

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 5-21-2018

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 21, 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 May 7, 2018 regular session and May 15, 2018 Executive session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #11 in the amount of \$216,176.90 and 412 claims totaling \$423,288.24. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 79 inmates, 6 are DOC and 22 are F6 DOC.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on the hand patching and ditch mowing throughout the county. Josh recommended that the commissioner accept all of the bituminous bids. The low bid was from Marathon and Josh stated that he would use them for most of the jobs, but he would like to accept all the other bids too in case Marathon is not available when they need them. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Josh's recommendation to approve all bids that were submitted. Motion carried 3-0. Josh also stated that the first application for dust control will start this week.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on the progress of Bridge #142 (Zanesville Bridge), the original pier removal and replacement can be repaired with small patches so Nate has approved the reduction in the project. If everything continues as planned the bridge should be opened by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Bridge #66 (5-Points on 1100 S) caught fire this past Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. USI has investigated the bridge and in their opinion the steel superstructure and truss was not damaged by the heat from the fire. The fire penetrated the surface of the deck and the degree of degradation and long term impacts to the deck is unknown at this time. Nate is recommending that an investigation be done to determine the cause of the fire. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to bring in the fire marshal for a full investigation of the cause of the fire. Motion carried 3-0. The speed limit ordinance for County Road 1100 S near Bridge #66 was also presented to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2018-05 "An Ordinance Imposing Speed Limitations on County Road 1100 South in the Vicinity of Wells County Bridge No. 66". Motion carried 3-0. The Statement of Qualifications paperwork has been submitted to INDOT for their approval on Bridge #106 Federal Aid Project. A NIPSCO gas utility permit was submitted to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the permit. Motion carried 3-0. Panhandle Eastern has presented a proposed temporary road closure on CR 600 East and 200 North for 7-14 days to Nate. Nate will present a detour before they start the project. Roy Johnson and Nate informed the commissioners that they would need to acquire property for right of ways on the Hoosier Highway project and to do this they would need to have a resolution from the county council approving the purchase if it is over \$25,000.00. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Roy prepare a resolution to present to the County Council at their next meeting. Motion carried 3-0. A right of way for a minor subdivision was presented to the commissioners for their approval.

Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right of way request. Motion carried 3-0.

**Council on Aging (WOW):** Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier went over some comparison flow charts on trips and rider using the public transit system. Bonnie provided the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter INDOT invoice of \$87,584.00 for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter invoice and allow the president of the board to sign it. Motion carried 3-0. Bonnie asked the commissioners if they would continue to support the public transit program for 2019 with the same contribution of \$53,000.00 as prior years. The commissioners asked Bonnie if she had contacted the City of Bluffton to see if they would be willing to contribute some of the \$53,000.00 annual contribution since the majority of the riders are from the City of Bluffton. Although Bonnie has asked the City of Bluffton to contribute to the program in the past they have declined to contribute. Bonnie explained that the County is the applicant for the Public Transit Grant and any funding from the City would just be added to the local match amount. When asked how other counties are doing the programs, she stated that the majority of the other communities are doing it the same way as Wells County with the county being the applicant and providing the funding. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the same amount of \$53,000.00 as they have in the past but to ask the City of Bluffton to also consider participating for the next grant cycle. Motion carried 3-0.

**Covered Bridge Certificate:** The Board of Commissioners signed the Annual Certificate for Covered Bridges. Wells County has zero covered bridges in our county.

**Washington/Main Parking Lot Permits:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Washington/Main Street parking lot permit requests for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the D.A.R.E. Benefit and the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Bluffton Fraternal Order of Firefighters Annual Benefit. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mayors and Commissioners Caucus of Northeast Indiana:** After some discussion the Board of Commissioners decided it would be in the counties best interest to join other northeast counties and participant in the caucus. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the financial contribution of \$1500.00 to join the "Mayors and Commissioners Caucus of Northeast Indiana". Motion carried 3-0. The Contribution will be paid from the Commissioners General Fund Budget.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:12AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Tamara Robbins

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor