

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session May 20, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 20, 2019 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, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from May 6, 2019 regular session and May 6, 2019 Executive session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #10 in the amount of \$239,473.53 and 302 claims totaling \$403,646.65. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 106 inmates, 16 are DOC and 10 are F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners via email on updates. Round 1 of dust control has been applied with Round 2 to start the beginning of June. Ditch mowing started last week. Josh recommended that the commissioner accept all of the bituminous bids. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Josh's recommendation to accept all bituminous bids that were submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on notices that will be mailed by the Area Plan Commission to the homes affected by the address change for the road formerly known as Ind. 301. This section of road from US 224 to Ind. 124 is now 700E. Nate requested permission to issue a Notice of Intent to Award for Bridge 300 to Primco for \$84,950.87 and for Bridge 301 to Primco for \$93,917.66. Both bids were under the engineers estimate. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to issue the Notice of Intent to Award for Bridge 300 & Bridge 301 to Primco. Motion carried 3-0. Nate also requested permission to issue Notices of Intent to Award for Bridge 6 to HIS Constructors for \$406,423.50, Bridge 56 to Jutte Excavating for \$220,790.76, Bridge 303 to HIS Constructors for \$283,641.00. These estimates were all under the engineers estimate. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve issuing Notice of Intent to Award for Bridge 6, Bridge 56 and Bridge 303. Motion carried 3-0. A CenturyLink utility permit was submitted to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the utility permit. Motion carried 3-0. Three right of way petitions were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right of way requests. Motion carried 3-0. Gravel road conversion petitions are due by June 3rd to be considered for this year's request.

Council on Aging (WOW): Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier went over some comparison flow charts on trips and riders using the public transit system. Bonnie provided the 1st quarter INDOT invoice of \$107,711.00 for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tammy Robbins to approve the 1st quarter invoice and allow the president of the board to sign. Motion carried 3-0. Bonnie asked the commissioners if they would continue to support the public transit program for 2020 with the same contribution of \$53,000.00 as prior years. Prior years discussions have involved including funding from the City of Bluffton since the majority of ridership is within the city limits. Bonnie stated that she had contacted the City of Bluffton to see if they would be willing to contribute funds for

2020. Bonnie explained that she is going before the Bluffton Common Council in June to ask for funding. She stated that \$11,000 was the amount of funding she would be requesting from the City of Bluffton. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the amount of \$53,000.00 as they have in the past but might alter that amount if the City of Bluffton declines to participate for the next grant cycle. Motion carried 2-0-1, Blake Gerber abstained.

Ordinance 2019-04: An Ordinance that increases Auditor Fees from \$5 to \$10 for each deed or legal description of each parcel contained in the deed, amending Ordinance 2008-02. The increase was passed through Legislation effective July 1, 2019. The revenue received is placed in the Plat Book Maintenance fund for use in maintaining plat books, in traditional or electronic format. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance 2019-04 amending Ordinance 2008-02 by increasing the fee collected for Auditor's endorsement required for recording of deed or partition, conveyance of land, or affidavits of transfer to real estate. Motion carried 3-0.

Markle Volunteer Fire Department: Mike Grant from the Markle Volunteer Fire Dept. requested funding from the Commissioners for a portion of the rescue runs that are carried out in Wells County and/or partial funding for a new fire truck. The department services part of Wells County as well as part of Huntington County. Wells County currently offers partial funding to the Bluffton, Ossian and Liberty Center Fire Departments for runs on an annual basis. Wells County also funds a rescue truck on a rotating basis every seven years for Bluffton, Ossian and Liberty Center Fire Departments. Markle would like to be included in that funding. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take the request under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:22AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor