

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 3-19-2018

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday March 19, 2018 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 March 5, 2018 regular session and March 5, 2018 Public Hearing. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #6 in the amount of \$206,951.40 and 164 claims totaling \$276,885.94. Motion carried 3-0.

Flood Safety Awareness: County Surveyor Jarrod Hahn presented a proclamation to the Board of Commissioners to proclaim March 19-25, 2018 as "Flood Safety Awareness Week". Jarrod stated a few facts regarding floods; 60% of reported flood damage is outside of a flood zone and more than 50% of flood related deaths are due to someone driving or walking into floodwaters. Jarrod stressed that you follow the staying "Turn Around Don't Drown". Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to proclaim March 19-25, 2018 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Motion carried 3-0.

Court Case Management System: Judge Antrim and Clerk Yvette Runkle presented a Resolution to the Board of Commissioners to terminate the current Courts Case Management System (CSI) at the end of the contract period (12/31/2018) and following the deployment of the "Odyssey Case Management System". Judge Antrim stated that the Odyssey Case Management System would give the courts greater access to the case management system since it is a web-based system. There could be some initial licensing and software cost to switch to the Odyssey system but after the initial cost there will be no annual maintenance cost to the county. Currently the county is paying approximately \$36,000 a year in maintenance fee for the CSI system. The IT department is currently looking over the network and the transition to start the system is August or September with the switch over to be done by the end of the year. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution No. 2018-03 "A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Wells County, Indiana, Agreeing to Deploy the Statewide Court Case management System to Wells County Courts". Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 99 inmates, 13 are DOC and 23 are F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that his department has been grading roads, hauling stone to gravel roads, replacing signs, and patching holes and soft spots throughout the county. The advertising to accept bids for the dust control will be in the news-papers this week and next week with the bid opening scheduled for April 16.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the contractor's work is completed on bridge #18 and the road is now opened. There is still some ditch work and grass cover across the project area to be completed and Nate is still working with CenturyLink regarding their temporary relocation and final line location. The Contractor has begun the prep work for Zanesville Bridge #142. Nate stated that he has been made aware of a design change that he felt would reduce the risk of failure to the pier during the manual concrete removal process, the approximate cost for the

change order is \$18,000 and he is recommending they proceed with the change. Nate has been reviewing USI Consultants 2017 NBIS inspections and is seeing very minor changes in bridge conditions since the 2015 reports.

Joint Projects: City of Bluffton Mayor Ted Ellis came before the commissioners to talk about some of the joint projects that the county and city work on. Mayor Ellis wanted to talk about the projects now so the commissioner would have a chance to think about them before the budget process begins in the next few months. The County reimburses the City for ½ of the cost to operate the Animal Shelter and this year they have had some additional cost to care for some horses. Although there has been some donations received to help with the additional cost Mayor Ellis stated that the counties share may be up a little from previous years. Another item Mayor Ellis discussed was the Wells Community Swimming Pool, which had a deficit of \$45,000 last year so he asked the commissioners to consider an increase from the \$10,000 contribution that was budgeted this year. Mayor Ellis also asked the commissioners to consider an increase in the amount the county reimburses for Rescue runs. The last issue that Mayor Ellis talked about was upgrades to sewer pipes from the treatment plant to Dustman road on the City's north side. The extension cost for the project is estimated at 2.1 million dollars and he wasn't sure where the money would come from but it is critical for the economic development of our community.

Flood Buyout: Area Plan Director Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. informed the commissioners that one property owner decided not to participate in the buyout and the other property owner decided that they would participate in the buyout. Mike asked the commissioners if they would like to give him approval to make an offer to Rebekah Brooks, the Property owner who decided to participate in the FEMA Grant buyout in the amount of \$83,761.00. The actual amount to be paid to the property owner is \$70,833.75 because the difference has already been paid by the property owners Flood Insurance. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to make an offer to Purchase the Rebekah Brooks property located at 2911 SW Center St, Bluffton, IN. Motion carried 3-0.

Bargain Hut Lease Agreement: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Lease Agreement between the Board of Commissioner and the Bargain Hut (Misc. 2018-10). Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Public Records Policy: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance No. 2018-04 "An Ordinance Concerning the Adoption of a Public Records Policy for Wells County Government to Implement and Ensure Compliance with the Provisions of Indiana Code 5-14-3 (Access to Public Records) for the County's Public Records". Motion carried 3-0.

Cum Bridge Comments: County resident Scott Mossburg questioned the commissioners on their decision to adopt a cum bridge fund. Mr. Mossburg stated that he was not available to attend the public hearing on March 5th, 2018. Mossburg had a print out of the additional revenue that the county starting receiving last September for the extra .10 cent fuel tax increase and he felt like that additional revenue should go toward bridges rather than increasing taxes. The commissioners informed Mossburg that the Cum Bridge Fund did not increase taxes because it is within the max levy for the county.

Adjourned: 10:13AM Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor