

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 8-7-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday August 7, 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 Deputy Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from July 17, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #16 in the amount of \$220,702.30 and 214 claims totaling \$428,330.27. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 95 inmates, 5 are DOC and 16 are F6 DOC and 7 are being held for another county.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that they have started the third and final round of ditch mowing. Gave the commissioners updates on the 500S and 500W road conversion projects as well as the 1200S, 950N, 800N, and 400W road conversion projects. Started north of Ossian today with the scheduled chip and seal roads and will be working their way south. Josh has received several complaints about corn obstructing driver's views at intersections and he is asking farmers to cut back their corn at the intersections.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the work on Bridge #2 is almost completed and the tentative opening date for the road is August 14th. CR 1000S east of 600E will be closed starting this week for Bridge #203. The work on Bridge #203 should be completed by the end of September. Nate presented two utility permits from Craigville Telephone; one in Lancaster township along CR 100N west from CR 600E to existing fiber line and one in Harrison township along CR 400E south from River Road approximately 500 feet along the east side of the road. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve both Lancaster and Harrison township utility permits. Motion carried 3-0. Nate also informed the commissioners that the records that he had scanned have been reviewed and he would like to scan the remaining files next year. Nate is working with Roy Johnson on the highway design and construction standards for miscellaneous elements including mailbox turnouts. Army Corps of Engineers send in the right of way document for CR 500W for the commissioners approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the ROW from the Army Corps of Engineers. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells on Wheels: Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier presented second quarter comparison charts for the commissioner's review. Bonnie presented the second quarter INDOT Contract Invoice-Voucher for the commissioner's approval, the information was previously emailed to the commissioners to review. The voucher has a total reimbursement amount of \$101,104.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the 2nd quarter reimbursement voucher and allow the president of the board to sign the voucher. Motion carried 3-0.

Bluffton NOW: Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. representing Bluffton NOW came before the Board of Commissioners asking for funding to support two projects that their organization is working on. The

first project would be the downtown revitalization which includes the courthouse plaza and old JC Penney's building to the west of the courthouse. The second project would be to extend the Interurban trail. Michael is asking the county to pay for the estimated \$127,600.00 for the courthouse plaza project and give \$250,000.00 to be used for a 50/50 match from donation. The commissioners had several questions and concerns about the projects and would like to get some more input from the public and other communities before making any decisions. In addition to the request from Bluffton NOW the commissioners are currently looking at different options on fixing the courthouse steps that have been closed since last November. A quote to repair the steps is \$47,000 and a quote to renovate the steps by removing the center section and making it the main entrance is between \$185,000 to \$215,000, this amount would be on top of the \$127,600 that is being requested from Bluffton NOW. The City of Bluffton has contributed \$362,000 for the project with \$125,000 of that being used for matching funds and the Wells County Foundations has granted \$25,000 as matching funds. Some other concern expressed by the commissioners was funding a Bluffton project as representatives of the whole county. Michael stated that the project would not move forward until the money has been raised and he asked the commissioners to let him know when he should come back.

Road Conversions: The commissioners discussed which roads to be converted from the list of petitions presented to them from the July meeting. Commissioner Blake Gerber suggested doing the three miles on CR 500E from 900N to 1200N. The commissioners thought it would be the most efficient to do these three miles since they are in a continuous segment. The other entire requests will stay in the queue for future decisions. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the three miles on CR 500E. Motion carried 3-0

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:07AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor