

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session April 1, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 1, 2019 at 9:00AM 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, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from March 18, 2019 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #6 in the amount of \$238,843.22 and 173 claims totaling \$213,059.38. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 124 inmates, 9 are DOC and 12 are F6 DOC. The commissioners inquired about the increase in numbers. Sheriff Holliday stated that he is working with the courts to try to streamline the pretrial process. Wells County is a pretrial jail, which means, after arrest the offender is held at the jail until their case is heard.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on gravel roads, all have been graded several times. The highway is half way through hauling township stone to the gravel roads. The workers are filling pot holes with cold mix countywide. Patching with Dura-Patcher is on next week's list of duties. Two bids came in for Dust Control; the commissioners took them under advisement. Advertising to the public to sign up and pay for Dust Control will be Mid-April; signups will begin at the Highway the week of April 15th.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag gave updates on Community Crossings Matching Grant 2019-01. Wells County was awarded \$956,534.89 toward five projects; (1) Bridge 6 (CR 700S east of CR 200 E) (2) Bridge 56 (CR 600W north of 1000S) (3) Bridge 303 (CR 1000S west of CR 50E) (4) Bridge 300 (Mill St. Ossian over Eight Mile) (5) Bridge 301 (LaFever St, Ossian over Eight Mile). Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow the president of the board to sign the five awarded project contracts. Motion carried 3-0. The projects will be advertised April 11th and 18th with bid opening May 16th; Nate Rumschlag requested signatures for approval of plans to go out to bid. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to sign the document. Motion carried 3-0. Bridge 112 (CR 500 West over Eight Mile Ditch) will start this week and close the road to traffic through the end of May. The other CCMG projects will start later, possibly June, due to the wet weather. Rumschlag also presented an agreement with USI Consultants to develop plans and bidding documents for County Bridge 304 (CR 450E over the Wabash River). The proposal covers design through inspection services. \$90,000 for the survey and design services and \$58,000, not to exceed, for construction and bidding services once project is funded. Tamara Robbins motioned, seconded by Kevin Woodward allowing the president of the board to sign the agreement with USI Consultants (Misc. 2019-08). Motion carried 3-0. A Utility Permit was presented to the commissioners for their approval. Kevin Woodward motioned, Tamara Robbins seconded to approve the Utility permit. Motion carried 3-0.

CADA 2018 Grant Request: Molly Hoag and Jade Glover presented the 2019 grant request for Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA). Funds for the grants are collected through the "Drug Free Community Fund"; a total of \$17,272.50 was collected in 2018 for distribution in 2019. The grants are divided within

four categories; Administration, Education/Prevention, Treatment/Intervention, and Judicial. CADA only had \$16,143.57 out of their 2019 budget that was requested in grant funding; they will award the remaining funds through grant applications throughout 2019. The appropriation request for the grants will be presented to County Council at the March 2nd meeting.

Washington/Main Commons: Two requests for use of the Washington/Main Commons were presented to the commissioners for approval. The requests were for April 13th; a benefit for Connor Hasinbiller and Will Moore, and May 11th for Shred Day from 9 am – Noon. Tamara Robbins motioned, Kevin Woodward seconded to approve the requests. Motion carried 3-0.

Traffic Study: A reimbursement agreement request for the area of 500W and the Rock Creek Stone Quarry was presented to the commissioners for approval. Kevin Woodward requested the board take the agreement under advisement so more investigation can be done before any action is taken.

Option to Purchase Real Estate: County Attorney Roy Johnson presented an option agreement to purchase real estate to the commissioners. This option is dependent on County Council adopting a resolution that Wells County is interested in making a purchase of specified land or a structure. Johnson will present the resolution to County Council on April 2nd. The option agreement would be presented to the current owner and also County Council if the resolution is adopted by County Council. Two appraisers as well as an alternate would have to be appointed to determine a purchase price since the county is limited to paying no more than the average of the two appraisals. The two appraisers that will be contacted are Joe Weterick and Kent Sprunger, the alternate appraiser is Neal Worden. Tamara Robbins motioned, Kevin Woodward seconded to approve the option to purchase real estate and also to appoint Joe Weterick and Kent Sprunger as the two appraisers, and Neal Worden as an alternate should either Weterick or Sprunger decline appointment. Motion carried 3-0.

Plaza Project: The Parlor City Plaza project was presented to the commissioners by Bluffton NOW president Mike Lautzenheiser, Jr. County Attorney Roy Johnson stated he hadn't received the bid documents for review. Schenkel Construction of Fort Wayne was the low bid. The improvements to the county portion totaled \$475,361.00. Those figures include the Courthouse stair reconstruction as well as heated concrete for the north courthouse entrance. The county portion will come from LIT Economic Development funds. Kevin Woodward motioned, Tamara Robbins seconded to approve the Schenkel Plaza Project bid pending the County Attorney's approval of the bid documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:45AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor