

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 9-4-2018

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday September 4, 2018 at 9:00AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber and Tamara Robbins. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis. Commissioner Kevin Woodward was absent.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from August 20, 2018 regular session. Motion carried 2-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Payroll #18 in the amount of \$217,862.38 and 177 claims totaling \$692,472.58. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 105 inmates, 12 are DOC and 22 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that the new freezer should be up and running by the end of the week.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that the yearly chip and seal projects will all be completed by tomorrow. The road conversions on 500S, 500W and 900W have been completed and they have started widening the road and adding the base stone on 500E. The road striping will start in the next few weeks; the vendor was waiting on all roads to be ready so they could do them all at one time. They will continue to mow side ditches as long as they are needed.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that he has meet with Ralph and Phyllis Towns to discuss the ROW for the Hoosier Highway & 500 South project. Bridge #66 has been temporarily open while we are waiting on the replacement panels to be delivered. When the panels are delivered the bridge will be closed while they are replaced. The new weight limit of 14 tons and new speed limit of 30MPH has been added to the bridge. LTAP has approved the Traffic Asset Management Plan this past Friday. Nate went over the projects outline for the Community Crossing Matching Grant Application which includes; Hoosier Highway & CR 500 South curve alignment and the repair of bridges 112, 56, 118, 303 and 6. Any of the projects we don't get approved for on this grant application, Nate will re-apply for during the next call for project in January. Several Right-Of-Way documents were presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the Right-Of-Ways. Motion carried 2-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to allow the President of the Board to sign the agreement with Ralph and Phyllis Towns regarding the Hoosier Highway and 500S curve alignment once it is accepted by the Towns. Motion carried 2-0.

Community Corrections Supervision Options: Judge Kiracofe asked the Board of Commissioners if they would support the idea for moving the Community Corrections home detention services under the direction of the probation department, which is an arm of and overseen by the court. Judge stated that about 18 other counties have moved to some type of combined program and although there is no one size fits all program he would like to put together an idea that he felt would work for Wells County. By moving the home detention under the arm of the court he felt like this would bring more accountability to the department. The Board of Commissioners stated they would support the Judges idea to investigate different options and bring them back to them to review.

Septic Week Proclamations: Commissioner Gerber announced that Wells County declares September 17-21, 2018 as SepticSmart Week.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:24AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor