

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 7-5-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday July 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 was County Auditor, Beth Davis. County Attorney Roy Johnson was absent.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from June 19, 2017 regular session and June 19, 2017 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #14 in the amount of \$226,513.53 and 272 claims totaling \$421,299.11. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 91 inmates, 9 are DOC and 23 are F6 DOC. 6 of the inmates are being held for another county.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on ditch mowing, hand patching, and the progress of the 500S and 500W road conversion projects. Josh informed the commissioners that five of the seven large culvert pipes have been installed and the last two should be done this week. Once the large culvert pipes are all installed they will be ready to install the aluminum structures that are scheduled to arrive in August.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the work on Bridge #2 began today and the road will be closed for approximately 5 weeks. Work on Bridge #203 is proposed to start the middle part of July which will impact the start of the school year for Southern Wells Community Schools. Nate stated that he will coordinate with the school for the bus routes. The application for the 2017 Community Crossing Matching Grant is nearly complete and Nate is planning on submitting the application to INDOT this Friday. The total request will be the maximum amount of \$1,000,000.00 and will include bridges #66, #6, #18, #118, #56, & #79. The initial soil borings and design on Bridge #56 left an unsatisfactory foundation design and Nate is recommending an additional boring with an estimated cost of \$3,110.00. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the additional boring charge. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented the INDOT-County Bridge Inspection Contract for the Commissioners approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Bridge Inspection Contract between INDOT and Wells County (Misc. 2017-10). Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented a list of 16 roads that has 100% participation of petitions from property owners. Nate asked the commissioners to review the list and get back with him on their recommendations for road conversion projects so he can start with design and right of way request.

Recorder's Bulk Copies Ordinance: County Recorder Carolyn Bertsch presented an Ordinance to commissioners dealing with the County Recorder's sale of documents in bulk to bulk users. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance No. 2017-07 "An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells Establishing the Manner and Form in Which the Recorder May Provide Bulk Form Copies to a Bulk User". Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Area Plan Director Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. brought back the Zoning Ordinance changes that were presented to the Board of Commissioners at their previous meeting.

Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have the special exception to allow ground-level residences in certain downtown properties removed from the ordinance as well as the requirement that estimated costs appear on building permits, all the other changes to be approved as recommended. Motion carried 3-0. Michael said he would make the necessary changes to the ordinances and bring them back for the commissioner's signatures.

Wells Counties Historical Society: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the annual budget request from the Wells County Historical Society for \$10,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:30AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor