareness Week:** County Surveyor Jarrod Hahn presented a Proclamation proclaiming March 19-25, 2017 as "Flood Safety Awareness Week". Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to name this week March 19-25, 2017 as "Flood Safety Awareness Week". Motion carried 3-0.

**Veterans Service Officer Driver Contract:** Claude McMillian the Veterans Service Officer would like to have a driver transport veterans to the local veteran's hospitals for services when the veteran doesn't have any other means of transportation. The driver is not a county employee so we would need to have the driver enter into a contractor's agreement with the county so he can be paid for his services. A rough draft of an agreement was presented to the board of commissioners; however we are still waiting

to hear back from the veteran's officer if the driver has sufficient insurance coverage. The agreement also had an option of a flat fee for each day the driver drove a veteran to the hospital or if the driver should be paid mileage for the trip. The commissioners stated that they would prefer to have the agreement set as a flat fee per trip. If the driver is going to the hospital in Fort Wayne it would be set at a flat fee amount to be similar to the mileage reimbursement rate that the county currently has and the same for trips to the Indianapolis Hospital or the Marion Hospital. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to table this until the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0. A revised agreement will be presented at the next commissioners meeting.

**Use of Mental Health Office Space:** Lisa Smith, executive director for Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana sent a letter to the board of commissioners asking to use some office space at the annex building when their Professional Guardian is working in Wells and Adams County. After some discussion the commissioners decided not to allow the use of office space to the organization since they are not a county office.

**County Home Farm Sell of 16.93 Acres:** The closing for the sale of 16.93 acres from the County Home Farm was held last Friday (March 17, 2017). The check has been received and Auditor Beth Davis asked if the commissioners would like it quietused into the general fund or did they want to create a Home Rule Fund for a new Highway Garage as discussed during a recent county council meeting. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to create a new Home Rule Fund for the money received from the sale to be used for a new highway garage. Motion carried 3-0.

**Handbook Update for County Owned Vehicles:** A couple County Council members asked the County Auditor what the county policy was regarding take home vehicles. The current county handbook did not have a policy for take home vehicle so a draft policy was presented to the commissioner for their review. The commissioners will review the draft policy and revisit it at the next commissioners meeting.

**Rescue Unit Agreement:** A draft agreement was presented to the commissioners for their review and comments regarding how the annual \$20,000 should be disbursed to the three Rescue Units located in the County. The commissioners will review the agreement and revisit it at the next commissioners meeting.

**Passing of Prior County Attorney:** The Board of Commissioners acknowledged the recent passing of prior county attorney Trent Patterson stating that he would be greatly missed.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:15AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Tamara Robbins

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