

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 4-17-2017

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

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #8 in the amount of \$217,325.25 and 188 claims totaling \$528,174.73. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 89 inmates, 4 are DOC and 24 are F6 DOC.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the county attorney has reviewed the Jutte contracts for bridges 2 & 203. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve and sign the Jutte contracts. Motion carried 3-0. The asphalt is scheduled to be done this week for Bridge #79 and as soon as it is completed and accepted the road will be opened. The start of work on county road 700N will depend on AEP scheduling and when the backhoe crew will be available. The archives vendor has picked up documents and has starting scanning them. Nate presented a list of small structure culvert projects scheduled to be done this year. The total Material cost for the 9 projects is \$90,691.00. Nate would like to purchase all the culverts at one time so they would be available when they are ready to start the projects. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request to purchase the culverts totaling \$90,691.00. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented a utility permit from Craigville Telephone for CR 450 E and 400N for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Utility Permit for Craigville Telephone. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented two right-of-way documents for the community crossing grant projects. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right-of-way documents. Motion carried 3-0. All the ROW's for the CR 900W project have now been received. Nate presented an Unofficial Detour from INDOT for a small structure replacement on State Road 218 over John's Ditch just west of State Road 1. The unofficial detour will be north on CR 200, to east on CR 500, and south on SR1. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the unofficial detour. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that he has two Backhoe Crew's working, one in the north and one in the south. Josh has rented a Power Broom for 30 days and it will be starting around the county today. Informed the commissioners that the final top coat of stone has been applied to the three road conversion projects.

**County Insurance Renewal:** Richard Randol and Dan Lipp with General Insurance presented the insurance renewal for the counties liability and property insurance with Bliss McKnight Group & Selective Insurance. The Policy term is 05/01/2017 to 05/01/2018 and the annual policy renewal is down \$9,532.00 from last year's policy. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the renewal policy in the amount of \$179,124.00. Motion carried 3-0.

**Housing Study:** Economic Development Director Chad Kline and Development Concepts Managing Director Mike Higbee updated the commissioners on the ongoing housing study. Mike stated that they have been collecting a lot of market information from real estate experts and gathering information from interviews, Mike calls this phase the “sponge phase”. Mike also stated that he has discovered that there is more than one housing market in the county meaning you can’t treat southern wells the same as northern wells. Mike is estimating spending about 60 days on the housing strategy.

**Southern Wells Community School:** Southern Wells School Superintendent Steve Darnell and Kevin Scott, President of the School Board came before the board of commissioners to ask questions regarding the regional sewer district. Southern Wells is currently in the process of upgrading their current Wastewater treatment plant or moving the sewage to the Town of Montpelier or the Town of Poneto. The School Board wanted to see where the regional sewer district would fit in before making any decisions. The commissioners told the school board that the Regional Sewer District don’t actively pursue participants, they would only address issues that would be brought before them. The cost to tap into a system is very expensive for residents and also a very slow process to build. Kevin Scott stated that the town of Poneto’s current system would not be able to take the sewage from the school and he is concerned about the cost to connect to the town of Montpelier. The commissioners stated that rebuilding their current system or working with the town of Montpelier would be a lot faster process based on the schools current needs.

**Chalk Painting:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to give the Department of child Services permission to use sidewalk chalk at the courthouse plaza for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion carried 3-0.

**GIS Sharing Agreement:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the GIS systems sharing with Southern Wells Community Schools (Misc. 2017-09). Motion carried 3-0.

**OCRA Workforce Training Grant:** Economic Development Director Chad Kline informed the commissioners that Wells and Adams counties have received the \$250,000.00 workforce training grant. The training is for manufacturing training in CNC, industrial maintenance and welding.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:05AM

**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