

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 12-18-2017

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday December 18, 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 December 4, 2017 regular session. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2017 executive session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #26 in the amount of \$216,231.49 and 319 claims totaling \$462,072.44. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 94 inmates, 6 are DOC and 17 are F6 DOC.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag and USI Representative Ben Beer discussed the Bridge #142 repair project. All of the contractor's that were mentioned at the last meeting have been notified and the project documents should be released to them by December 22, 2017. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to sign the signature page for the Bridge Specs. Motion carried 3-0. The quotes from the contractors will be due just prior to the 2nd commissioners meeting in January so the winning quote can be awarded at the January 16, 2018 commissioner meeting. Nate informed the commissioners that there has been some paint damage from the contractor on Bridge #193. Ben Beer has been in contact with Pioneer Construction which was the general contractor on the project and they will be repairing the damage at no cost to the county. The repair will require the bridge to be closed for about one week and they would like to schedule the repair for spring break or early summer when school is not in session. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to proceed with scheduling the repair. Motion carried 3-0. Nate provided the commissioner with a map of 11 small structures that are scheduled for replacement in 2018. Right-of-way documents for the conversion project on county road 500E were presented 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.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that they have been salting several roads due to the inclement weather conditions and he wanted to make sure that all county residents are aware that all roads in the county are not salted when the weather turns bad. Josh also informed the commissioners that they have started trimming trees on county road 1150N for that road conversion project. Four stone bids were received from; US Aggregates, Stone-Street Quarries, Rock Creek Quarries and Bluffton & Huntington IMI Locations. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take the bids under advisement for Josh to review and bring back his recommendations. Motion carried 3-0.

Re-Zoning: Area Plan Director Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. presented an ordinance to the commissioners to rezone or not rezone a parcel or real estate owned by Jason and Cassandra Meyer at 208 Bittersweet Ln in Ossian from a presently zoned R-1 to a B-3. The recommendation to the commissioners from the Plan

Commission was “No Recommendation”. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to NOT rezone the parcel (Wells County Commissioners Ordinance Number 2017-19). Motion carried 3-0.

Annual Appointments: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint Roy Johnson as the County Attorney, Bobbie Studebaker as the Courthouse Custodian, Rick Velasquez as the Emergency Management Director, Nate Rumschlag as the County Engineer, Josh Cotton as the County Highway Supervisor, Roger Richardson and I.T. Director, Claude McMillan as the Veterans Officer and Adam McCartney as the 911 Director. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to re-appoint, Rob Moon to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Tim Rohr and Tyson Brooks to the Area Plan Commission and Tyson Brooks to remain on the BZA Board, and Thomas Liby to the Cemetery Board. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint Jack Wenger to the Health Board, Martin Adam and Larry McChessney to the Property Tax Board of Appeals Board, Susie Reinhard, Marlene Hoag and Diana Collins to the Sick Bank Committee, and Douglas Sundling to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Motion carried 3-0.

Cyclical Reassessment Contract: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Cyclical Reassessment contract with Nexus Group Inc. (Misc. 2017-24). Motion carried 3-0.

County Owned Tocsin Property: County attorney Roy Johnson asked the board of commissioners if they would like him to notify the adjoining neighbors by certified mail to see if they would be interested in the .04 acres of property that the county acquired from a tax sale. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to have Roy send out the letters. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners District: At a previous commissioners meeting it was brought to the commissioners attention that the current commissioners districts two and three are divided along county road 300 north which splits precinct lines in Lancaster and Rockcreek townships. The current election law states that commissioner districts should not spit precincts and changes in the districts can be made in odd numbered years. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Wells County Ordinance No. 2017-20 “An Ordinance Pursuant to IC 36-2-2-4 Dividing The County Into Three (3) Districts That Are Composed Of Contiguous Territory And Are Reasonably Compact” Motion carried 3-0. District one consist of: Jackson, Chester, and Nottingham Townships. District two consist of: Harrison, Liberty, and Lancaster Townships. District three consist of: Rockcreek, Jefferson, and Union Townships.

Cannon on Courthouse Plaza: The commissioners stated that it had been brought to their attention that there is some damage to the cannon that is on the courthouse square. Since the cannon does not belong to the county and was brought here from a cemetery within Harrison Township the commissioners are going to have the American Legion contract the Harrison Township Trustee for guidance.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:05AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor