

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 5-1-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 1, 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 Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from April 17, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Payroll #9 in the amount of \$220,533.51 and 217 claims totaling \$397,981.10. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 92 inmates, 5 are DOC and 25 are F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on some of the current projects the Highway Department is working on. Dusty schedule is set and they are ready to start as soon as the rain stops. Josh also informed the commissioners that he has the 2017 roads selected for chip and seal which includes 71.2 miles of existing roads and 6 miles of new roads. Three Bituminous Bids were received; K-Tech, Marathon Petroleum, and Asphalt Material. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take the bituminous bids under advisement for the Highway Supervisors review and recommendation. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the updated Highway Departments "Sick Bank Policy". Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that Bridge #79 is now open. Still waiting on AEP coordination to start the CR 700N project. Nate presented an updated "Bridge Asset Management Plan" to replace six bridges in 2018 using Community Crossing Matching Grant funds. House Bill 1002 changes the local match from 50/50 to 75/25 which will allow the county to do more projects if approved. Nate also provided a copy of a road conversion plan. The new plan will be a ranking recommendation of petitions filed with the highway department before June 1st of each year. The ranking will be based on the number of petitions or right of way consents divided by the number of properties on each segment of road being proposed. Nate will then present the top 10 list to the Board of Commissioners at their first meeting in July for their consideration. Nate presented Right-of Way documents for CR 500S and CR 500W road conversion projects and right-of-ways for the Bridge #18 project. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve all the right-of-way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Recorder: Carolyn Bertsch informed the commissioners that she has purchased new software for her office and the software vendor recommended that she close her office to the public on June 30, 2017 for one day of training. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the closing for the Recorder's Office on June 30, 2017. Motion carried 3-0.

Free Shredding Event: The board of commissioners informed everyone that Wells County Solid Waste is sponsoring a Shredding Day this coming Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9:00Am to Noon at 990 N Main St., Bluffton.

National Day of Prayer: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from Pastor Neil Ainslie to use the courthouse square on Thursday, May 4, 2017 to hold a national Day of Prayer Service. Motion carried 3-0.

Regional Sewer District Appointments: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Blake Gerber to the Regional Sewer District Board. Motion carried 2-0-1 with Blake Gerber abstaining from voting.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:43AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor