

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 6-5-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday June 5, 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 May 15, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #11 in the amount of \$221,069.45, Payroll #12 in the amount of \$215,568.62 and 174 claims totaling \$300,666.47. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 95 inmates, 5 are DOC and 22 are F6 DOC. Five of the inmates are being held for another county. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that he is having some issue with the water heater at the jail and he will let the commissioners know if it can be repaired or if it will need to be replaced.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that he has eliminated the backlog of note by using two back hoe crews. Both applications of Dustay have been completed. The work on the road conversion for county road 1200S has been completed and it is now ready for chip and seal to be applied in late summer. Currently the highway department is working on mowing side ditches and hand patching the roads for the 2017 chip/seal map. The new equipment that was discussed at the prior meeting has been ordered. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to change Josh Cotton from Highway "Interim" to Highway Supervisor. Motion carried 3-0.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the application for the 2017 Community Crossings Matching Grant is due by July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and he is planning on applying for the maximum amount of \$1 million dollars. New Legislation changed the local match to 25% instead of 50%. Nate is proposing seven bridge projects in the application. The Bridge projects include Bridge 66 – CR 1100S between CR 400W & five points, Bridge 18 – CR 750E between SR 218 & CR 700S, Bridge 118 – CR 850N between CR 150E & SR 1, Bridge 56 – CR 600W between CR 900S & 1000S, Bridge 303 – CR 1000S between CR 100E & 200E, Bridge 6 – CR 700S between CR 200E & 250E, and Bridge 79 – CR 200S between CR 200W & 300W. Bridge 79 has already been completed and was funded through the CEDIT fund which was not eligible for the 2016 Community Crossing Grant. Since the bridge was completed in 2017 we may be eligible for reimbursement through the 2017 Community Crossing Grant because CEDIT funds are now eligible for local match dollars. As discussed in the prior meeting Commissioner Gerber stated that he had drove out to inspect the three way stop at CR 800E & 300S and he recommends that no changes be made. The 2017 road conversion petitions has now been closed and Nate will be totaling the petitions and presenting them to the Board of Commissioners at the July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting for their review. There are over twelve petitioned road sections with 100% of the property owners filing petitions. Nate presented Utility Permits from Adams Wells and AEP and one Right-of-Way dedication for Bridge 56. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the utility permits and right-of-way. Motion carried 3-0.

**Council on Aging/Wells on Wheels:** Bonnie Valind presented annual comparison charts showing continue growth with public transit in Wells County. Bonnie also provided information on where the funding comes from for the Transit Program. The county currently provides an annual amount of \$53,000 and Bonnie asked the commissioners to budget the same amount for the 2018 budget year. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the annual amount of \$53,000 for Wells County Council on Aging. Motion carried 3-0. The new 2018 (5311 Operating / 5339 Capital) Grant Application that was previously emailed to the Board of Commissioners, county attorney and county Auditor for their review was presented to them for their approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the 2018 grant application (Resolution No. 2017-01). Motion carried 3-0. Bonnie also presented the 2017 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reimbursement voucher in the amount of \$94,247.00 to the commissioners for their approval. This report was previously emailed to the Board of Commissioners, county attorney, and county Auditor for review. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2017 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reimbursement voucher. Motion carried 3-0.

**Bi-County Services:** Tim Ramsey, president of Bi-County Services presented his Fiscal Year 2018 funding request and financial update. For the past several years Wells County has given an annual amount of \$39,312 to Bi-County Services and that is the amount that Mr. Ramsey is requesting again for the 2018 budget. Tim informed the commissioners that they are close to completing the construction of an inclusive, community playground behind the BCS main office. The playground includes specially designed equipment and artificial turf surface to allow all individuals to play regardless of age or ability. The Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the \$700,000 playground is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30pm. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the annual funding of \$39,312 for the 2018 budget. Motion carried 3-0.

**Use of Courthouse Square:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the request from Ed Ferguson to use the courthouse square on Saturday, August 26, 2017 for his annual car show. Motion carried 3-0.

**County Vehicle Policy:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2017-05 "An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells Concerning Amending the Wells County Employee Handbook for the Adoption of Guidelines for Use of Personal Vehicles or County-Owned Vehicles". Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:49AM

**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