

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 7-17-2017

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

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #15 in the amount of \$214,451.16 and 209 claims totaling \$292,643.13. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 90 inmates, 8 are DOC and 22 are F6 DOC. 7 of the inmates are being held for another county.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on the ditch mowing, road conversions for CR 500S & CR 500W and the hand patching. The 2017 road conversion schedule includes roads 1200S, 950N, 800N and 400W. Roads 950N, 800N and 400W will be done within a two week span starting around August 7<sup>th</sup>. They will start next week on CR 1200S by applying the top coat and Dustay and then the triple coat of chip and seal will be done the end of August. Have installed 8 large culvert pipes so far and today or tomorrow will be installing the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 aluminum structures.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that an additional 100 feet of piling was required for Bridge #2 totaling \$8,950.00 and this delay has caused a push back of approximately 2 days. Work is proposed to start later this month for Bridge #203. The application for the 2017 Community Crossing grant was submitted on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and the awards are scheduled to be release in late August. The final invoice for 2013-2016 Bridge Inspection has been sent in and a conference call is scheduled for project review on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The 2017-2020 Bridge Inspection contract with INDOT has been sent in for their approval. Nate presented a Citizens Telephone Utility Permit application for the drain crossing on CR 700S 1200 feet east of CR 1200W. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request. Motion carried 3-0. Nate also presented a Citizens Telephone Utility Permit for fiber network expansion in Liberty Center and rural Liberty township but a map for the boring has not been received yet. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the expansion pending the review of the map. Motion carried 3-0. Nate presented a draft plan of details he has developed for mailbox turnouts. Nate would like to have these details enforced stating in September. The new standards would become part of future road conversions and new construction. Nate will work with Roy Johnson on an ordinance to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at a future meeting.

**Precinct Boundary Charges:** County Clerk Yvette Runkle presented information to the commissioners about possibly redistricting the Commissioners district lines. The last time redistricting was done for the commissioner's was in April 1982. The county was encouraged to redistrict after the 2010 census but they tabled the item in 2011. The County Council redistricted in 2013. Although all voters vote for all three commissioners the candidate has to live within the district to file. Currently District one is South of State Road 218 and it includes three precincts with a total of 1699 voters. District two is North of

State Road 218 to county road 300N and it includes all of part of 14 precincts with a total of 9141 voters. District three is everyone north of county road 300N and it includes all of part of 9 precincts with a total of 6607 voters. Yvette provided maps of the current district lines and three new maps with suggested changes. Yvette stated that the maps were only suggestions and the commissioners could present their own ideas also. The commissioners took the information under advisement and will review at a future meeting.

**Creative Arts Request for Funding:** Joel Harmeyer the Executive Director of the Creative Arts Council sent an email request and video to the commissioners requesting funds from the county for their organization. The commissioners stated that although they appreciate all that the Creative Arts does for our community they would not be contributing to their organization this year.

**Rescue Unit Reimbursement Policy:** The commissioners asked Roy Johnson to draft a written policy on how the \$20,000 annual contribution is to be paid to the three Countywide Rescue Units. Currently the commissioners are asking that the amount is divided as \$13,000.00 to the City of Bluffton, \$5,000.00 to the town of Ossian and \$2,000 to the Liberty Center Fire Department. The Commissioners are also asking that an annual report be submitted with the number of rescue runs so they can determine if any changes would need to be done.

**Road Conversion Petitions:** The commissioners are still reviewing the list that Nate provided them on the 16 + miles of Road conversion petitions. The commissioners are hoping to make a decision on which roads to convert at the August meeting.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:13AM

**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