

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 10-2-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 2, 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 September 5, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #19 in the amount of \$214,330.85 and Payroll #20 in the amount of \$216,014.65 and 193 claims totaling \$330,468.75 from September 18th, 2017 and 174 claims totaling \$573,211.77 for October 2, 2017. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 96 inmates, 4 are DOC and 17 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that he paved the west parking lot at the jail last week.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that the 90 miles of chip and sealing for 2017 has been completed. The two aluminum structures on 400N east of 300W and 800E south of 700S will be installed within the next couple of months and one box culvert is scheduled for delivery and will be installed toward the end of October. The new mowing tractor has been out in service for the past couple of weeks. The 900W Road Conversion Project is scheduled to start in the next 2 weeks.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that Wells County was not awarded any Community Crossing Grant funds for the 2017 grant application. INDOT encouraged Wells County to apply again next year so Nate will start working on the 2018 Community Crossing Grant Projects. Bids will be opened tomorrow at 2:00PM for Bridge #66 and Bridge #18; these two bridges will be funded through the CEDIT bridge fund. Bridge #2 project is complete with a final cost of \$391,811.97 including the change order of \$4,370.00 which is an increase of 3.3% from bid but remains below the original project award. Bridge #203 project is also complete with a final cost of \$297,291.10 which includes a decreased change order of \$7,000.00 which is a decrease of 12% from bid and remains below the original project award. Nate presented the Contractor's Applications for Payment to the board of commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the change order and Contractor's Application's and allow the president of the board to sign them. Motion carried 3-0. For future federal aid construction and transportation projects the county needs to update the Wells County Functional Classification Maps and Nate would like to work with NEIRCC on the updates. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the map changes. Motion carried 3-0. INDOT will be replacing the bridge on SR 218 over Six Mile Creek, 1.69 miles east of SR 1 in late spring of 2018, so Nate presented the unofficial detour route for the commissioner's approval. The unofficial detour will be north on CR 500W, to east on CR 550S, and south on CR 600E. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the unofficial detour. Motion carried 3-0. INDOT has a call for Federal Projects and Nate would like to apply of two separate projects, one is the Historic Bridge #106 and the other is the Hoosier Highway road project. Nate would like to request approval from the commissioners to have USI do the preliminary engineering

assessment report for the Historic Select Bridge #106 and have BF&S do the engineering assessment report for phase 1a of the Hoosier Highway Project. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow Nate to proceed with the engineering cost and allow the president of the board to sign the proposal agreements. Motion carried. Nate also presented several Right of Way Dedications for the commissioner's approval. Motion Made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the ROW dedications. Motion carried 3-0.

IT Director Updates: Roger Richardson informed the commissioners that he has contracted with a webpage designer for the ADA Website Project. Roger also informed the commissioners that his department is still working on updating computer and laptops in the county. Stylus has finished installing the security cameras at the annex.

Amended County Travel Policy: An amended travel policy was presented to the board of commissioners for their approval. The only change was to reimburse employees mileage using the state of Indiana's reimbursement rate rather than the Federal Government reimbursement rate. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the revised travel policy. Motion carried 3-0.

FEMA Mitigation Grant: Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. came before the commissioners with new information regarding the FEMA buyout grant. The appraisals for the two properties came back a lot higher than what the value estimates were. Michael needs to know what direction the commissioners want to go. Michael gave the commissioners two options to consider, first we could go ahead and buyout both properties using the lower value estimates that were budgeted if they property owner accept the offer. Or we could buyout one of the properties and shelve the other property for a later date if funding ever became available. After some discussion a motion was made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to offer both property owners the original budgeted amount. Motion carried 3-0.

United Way Denim for a Difference Week: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from the United Way to allow employees to wear jeans to work the weeks of October 16-20 and November 13-17 and pay \$2.00 a day. Motion carried 3-0.

Use of Courthouse Square: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow chalk writing on the courthouse plaza for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Motion carried 3-0.

Misc. Business: Commissioner Woodward gave updates on the AIC conference that was held the last week of September at Belterra in Switzerland County, several elected official attended the conference. Commissioner Gerber gave updates on the Regional Sewer District including deed lot restrictions and flood plan lots within the River Terrace area. Former Highway Supervisor Ed Herman asked several questions regarding the recent road conversion projects.

Adjourned: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adjourn at 10:09AM. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor