

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 11-20-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday November 20, 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 November 6, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #24 in the amount of \$229,333.80 and 351 claims totaling \$609,213.86. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 89 inmates, 4 are DOC and 19 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that the first lease payment for the security equipment will not be until July of 2018 so he would like to use the money that was allocated for the lease payment in 2017 to purchase some needed equipment for the Jail. Sheriff Fisher requested and received quotes to install new relays on the new security system, new cameras for the interview room, new cameras to cover blind spots in cells R4 and R5, 16 new windows in the office of the Jail and replace and install a new heating boiler. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approved the requested equipment and repairs from Sheriff Fisher. Motion carried 3-0.

Vacation of Alley: Greg Water, attorney for Donald and Charlene Green presented an ordinance to the Board of Commissioners to vacate a street and alley in Kingsland. Mr. and Mrs. Green currently own all of the property surrounding the Alley and Street. The Greens are planning on placing a temporary mobile home within the Alley while they are building a new home. The placement of the mobile home has already been approved by the plan commission pending the vacation of the alley. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from Donald and Charlene Green to vacate the Alley and Street "Ordinance No. 2017-17. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton gave updates on the hand patching and backhoe work. Informed the commissioners that all the 2017 culvert projects have been completed and they have started the 900W road conversion project. The paving of 100E between 100N and 300N has been completed as well as all the paving on the culvert over lays. All the road striping on scheduled for 2017 has been completed. Josh also informed the commissioners that he had a meeting last week with all the local Fire Chiefs, Sheriff and EMA Director to prepare for any serious winter events.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that the core samples have been taken for bridge #142 to determine if the bridge will need to be repaired or replaced; the results should be available sometime after the Thanksgiving holiday. The application for the Federal Aid project on Bridge #106 has been submitted and accepted for consideration from INDOT. Nate presented the Final Pay Application for bridges #2 and #203 for the commissioner's approval. Nate has informed INDOT that he will be ready to close out these two projects as soon as the payment of the claim. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Final Contractor's Application to pay and allow the President of the Board to sign it. Motion carried 3-0. Nate is asking that property owners notify the Highway department with any flooding issues or concerns so they can create records of the

problems and work toward a solution. Nate also provided Right of Way Documents to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve all the Right of Way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Cyclical Reassessment Bids: County Assessor Rick Smith presented a total of one Cyclical Reassessment bid that he has received. The contract is for 4 years and the only vendor that presented a bid was Nexus. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take the bid under advisement to make sure it meets all the requirements. Motion carried 3-0.

United Way: Greg Werich, a board member for Wells County United Way asked if he could visit the courthouse and annex offices on behalf of their annual campaign on Monday, December 11, 2017 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The visit would only take a few minutes of time in each office and the goal of the visit is to educate everyone on what United Way does in our community and the various ways they may support United Way's projects. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Insurance Renewal: Jessica Clayton with Platinum Benefit Group along with the Wells County Insurance Committee presented options to the Board of Commissioners for the County Employees Health Insurance Plan. Our current plan with Anthem originally came in with a 24% rate increase but Anthem revised the increase to 20%. Anthem also provided two alternate options; the first option would increase the Deductibles and Out Of Pockets from \$2700 individual/\$5400 Family to \$3000 individual/\$6000 family plus add an Office Visit Copay after you meet your deductibles, the premium increase for this option would be 8%. The second option would increase the deductibles to \$4000 individual/\$8,000 family which would increase the premium to 4%. Jessica also received quotes from PHP and UHC however their proposals were not any better than Anthem and CIGNA declined to submit a proposal. Do to the amount of claims Jessica did not recommend any self-funding plans. The health insurance committee's recommendation was to continue the Anthem and go with option #1. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve option #1 with Anthem. Motion carried 3-0. Open enrollment for health insurance has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Economic Development: Economic Development Director Chad Kline gave the Board of Commissioners updates on several projects he has been working on. There was about 80 students participate in manufacturing day visiting local Companies. The welding and leadership program are scheduled to start after the first of the year. The housing study has been completed and the report is now available on the Chamber of Commerce website. ORCA has given their approval to move forward with the Workforce Development Grant.

Courthouse Tree Lighting: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from Wells County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Bluffton to use the Courthouse Plaza for the tree lighting ceremony on Friday, November 24, 2017 at 6:20PM. Motion carried 3-0.

Regional Sewer District Appointment: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Andrew Stoller to the Regional Sewer District Board. Motion carried 3-0. Andrew will fill the vacate board appointment for the Commissioners.

Right of Way Document: Right of Way Documents were presented to the Board of Commissioners on a minor subdivision. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the Right of Way Documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners Annual Conference: The annual Commissioner’s Conference is scheduled for next week and all three commissioners will be attending at least one day of the conference.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:34AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor